

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Workshop Record

Workshop record of the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board held on Thursday 14 April 2022, commencing at 9:30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson: Gary Brown
Members: Victoria Short
 Andy Dunn
 Janet Fitzgerald
 Alexis Poppelbaum (left at 9.52am and returned at 11.17am)
 Gary Holmes

Apologies: Leanne Willis, Julia Parfitt

Also in attendance: Lesley Jenkins (Local Area Manager), Matthew Kerr (Senior Local Board Advisor), Saskia Coley (Local Board Advisor), Louise Healy (Democracy Advisor)

Workshop Item	Governance role	Summary of Discussions
<u>Chairperson's welcome and apologies</u>		The chairperson opened the workshop.
<u>CCO Joint Engagement Plans</u>	Oversight and monitoring	CCO staff were in attendance to review the 2021/2022 engagement plan, review each CCO work programme for the year and agree the levels of engagement for each project or programme.
<u>Draft Regional Parks Management Plan (RPMP)</u>	Input into regional decision-making	Ms Tristine Le Guern was in attendance to seek the local board's feedback on the draft Regional Parks Management Plan.
<u>Local Board Annual Plan – Performance Measures and Fees and Charges</u>	Setting direction / priorities / budget	Ms Faithe Smith was in attendance to provide a recap and update the local board on performance measures and the three-yearly fees and charges review process.

The workshop concluded at 1.01pm.

CCO-Local Board Engagement Plans

Development of 2022-23 Plans

Agenda

Introductions	5 mins
Opening comments	5 mins
Auckland Unlimited	25 minutes
Watercare	20 minutes
Eke Panuku	25 minutes
Auckland Transport	35 minutes
Closing comments	5 minutes

Purpose of today's workshop

- Regular meet and greet with senior CCO staff
- Expectation is that engagement plan work programmes have been read, and any concerns identified
- Many work programme items will roll over from 2021-22
- Discuss work programme item where view on engagement differs
- Provide direction on where local board wants to focus, direct resources and higher levels of engagement
- This document is about work programme items (either confirmed or being investigated) – not advocacy items
- This discussion focuses on how projects will be engaged on, when they are underway
- It is NOT about timeframes, deliverables, or deadlines

Key changes for 2022-23

- Have reorganised content so it is clear what remains the same from quarter to quarter, and what gets updated regularly
- Have combined the work programme appendix and quarterly report attachment into one document so that it's easier to keep track of changes

Key challenges for 2022-23



- The climate is changing
- COVID-19 impact



- Strong economy
- Low unemployment
- Rising wages, interest rates and inflation
- Government policy affecting local government



- Auckland is growing, with impact on:
- Congestion
 - Our environment
 - Socio-economic inequity
 - Housing affordability

Auckland Unlimited

Key challenges for 2022-23

- Disproportionate economic impacts on Auckland of COVID-19 and global economic conditions (versus rest of New Zealand)
- City centre degradation impacts on retail, hospitality, tourism, accommodation, arts and culture – damaging to Auckland's reputation, businesses, cultural sector
- Competition for talent – for organisation, key Auckland industries and region
- Organisationally - constrained budgets and future funding envelope

Key opportunities for 2022-23

- Borders reopening – recovery of the visitor economy (business, student and leisure visitors); skilled and investor migrants
- Pent up demand – the people, events, shows that want to come to Auckland (summer 2022/23)
- Auckland as a creative, cultural and innovative city – social, cultural and economic benefits for Auckland, its people and an equitable, sustainable future
- Closer local and central government alignment – policy, programmes and funding

Auckland Unlimited

- Look at work programme table

Watercare

Key challenges for 2022-23

Covid-19

There have been some impacts on construction sites, an example of this is the Central Interceptor that received some media attention when tunnelling had to stop in late February 2022 (and has now resumed).

Capital programme costs

It is expected that there will be an impact on the capital programme from the Covid-19 pandemic. Claims have already been submitted for lockdowns in 2021 and to cover global impacts, and more are expected. Watercare is signalling that review of the programme is forthcoming.

Three waters reform

Watercare continues to support the Department of Internal Affairs with information as needed. Otherwise, as a CCO, Watercare follows the lead of Auckland Council on the proposed reform.

Trust Recovery

Our trust score hit an all-time low at the end of last financial year driven by drought and the announcement of our largest price increase since amalgamation. We have been listening to our customers and have changed our communications to emphasize our investment into growing Auckland and our network to deliver better outcomes. We have seen a slow and steady improvement in Aucklanders' understanding of our efforts to safeguard our water future, through planning for climate change and investing in infrastructure. We are just ahead of Auckland Councils SOI target for FY22.

Key opportunities for 2022-23

Water resilience

Water resilience during the summer has been good. Total volume drawn from the Waikato River remains lower than this time last year. Dam levels during the last quarter were very good and demand is lower than anticipated for February.

Water Efficiency Plan

We are continuing to work towards our water efficiency plan to 2025.

Our proactive leak detection programme continues with 65% of the network surveyed since July 2021 with 1,372 leaks found and fixed.

- We are bringing in new equipment to monitor night flow to respond to leaks faster and more efficiently.
- We have installed smart meters across our commercial customers and schools. We are proactively working with the largest schools to minimize leaks and providing them with increased visibility of their consumption.
- Our 'water is precious' advertising campaign continued in Q3 with the key message: "water looks after us, so let's look after water." This ran on radio, digital and outdoor channels.

Wastewater Network Strategy

In June 2023, Watercare will lodge the second Wastewater Network Strategy with Council as a requirement of the Wastewater Network Discharge Consent. We are currently developing an engagement strategy, with the support of Healthy Waters, to ensure we can have purposeful conversations and gather feedback from a wide audience including local boards, mana whenua, community groups and others to enrich the strategy.

Voice of the Customer (VoC) for projects

Feedback from customers on billing and faults is important to our efforts to improve customer service and trust. Recently we trialled using the VoC application for some of our larger projects. Feedback from the communities around our larger construction projects helps us to discuss feedback and improvement opportunities as part of the continuous learning journey. As an example, recent trials of regular project traffic updates via email or txt have proven popular and will be applied to other similar projects. We are also able to follow up with individual feedback to gain more valuable insights. The VoC projects tool will now be incorporated as part of our revised stakeholder engagement process for major projects to ensure regular feedback is sought and a consistent evaluation process is added into our stakeholder engagement plans.

Watercare

- Look at work programme table

Eke Panuku - Creating amazing places

Enabling urban regeneration



Facilitate regeneration
of urban locations

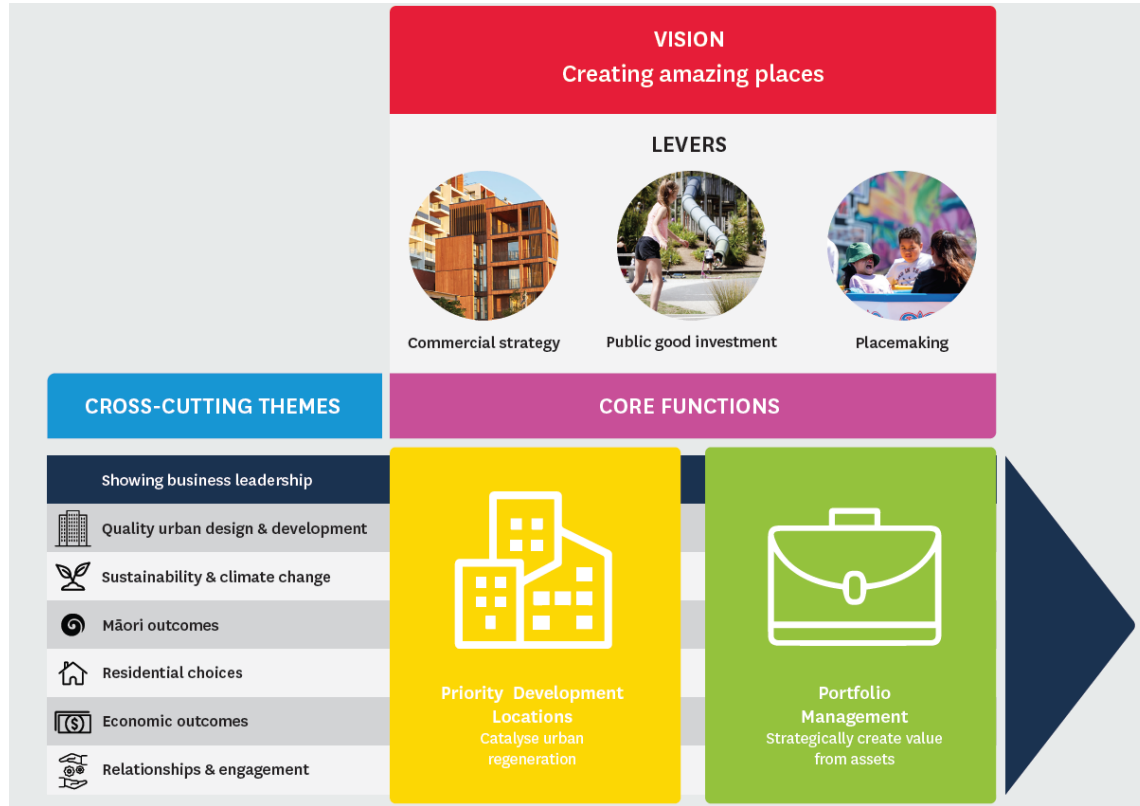


Accommodate
growth



Facilitate vibrant
development

Strategic framework



1. Eke Panuku Development Auckland



Key challenges for 2022-23

- Maintaining momentum with urban regeneration programme in our agreed locations
- Ongoing impacts of COVID-19 across our organisation, programmes and our suppliers/partners – people isolating and supporting whanau
- Financial pressures on commercial and other tenants as the prolonged impact of COVID-19 continue to impact their business recovery
- A competitive market for staff recruitment and retention
- Property market uncertainty given the overall environment – changing market, interest rates and building supply shortages.
- Review with council the future Eke Panuku urban regeneration programme scope and associated funding model



Key opportunities for 2022-23

- The world is changing fast and Aucklanders are changing the way they live and working our neighbourhoods
- International borders opening
- Support the council's growth and climate change strategies
- Continue to work with mana whenua to deliver Māori outcomes
- Continue to manage the council's property portfolio and to review council properties as appropriate and undertake property related services

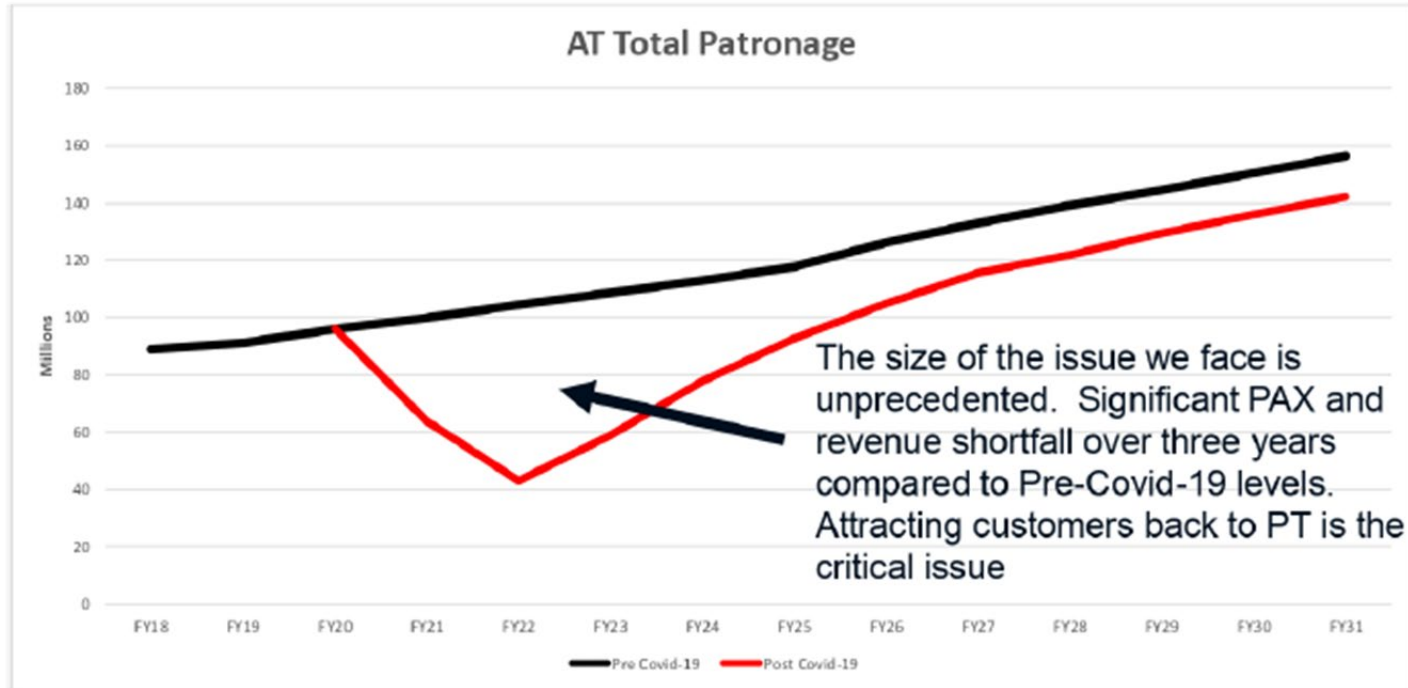
Eke Panuku

- Look at work programme table

Auckland Transport

Key risks Auckland Transport is managing in 2022-23:

- Auckland Transport is managing a ‘perfect storm’ financially caused by the pandemic.
 - Operational revenue has dropped and will take years to recover.
 - Operational revenue is used to investigate projects and deliver services like public transport.
 - Without this revenue the capital programme (*building stuff*) slows down.
- Auckland Transport is leading difficult transport discussions supporting Auckland’s vision for the future *i.e. Parking Strategy, cycling infrastructure, reducing speeds*



What this means for local boards:

- Transport issues will continue to be ‘front of mind’ for the community.
- Unfortunately, delivery of all projects will be slowed down by the lack of OPEX and by external factors i.e. rising construction costs, supply chain issues, labour shortages.
- Auckland Transport does not have the capacity to investigate every project that is proposed and the CCO Engagement plan process helps us to work with local boards to prioritise.
- Local boards can support Auckland Transport with leading difficult discussions about transport issues.

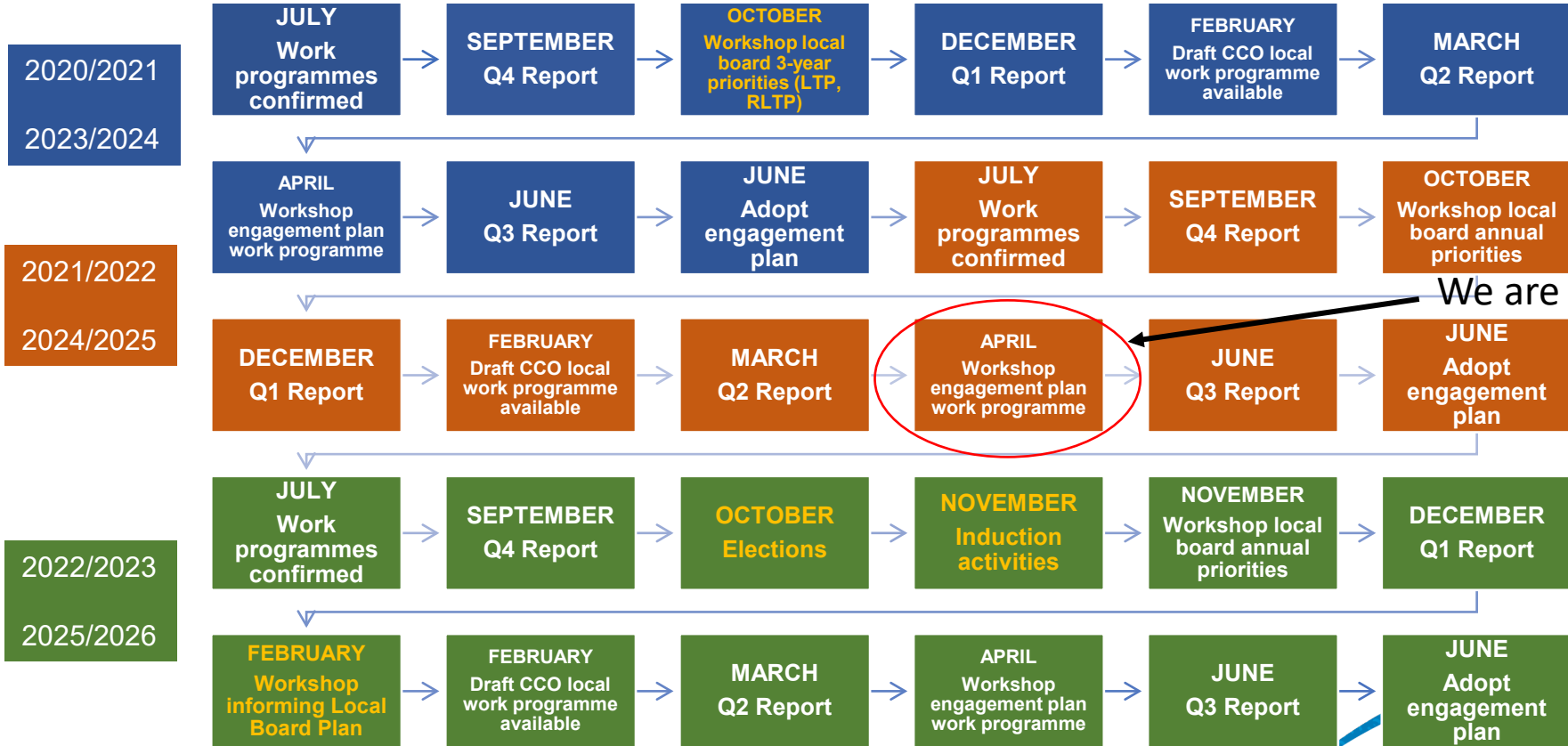
Key opportunities for Auckland Transport in 2022-23:

- Auckland Transport is Auckland Council's largest capital programme and the city's financial recovery is supported by Auckland Transport delivering projects that:
 - Keep Aucklanders working.
 - Build safer, vibrant roads, streets and town centres.
- Improving safety and achieving the commitment Auckland Council has made to Vision Zero.
- Reducing carbon emissions:
 - Maintaining public transport services and encouraging walking, cycling and micro-mobility
 - Electric trains and buses

Auckland Transport

- Look at work programme table

Three-year planning cycle



We are here

Next steps

- Continue working with CCO key contacts to agree and finalise Engagement Plan
- Completed Engagement Plan to June business meeting for approval
- Review the first two rounds of quarterly reporting and recommend any changes in approach

Attachment A – Key contacts for Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

Role	Name
Local Board Chair	Gary Brown
Local Board Deputy Chair	Victoria Short
Local Board Members	Alexis Poppelbaum, Andy Dunn, Gary Holmes, Janet Fitzgerald, Julia Parfitt, Leanne Willis

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Staff

Role	Name
Local Area Manager	Lesley Jenkins
Senior Advisor	Matthew Kerr
Local Board Advisor	Saskia Coley
Democracy Advisor	Louise Healy
PA / Office Manager	Tracey Hill
Engagement Advisor	Angela Radosits
Local Communications Advisor	Debbie Klein
Strategic Broker	Marilyn Kelly
Lead Financial Advisor	Mark Purdie

CCO key point of contact

Auckland Transport	Auckland Unlimited	Eke Panuku Development Auckland	Watercare
Emma Petrenas Elected Member Relationship Partner	Tia Verran External Relations Advisor	Carlos Rahman Principal Governance and Engagement Advisor	Ben Halliwell Elected Member Relationship Manager

Attachment B - Leads and delegations for Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

Please outline here how delegations have been organised within the local board, for example a delegation has been made to x person regarding x topic, this board member has the delegation to make decisions in x circumstances.

Name and role	Description
Gary Brown - Chairperson Victoria Short- Deputy Chairperson	Landowner consents (excluding landowner consents for filming) HB/2019/189
Gary Brown - Chairperson Victoria Short- Deputy Chairperson	Landowner consents for filming HB/2019/190
Gary Holmes Janet Fitzgerald Alexis Poppelbaum - Alternate	Resource consent applications HB/2019/193
Janet Fitzgerald Julia Parfitt Gary Holmes - Alternate	Resource consent hearings HB/2019/194
Gary Brown - Chairperson Victoria Short - Deputy Chairperson	Events HB/2019/191
Gary Brown - Chairperson Victoria Short - Deputy Chairperson	Liquor licences HB/2019/192
Julia Parfitt Alexis Poppelbaum - Alternate	Appointment to Vaughan Homestead – Torbay Historical Society
Andy Dunn Leanne Willis - Alternate	Victor Eaves Management Committee
Janet Fitzgerald Andy Dunn - Alternate	Destination Orewa Beach – Orewa BID
Victoria Short Gary Holmes- Alternate	Torbay BID
Alexis Poppelbaum Victoria Short - Alternate	Browns Bay Business Association – Browns Bay BID
Julia Parfitt Gary Holmes- Alternate	Mairangi Bay BID

Determining the engagement approach for a specific project with a local board

Does the funding come from the local board budget?	No	Partly	Yes
Will the local board make the decision on this project?	No	Partly	Yes
What level of alignment does this project have with local board priorities?	Low	Medium	High
What level of community interest is expected in this project?	Low	Medium	High
What level of influence can the local board have on this project?	Low	Medium	High
What is the scale of this project?	Small	Medium	Large
To what degree is this project a placemaking project?	Low	Medium	High

Reporting Framework for Joint CCO Engagement Plan Projects

Inform	Consult	Collaborate
Updates via email	Introductory memo	Introductory memo
Verbal update from EMRM at regular workshop including opportunity to ask questions	Verbal update from EMRM at regular workshop including opportunity to ask questions	Verbal update from EMRM at regular workshop including opportunity to ask questions
	Dedicated workshop	Dedicated workshop
	Public consultation (if applicable)	Proposal development
	Summary of local feedback provided to local board (if applicable)	Dedicated workshop
	Business report for formal feedback	Business report for formal feedback and/or decision
		Public consultation (if applicable)
		Summary of local feedback provided to local board
		Business report for formal feedback and/or decision
		Repeat as required

Joint Engagement Plan 2022-2023 between

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

and

Auckland Council's substantive Council-Controlled Organisations:

**Auckland Transport, Auckland Unlimited, Eke Panuku Development Auckland,
and Watercare**

This Engagement Plan records the commitment to work together to ensure the best outcomes for Auckland and the communities of Hibiscus and Bays Local Board.

This document sits alongside the local board work programme and may include some items that also sit within the local board's decision-making and work programme.

The attachments to this document will be updated each quarter and approved through a local board business meeting.

Signed by:

Gary Brown
Chair, Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

xxx
Chief Executive, Auckland Transport

On behalf of Hibiscus and Bays Local
Board as authorised by resolution xxx

Nick Hill
Chief Executive, Auckland Unlimited

David Rankin
Chief Executive, Eke Panuku Development

Jon Lamonte
Chief Executive, Watercare

Understanding and giving effect to Tāmaki Makaurau’s shared governance

The governing body and local boards share the decision-making responsibilities for Auckland Council. The governing body focuses on the big picture and region-wide strategic decisions, while local boards represent their local communities, provide local leadership, and make decisions on local issues, activities and facilities.

CCO Responsibilities

Council-controlled organisations (CCOs) derive their powers from Auckland Council or directly from legislation in the case of Auckland Transport and Watercare. They carry out operational activities in areas important to local communities and businesses and so must work effectively with local boards within their areas.

CCOs will:

- proactively build and maintain good relationships with local boards
- work collaboratively with the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board, other CCOs and council departments to ensure opportunities for good community outcomes are identified and maximised within the local board area
- operate in a manner that acknowledges the statutory role that local boards have in identifying and communicating the interests and preferences of their communities, and the key decision-making roles for local boards that are defined in council’s allocation policy. In particular, local boards’ leadership role in place-making and place-shaping activities
- communicate regularly with the local board on major issues, projects and activities
- assess potential public interest and, where possible, ensure local board members are briefed before an issue is discussed in a public forum (see No Surprises Protocols¹)
- engage with the local board early and in a way that allows it to influence projects and decisions; particularly those that may impinge on the local board’s governance role, are likely to have a significant and/or visible local impact or require community consultation
- engage with the local board ahead of public consultation and ensure adequate timing for the local board to consider their communities’ views and preferences and provide overall feedback
- when creating their work programmes, take account of the priorities identified in the local board plan, local board agreement, and any strategies, policies, plans or legislation specific to the local board area
- act early and collaboratively to resolve issues and queries raised by local board members
- be clear about when material is confidential and the reasons for the confidentiality
- identify a single point of contact for each local board, with sufficient authority within the CCO to be an effective liaison with the local board, who will receive and direct queries and provide the CCO’s response to the local board
- support induction activities that enable local board members to engage effectively with CCOs
- report against their local board engagement plans in their quarterly performance reports to the CCO Governance and Monitoring Committee
- commit adequate resources for local board engagement.

¹ [Auckland Council: Statement of Expectations of substantive council-controlled organisations July 2021](#)

Local board commitments

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board will:

- proactively build and maintain good relationships with CCO staff
- advise CCOs of issues or projects of significance to the local board in its area
- involve CCOs in the development of the local board plan, so that CCOs can provide relevant advice and assist in the identification of priorities and deliverability assessments
- direct questions about a CCO's activities to either the Local Area Manager or to the CCO's elected member liaison, so queries are tracked, and consistent responses can be given
- advise CCOs if they are planning to speak to the media on a CCO-related matter (see No Surprises Protocols)
- respect commercially sensitive and confidential information
- allow for flexibility in terms of engagement, recognising differing levels of interest and local relevance across the Auckland region with each of the CCOs
- Recognise that CCOs are accountable to the community through the Governing Body. CCOs will endeavour to collaborate with local boards within the mandate and direction given to them by the Governing Body.
- In the event that there is a dispute over the implementation of this plan which cannot be satisfactorily resolved between the local board and the CCO, the local board has the option to provide input at the CCO Oversight Committee, when the CCO's quarterly report is being reviewed.

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan outcomes

Local board outcome	Local board objective
A connected community	Hibiscus and Bays communities are supported, connected and vibrant
	Our libraries, art centres, community services, and privately owned facilities are supported
	We have a strong relationship with Māori and embrace our Māori identity, heritage, and culture
A protected and enhanced environment	Continue to align and support community and volunteer groups, schools, and iwi to enhance and protect our natural environment
	Our waterways and beaches are clean and safe for people and wildlife
	Support communities to live more sustainably, and prepare for the impacts of climate change
	Support the development and implementation of ecological and environmental restoration plans
A strong local economy	Our businesses and business centres feel supported and empowered
	Our town centres are welcoming, clean, sustainable and easily accessible with plans for the future
Open spaces to enjoy	Proactively identify the needs of our communities and plan for sustainable growth
	Protect, maintain, and improve access and amenities for activities on our coastlines, parks and reserves

Local board outcome	Local board objective
	Provide a range of play and active recreation opportunities for all ages and abilities in our parks, reserves, and coastal environment
Transport choices	Deliver Penlink
	Improve connectivity through better travel options and safer intersections
	Improve walking and cycling routes

Strategies, policies, plans or legislation specific to Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area

Strategy, policy, plan or legislation	Notes
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan 2020	Hibiscus and Bays plans, agreements and reports (aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)
Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Agreement 2020/2021	
Hibiscus and Bays Area Plan	
Centre plans for Browns Bay, Orewa, Whangaparaoa and Silverdale	
Mairangi Bay Reserves Management Plan	
Hibiscus and Bays Greenways Plan	
Penlink (relevant to HBLB)	Penlink – planning for growth north of Auckland Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (nzta.govt.nz) Penlink Project
Hibiscus and Bays Local Parks Management Plan	Still in development

Attachments C-F provide a detailed account of the CCOs' work programmes within the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Area, including the expected engagement approach with the local board, and the expected extent of community engagement. The various categories of engagement are outlined in detail below.

Engagement approach with local board

Commitment	
1. Inform	We will keep you informed.
2. Consult	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how your input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.
3. Collaborate	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.

Extent of community engagement

	Description
A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	The local board represents the views of the community, with reference to the local board plan and its outcomes and objectives.
B. Impacted stakeholder consultation	In addition to local board views, the views of impacted stakeholders are sought.
C. Community engagement	The views of the community are sought and brought to the local board ahead of the local board providing its view.

Attachments

Attachment A – Key contacts for Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

Attachment B - Leads and Delegations for Hibiscus and Bays Local Board

Attachment C – Auckland Transport work programme

Attachment D – Auckland Unlimited work programme

Attachment E – Eke Panuku Development Auckland work programme

Attachment F – Watercare work programme

Attachment D - Auckland Unlimited Work Programme and latest updates

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Landowner approval – screen production	Yes	3. Collaborate	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation		Auckland Unlimited is required to advise delegated local board members of any screen activity, film permitting or major events activity taking place on local parks and reserves, seek feedback from the delegated member, and provide the opportunity to revoke the delegation to approve these events that sits with Community Facilities. (Filming activity relating to Sites and Places of Significance to Mana Whenua follows a different process under the Auckland Unitary Plan).		In progress			
Supporting a resilient and regenerative Māori economy - Taki Hua economic strategy	No	2. Consult	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation		To develop a long-term economic development action plan focussing on Māori outcomes.	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-3ffCzf3SyxtmziKuDFzr3QIGhQYLF6/view	Subject to funding			
Rangatahi youth enterprise summit	No	2. Consult	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation		To plan for youth summit and seek local board input regarding youth.	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-3ffCzf3SyxtmziKuDFzr3QIGhQYLF6/view	Subject to funding			

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Partnering to develop and invest in events that attract visitation and are a catalyst for Auckland's regionwide economic prosperity (such as Elemental)	No	1. Inform *	Consultation via event organiser once leverage planning discussions start.	Auckland Council, Auckland Transport	We will update you about invested events in your area or of interest to your community and discuss opportunities to apply for sponsorship (if they met eligibility criteria).	https://www.aucklandnz.com/elementalfestival	In progress			
Partnering to attract and support events that attract visitation and are a catalyst for Auckland's regionwide economic prosperity (such as World Choir Games, Rugby World Cup 2022)	No	1. Inform *	Consultation via event organiser once leverage planning discussions start.	NZ Major Events (MBIE), Auckland Council	Where we support Major Events, we will work with the event organisers or local organising committees to advise Local Boards of leverage opportunities and opportunities for community involvement.		In progress			
Supporting sustainability and climate change transition	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation	Auckland Council; Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan	Establishing Auckland Climate Innovation Hub; supporting a just transition across Auckland's key economic sectors.		In progress			
Delivering Lantern, Pasifika, Diwali and Tāmaki Herenga Waka Festivals under a consolidated cultural festival strategy	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation	Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, Eke Panuku	We will update you on these events and seek the best engagement approach with local boards to discuss opportunities for your community to get involved.	https://www.aucklandnz.com/lantern https://www.aucklandnz.com/cultivate/diwali https://aucklandunlimited.com/news/2022-pasifika-festival-cancelled				
Te Mahere Aronga 2021 – 2024 Māori Outcomes Plan adoption & implementation	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation	Auckland Council		https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-3ffCzf3SyxtmziKuDFzr3QIGhQYLF6/view	In progress			

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Te Matatini and Whakangahau, (regional pre-event, coincides with 50th anniversary of Te Matatini)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation		Partner with Te Matatini Society Incorporated in hosting the national kapa haka festival in Tāmaki Makaurau, including a volunteer programme.		In progress		Whakangahau, May 2022	Te Matatini, February 2023
Developing and implementing a Māori Engagement Plan to strengthen participation by Māori and support Māori aspirations	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation	Auckland Council, iwi	Mana whenua and mataawaka engagement strategy	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-3ffCzf3SyxtmziKuDFzr3QIGhQYLF6/view				
Auckland Stadia Strategy	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation	Auckland Council	We will ensure Local Boards are kept informed of the process and the outcome.					
Enhancing Auckland's local, national and global reputation and appeal	No	1. Inform	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	NZTE, Immigration NZ, Tourism NZ, NZ Film Commission, Auckland Council and CCOs	Campaigns to attracting local, domestic and international visitors, investment and business.	https://iconiceats.co.nz/	In progress			
Attracting and developing skills and talent	No	1. Inform	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	MBIE, Auckland Council, Auckland Regional Skills and Leadership Group	Focussing on youth and Māori employment in south and west Auckland; upskilling Auckland's Pacific workforce; regional skills shortages.	https://www.aucklandnz.com/business/build-and-attract-talent/youth-employer-pledge	In progress			

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Sharing economic data and analysis - local economic overviews	No	1. Inform	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	Auckland Council	Producing local board-level economic data and information to support local boards in their decision making, including three-yearly local economic overviews and updates to the Auckland Prosperity Index.	https://www.aucklandnz.com/business/economy-and-sectors/market-news-and-trends/aucklands-prosperity-index-reports	In progress		Local economic overviews will be available to new boards after October election.	
Delivering Government COVID-19 Support Packages	No	1. Inform	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	MBIE	Small-to-medium-sized business support programme; regional reactivation programmes	https://www.aucklandnz.com/activateauckland https://www.aucklandnz.com/reactivate	In progress			
Connecting all Aucklanders with our cultural organisations, venues and programmes – education, outreach and access	No	1. Inform	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives		Education programmes and resources; community access; outreach programmes.		In progress			
Contributing to the cultural and economic vibrancy of Auckland – our cultural organisations, venues and sector	No	1. Inform	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	Auckland Council, mana whenua	Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki; Auckland Zoo; NZ Maritime Museum; supporting the region's cultural sector; cultural sector collaboration (including a collaborative Matariki programme).	https://www.aucklandartgallery.com/ https://www.aucklandzoo.co.nz/ https://www.maritimemuseum.co.nz/	In progress			

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Promoting te reo Māori to be seen, heard, spoken and learned throughout our facilities, programmes and activities – bilingual policy and programme	No	1. Inform	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	Auckland Council	Including Auckland Unlimited owned and operated businesses implementing bilingual signage in building upgrades or new buildings, and implementing our bilingual name. Subject to funding.	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-3ffCzf3SyxtmziKuDFzr3QIGhQYLF6/view	In progress			
Co-design of a signature Māori festival for Tāmaki Makaurau	No			Auckland Council, iwi	Working with key partners (including iwi and council) to develop and ensure delivery of an annual Māori signature festival for Tāmaki Makaurau.	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f-3ffCzf3SyxtmziKuDFzr3QIGhQYLF6/view	Subject to funding.			

* Auckland Unlimited is committed to the implementation of this CCO engagement process to ensure Local Boards are communicated to and involved in a timely manner with these programmes of work. Where events are not solely owned and delivered by Auckland Unlimited, but instead managed by an event organiser or local operating model, as a Host City/Partner/supporter of these events, Auckland Unlimited will act as a conduit and facilitator of conversations to enable the local boards to engage directly with the event organisers where opportunity exists. If opportunity for increased engagement does occur – such as leverage opportunities in support of Local Board community outcomes—we will increase the engagement approach in line with the IAP2 spectrum to reflect it at the time.

Attachment F - Watercare Work Programme and latest update

The Hibiscus and Bays Local Board area is growing rapidly and Watercare is working closely with many developers and other agencies to service this growth. The following information highlights some of the major work that has been undertaken, is underway or planned for this Local Board area.

Wastewater

- The Army Bay wastewater treatment plant outfall (\$30M) was replaced in 2018 catering for future growth and removing a bottleneck during wet weather causing overflows in the network and providing for long-term growth.
- The wastewater discharge consent for Army Bay was also renewed and parts of the plant including the UV treatment were upgraded.
- A new 1m diameter wastewater tunnel was built connecting the Milldale development with the Orewa pump station. As part of this development the engineers were able to reduce the need for a further pump station in Milldale reducing the carbon footprint of the project from construction and a lifetime of operation. The wastewater system in Milldale was also designed to accommodate future growth in Silverdale West. Work is currently underway on the design for a new pump station to service the Silverdale West development.
- In 2015 a new wastewater network was installed in Orewa West enabling development in the northern Orewa Catchment.
- Further work is currently underway with developers in Red Beach (old Golf Course) and next to Snow Planet.
- A major upgrade to the wastewater main from Mairangi Bay to East Coast Road (Windsor Park) (\$13m) was completed in 2016. Construction is about to begin on a new wastewater pump station with storage at Mairangi Bay (\$15M) which will transfer flows from the East Coast Bays area, pumping over the ridge and onto the Rosedale Plant for treatment. This project is important for transporting wet weather flows along the bays towards the plant, helping accommodate growth while also reducing overflows to local beaches when it rains.
- Work continues (\$83m) on the expansion of the important strategic asset the Rosedale Wastewater Treatment Plant to accommodate new growth and flows including those redirected from the North West via the Northern Interceptor Project (currently under construction) and the extension of a new wastewater pipeline (East Coast Bays link sewer) from Windsor Park Mairangi Bay to the Rosedale wastewater Treatment Plant (\$32M, proposed for 2022).

Water

- The North Shore receives water produced from multiple dam, river and ground sources in the south and west of Auckland. Investment in plant upgrades such as the Waikato (\$145m) and the replacement Huia Water Treatment Plant (\$436M, starting 2025) help secure the future water supply to the North Shore. Similarly, investment in large water mains such as the Hunua 4 (\$400M – nearing completion) bringing water from the south helps secure the water supply into the city where it is then conveyed over the Auckland Harbour Bridge and onto the North Shore. Eventually the North Harbour No. 2 watermain (\$261M) will help secure water supply from the replacement Huia water treatment plant transporting it to the North Shore via an alternative route from the west.
- A new water booster pump station is planned for Westhaven beginning in 2022 (\$7.5M), which will help ensure sufficient water is moved across the harbour bridge to service growth to the North.
- Watercare will also continue to liaise with the relevant agencies regarding the potential for second harbour crossings as these are developed.
- Work is underway to build the Orewa 1 watermain which should be completed by the end of the year by end of year. A boost pump station is also to be developed on the Hibiscus Coast to provides for growth on the Whangaparoa (location yet to be determined). Watercare is utilising the enterprise model to develop new infrastructure with a lower carbon footprint.
- The Orewa 3 watermain is being built in Milldale – installation is taking place as the developer builds roads. The watermain extends over the Weiti Bridge and will also cross the Highgate Bridge. Work is being undertaken in collaboration with Waka Kotahi, Fulton Hogan Land Development and Auckland Transport.

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Mairangi Bay Pump Station replacement	No	2. Consult	C. Community Engagement	AT, Auckland Council Community Facilities	The project is under construction. The shaft wall construction is complete and the shaft evacuation is underway.	https://www.watercare.co.nz/About-us/Projects-around-Auckland/Mairangi-Bay-Pump-Station	In progress	Building a new pump station with almost twice the pump capacity and additional underground storage. The project is under construction. The shaft wall construction is underway until end of February 2022 following which the shaft will be excavated.		The shaft wall construction is underway until end of February 2022 following which the shaft will be excavated.
Share information on water and wastewater servicing in the Hibiscus Coast development areas.	No	1. Inform	C. Community Engagement	Developers, AT, Waka Kotahi	We will keep the board up to date with information to ensure there are no surprises.		In progress			

Attachment E - Eke Panuku Development Auckland Work Programme / Property portfolio and latest update

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Portfolio Review	No	2. Consult	On behalf of Auckland Council, Eke Panuku undertakes the property review process for properties that have been identified as potentially no longer required for a council service use. Consultation with all council departments and CCOs is undertaken as part of this review process. Public consultation is only required if the proposed disposal of a property meets the thresholds outlined in council's Significance and Engagement Policy or if there is a statutory requirement to consult.	The property review process involves consultation with all council departments and CCOs. Eke Panuku also has ongoing relationships with key Crown agencies regarding development opportunities and future land requirements.				No active discussions in this local board area.		

Attachment C - Auckland Transport Work Programme and latest updates

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Orewa Boulevard Stage 3 (LBTCF)	Yes	3. Collaborate	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives				In Progress	Orewa Boulevard tender has now been awarded. Successful contractor is working with Auckland Transport on construction and mitigation planning with a staged plan to commence works from 27 April.		
214 Hibiscus Coast Highway Signalised Crossing (LBTCF)	Yes	3. Collaborate	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives				In Progress	Contractor installed replacement islands ahead of schedule (27 January). Awaiting programming and undertaking works to enable power supply to be provided to site through Vector. PM has advised that power supply work is programmed for next week with commissioning to follow. Signals should be operational by the end of April 2022.		
East Coast Bays Wayfinding (LBTCF)	Yes	3. Collaborate	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives				In Progress	Continuation of an existing activity with the goal of providing wayfinding between side roads and alleyways. To be delivered by the end of this FY.		
Bays Safe Schools Programme (LBTCF)	Yes	1. Collaborate	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives				In progress	This project is still in the scoping stage.		
20 Ramsgate Terrace pedestrian improvements (Community Safety Fund)	Yes	3. Collaborate	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives				In Progress	PM is currently awaiting the Schedule of Quantities from Stantec so that this can be sent to the contractor for pricing. Contractor is working on temporary traffic management plan and early discussions with the AT CAR team to start planning for construction in late May/early June. Project is still in the design phase and will need to go to external consultation/final detailed design and a resolution report to be approved. There is still a bit of work required by AT and the consultant to meet this start date for construction.		
Hatfields Beach safety improvements (Community Safety Fund)	Yes	3. Collaborate					Complete	Construction complete for this activity.		
Residential Speed Management – Torbay (Road Safety)	No	3. Collaborate	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation					Torbay Bollards – gearing up to deliver this. Assessment needs to be undertaken by traffic ops team to protect the pedestrian precincts in Torbay. Due for delivery this financial year.		

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Review of Browns Bay Parking Zone (Parking)	No	2. Consult	C. Community engagement				In Progress	Presentation given to Hibiscus & Bays Local Board in November 21. Consultation with the Browns Bay Business Association was favourable. Additional information provided to the Local Board in response to Member queries and additional updates on 01 April. Public consultation currently in its second week, with one more week left to run.		
Glenvar Road / East Coast Road (Major Projects)	No	2. Consult	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives				In Progress	Following the completion of the Single Stage Business Case (SSBC) and the subsequent approval by the AT Board, AECOM has now been selected to undertake detailed design for this project as at March 2022.		
Glenvar Road Corridor Renewal	Yes	2. Consult	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation				In progress	Road Maintenance works scheduled to take place from 14 April through to 25 April and Sunday 8 May. Work will be undertaken to locate services. In addition to upgrading the drainage and footpaths, Fulton Hogan will be repairing and replacing the concrete subbase and structural asphalt on Glenvar Road from properties no. 321 to no. 359.		

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Penlink	No	2. Inform	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	Te Tupu Ngatahi (Supporting Growth)			In progress	<p>Update from Waka Kotahi (NZ Transport Agency):</p> <p>TOLLING:</p> <p>Public consultation for tolling Penlink closed in February. Detailed analysis of the submissions will be publicly available on the Penlink webpage in mid-2022 as part of the consultation summary report.</p> <p>All feedback provided through the consultation process will be taken into account in the development of the tolling proposal for consideration by the Minister of Transport. A copy of the public feedback report will be provided to the Minister who will make a decision about recommending tolling for this road to Cabinet.</p> <p>TENDER UPDATE:</p> <p>Waka Kotahi will be delivering the project through an alliance with a team of constructors, design consultants and Waka Kotahi staff who will work together jointly to undertake the final design and construction of the new road.</p> <p>Waka Kotahi uses a competitive procurement process to determine who the alliance partners will be and commenced a detailed tender process in September 2021 with the two short-listed proponents. The proponent teams are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fulton Hogan, HEB Construction, Aurecon and Tonkin & Taylor 2. Fletcher Construction, Acciona, Beca and Jacobs. <p>Tender submissions from each team were received on 25 February 2022 and Waka Kotahi are in a process of tender evaluation. They expect to confirm the project alliance agreement in June 2022.</p> <p>Works are expected to get underway in late 2022 and be completed in late 2026.</p>		
Penlink Bus Interchange – Whangaparaoa end	No	2. Consult	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives	Waka Kotahi			In Progress	<p>AT team are working with procurement to get a consultant team to start the Detailed Business Case – hope to have a team on-board to start this in early June.</p> <p>This Detailed Business Case will allow AT to start catching up with the Penlink project.</p> <p>Just to be very clear, at this stage there is no committed funding, which means Whangaparaoa Station is currently not scheduled to be delivered at the same time as the Penlink project.</p>		

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Beach / Bute roundabout improvements (Community Programme)	No	2. Consult	C. Community engagement				In Progress	PM confirmed that this will commence from 28 March and is expected to be completed by the end of July 2022.		
Resurfacing Programme (Road Corridor Renewals)	No	2. Consult	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation							
Hibiscus Coast Highway - Hatfields Bridge to Waiwera Road (Road Safety)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation					Project currently in investigation stage and is planned for delivery in Financial Year 2023/24.		
Bus Stop Improvements – Beach Rd, Oaktree Ave, Glencoe Rd, Juniper Rd, East Coast Rd (Major Projects)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation				In Progress	<p>Opp 63 Red Beach Road – Design created for bus stop and shelter. Materials for shelter now being sourced. Expected delivery June (currently at 56% design completed).</p> <p>106 Oaktree Avenue – Design imminent for Metro approval (currently 34% design completed)</p> <p>254 Glenvar Road – In resolution process (99% construction completed)</p> <p>1006 East Coast Road – waiting for completion of wider road safety project that will encompass this upgrade.</p> <p>70 Glencoe Road – Yet to start – information being obtained</p> <p>Opposite 787 Beach Road – Yet to start – information being obtained.</p>		
East Coast Road and Wilks Road intersection (Road Safety)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation					<p>This project has been delayed as the team are currently reviewing the design to ensure it meets the Waka Kotahi funding criteria due to an increase in construction costs.</p> <p>The team have discussed the project with the affected property owner at that intersection and will continue to work with them once they have reviewed the design.</p>		
Whangaparaoa Rd / Karepiro Rd intersection improvements (Network Operations)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation				In Progress	Currently in Design Stage – construction programmed for FY22-23		
Maire Road – No 48 to 60, Orewa (Active Modes)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation							

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Fitzwilliam Dr – stop and shelter (PT Infrastructure)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation					Decision made not to install shelter at this location.		
East Coast Road Bus Lanes - Forrest Hill to Sunnynook (PT Infrastructure)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation					Still in the planning phase		
Hibiscus Coast Hwy, Hatfield Beach – upgrade stop and turning circle changes (PT Infrastructure)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation					Currently in the Detailed Design phase		
Beach Rd, Murrays Bay – upgrade stop and pedestrian crossing (PT Infrastructure)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation				In Progress	Site at present terminated due to significant cost escalation – this is to be discussed with the local board as to whether to continue to proceed with this project.		
Red Beach 983 service– implement infrastructure fixes to allow new route path to be operationalised (PT Infrastructure)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation				In Progress	Detailed Design is now almost 100% complete. Prep work needs to be undertaken on the site (trench digging) which is planned to be undertaken as soon as possible. Once trenching is complete, design will be finalised, and construction will start. Likely construction start date is May 2022.		
Sustainable Mobility Programme (Customer Experience)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation				In Progress	<p>After a period of reduced delivery due to Covid-19 lockdowns, walking and cycling related events, activations and cycle skills training have relaunched in line with Ministry of Health guidelines.</p> <p>Specific to the Hibiscus & Bays Local Board area are the following:</p> <p>Cycling Pit Stop at Orewa Estuary (in Western Reserve) - this took place Saturday 12 February.</p> <p>Orewa Beach Business Association community bike ride scheduled for Sunday 3 April has been cancelled due to Covid.</p>		
Community Transport - Travelwise Programme (Customer Experience)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation							
Community Transport - Road Safety Programme (Customer Experience)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation							
Community Transport - Walking School Buses Programme (Customer Experience)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation							

Project/event/business area	Local Board decision? Yes/No	Engagement approach with local board (1-3)	Extent of community engagement (A-C)	Interdependencies with other CCO, council or central government projects	Notes	Link to further info (i.e. Project Website, press release)	Activity Status (complete, in progress, postponed, cancelled)	Previous update	Current update	Milestones anticipated during next quarter
Community Transport - Te Ara Haepapa (Customer Experience)	No	1. Inform	B. Impacted stakeholder consultation							
Hibiscus Coast Highway, Orewa (Active Modes)		2. Consult					Completed	Work is now complete for this activity		
Whangaparaoa Rd / Main St intersection improvements (Network Operations)		1. Inform					Complete	Construction completed		
Laurence St, Manly – bus stop upgrades (PT Infrastructure)		1. Inform					Complete	Work completed		
Ladies Mile, Manly – bus stop upgrades (PT Infrastructure)		1. Inform					Complete	Work completed		
Whangaparaoa Rd / Gulf Harbour Dr, Hobbs Bay –bus stop upgrades (PT Infrastructure)		1. Inform					Complete	Whangaparaoa Road – 1145, 1187 and 1222 Whangaparaoa Road complete. 1289 and 1247 renewals not necessarily due to shelters being in good condition		
North Shore Bus improvements	No	3. Consult	A. Refer to local board plan outcomes and objectives				In progress	Currently undergoing public consultation. Local Board are expected to provide feedback on this proposal in the next couple of weeks.		

Local board feedback on the draft Regional Parks Management Plan

Local board workshops in April 2022

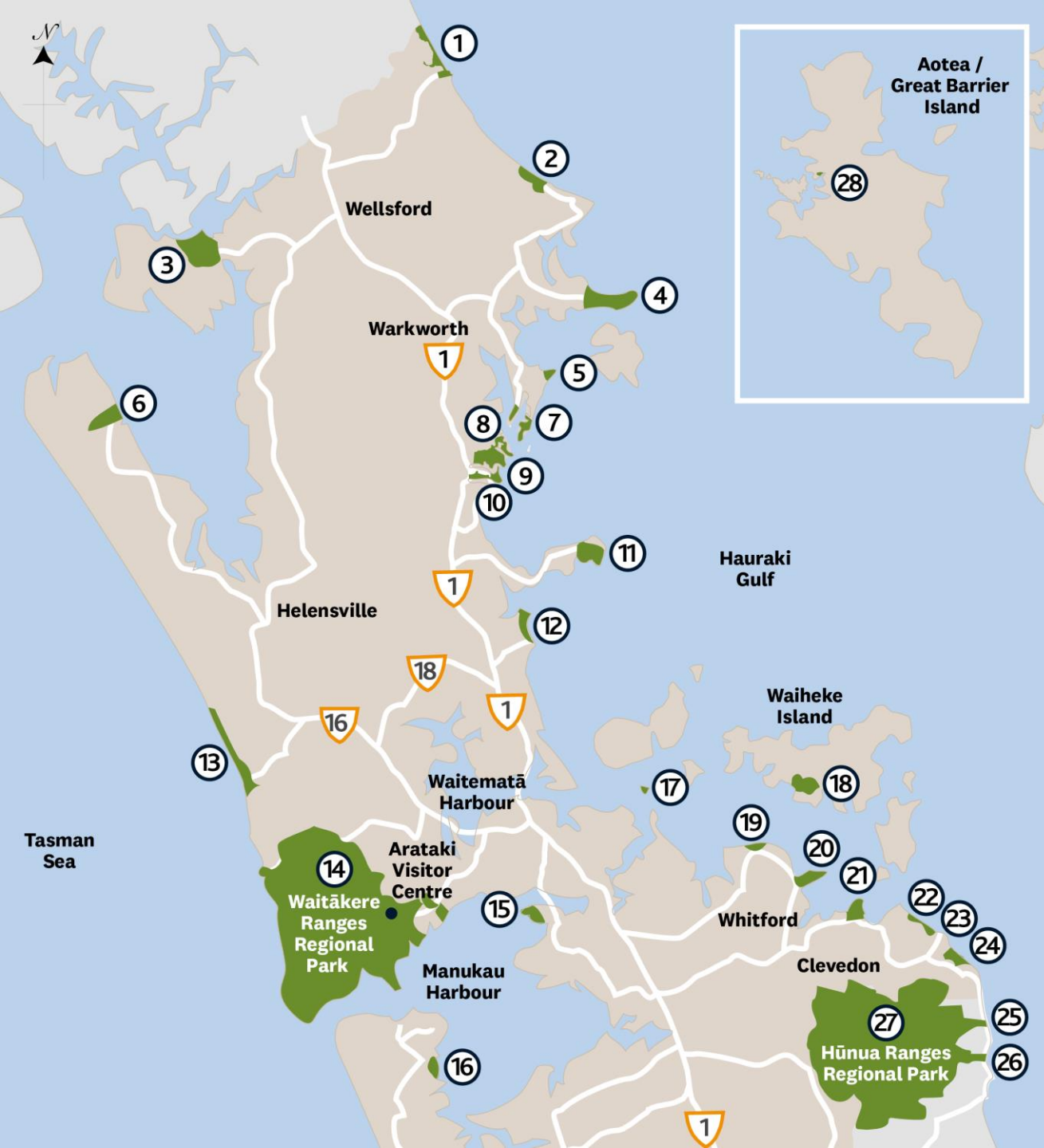
April 2022



Aim of this workshop

- To assist the local board to develop feedback on the draft regional parks management plan, to be provided via the April business meeting





Regional parks in the draft Plan

Key

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Regional parkland | 5 Scandrett | 11 Shakespear |
| 1 Te Ārai | 6 Te Rau Pūriri | 12 Long Bay |
| 2 Pakiri | 7 Mahurangi East | 13 Muriwai |
| 3 Ātiu Creek | 8 Mahurangi West | 14 Waitākere Ranges |
| 4 Tāwharanui | 9 Te Muri | 15 Ambury |
| | 10 Wenderholm | 16 Āwhitu |
| 17 Motukorea / Browns Island | 23 Ōrere Point | |
| 18 Whakanewha | 24 Tāpapakanga | |
| 19 Ōmana | 25 Waharau | |
| 20 Duder | 26 Whakatīwai | |
| 21 Waitawa | 27 Hūnua Ranges | |
| 22 Tawhitokino | 28 Glenfern Sanctuary | |

NOT included:

- Auckland Botanic Gardens,
- Mutukaroa / Hamlins Hill,
- the Hūnua Falls area within the Hūnua Ranges



Review process to date

Preparation

2020:
**Community and
organisation
suggestions**

2021:
**Local board, mana whenua
and staff input
PACE committee workshops**

**DRAFT
PLAN
released**

Decision-maker: Auckland Council's Parks, Arts, Community and Events (PACE) Committee

Local board involvement: community interest and (for some) regional parks in local board areas

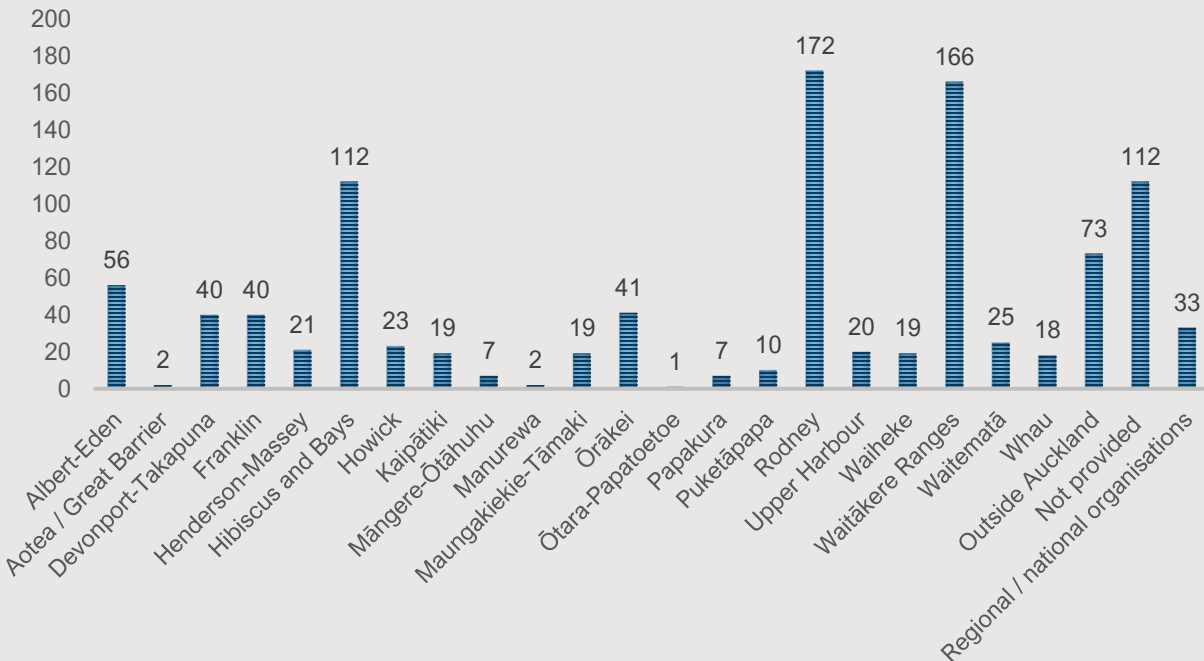
Numbers of submissions received

4684 submissions (about **900** 'unique' submissions and a **large** form submission)

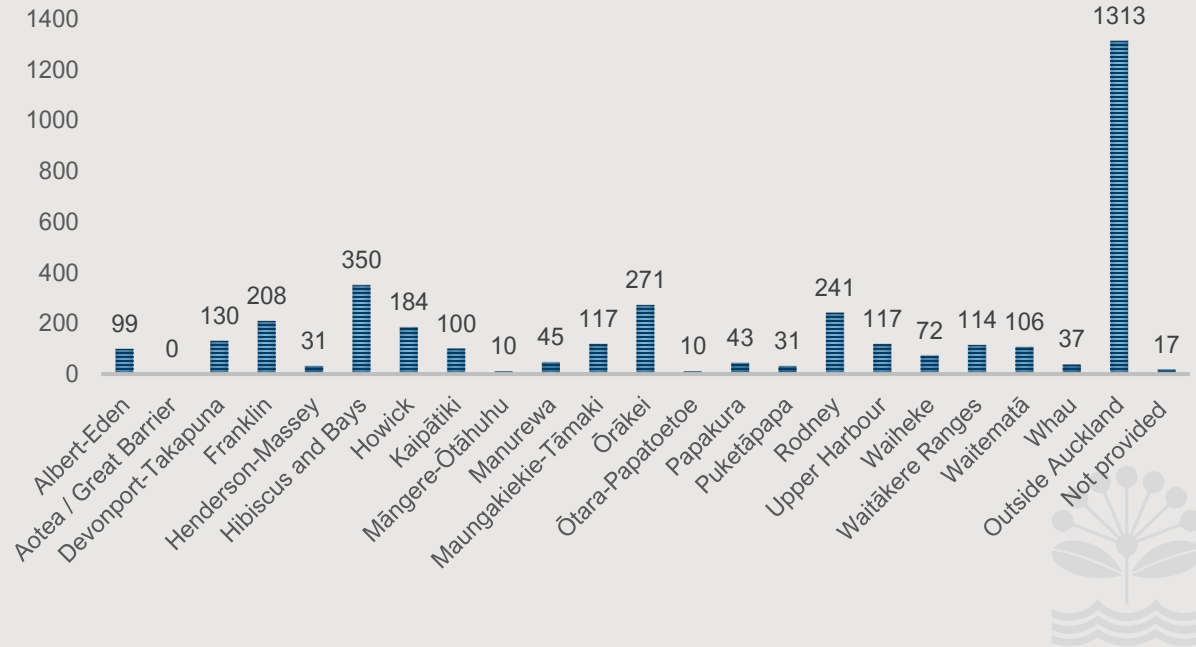
Including: **9** from mana whenua, **4593** individuals, **88** organisations

People submitted by filling in the feedback form, or emailing a submission

NUMBER OF 'UNIQUE' SUBMITTERS



NUMBER OF 'FORM' SUBMITTERS



Draft policy ‘to investigate relevant regional parks joining the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park’

The large form submission:

- Requested removal of all co-governance and co-management proposals from the draft Plan
- Opposed inclusion of regional parks in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park

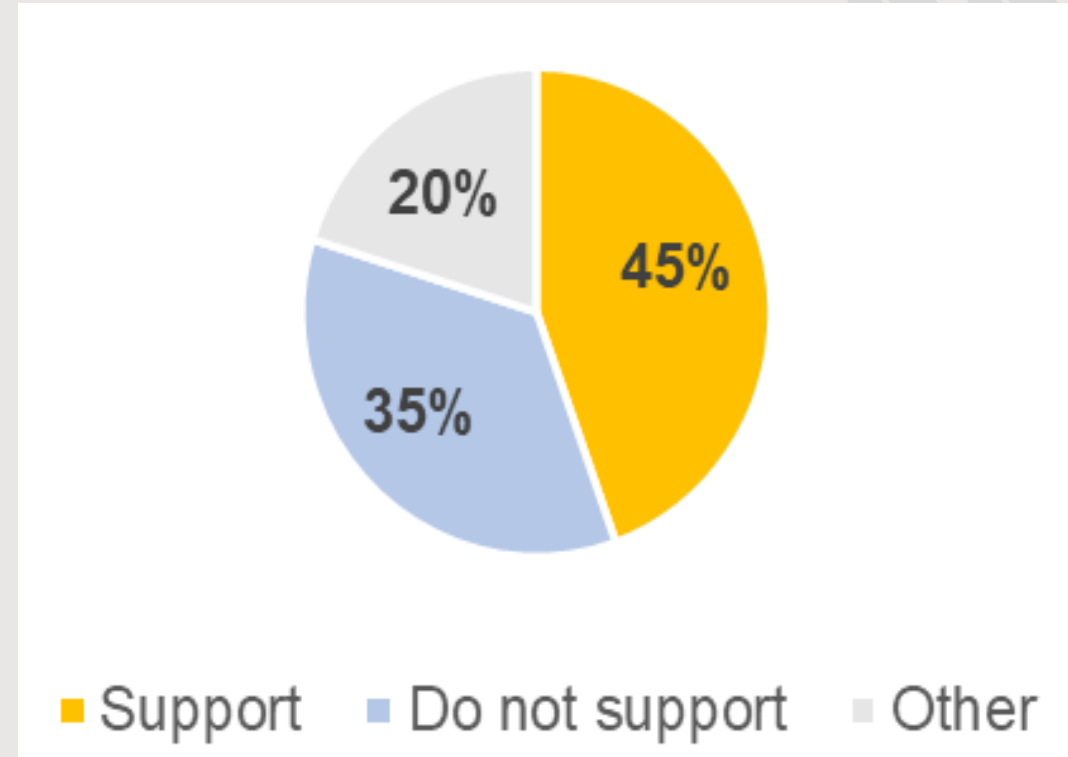
The Our Auckland article titled [‘No plan to change ownership or management of Auckland’s regional parks’](#) released on 11 February 2022 provided reassurance that council was not planning to relinquish control of the regional parks.



Feedback form: General comments

Those who supported the draft Plan liked the focus on environmental protection and climate change, accessibility for all Aucklanders, and protecting cultural heritage.

Some of those who did not support focused on governance / mana whenua involvement while others sought a variety of changes to the draft Plan.



(411 people responded)

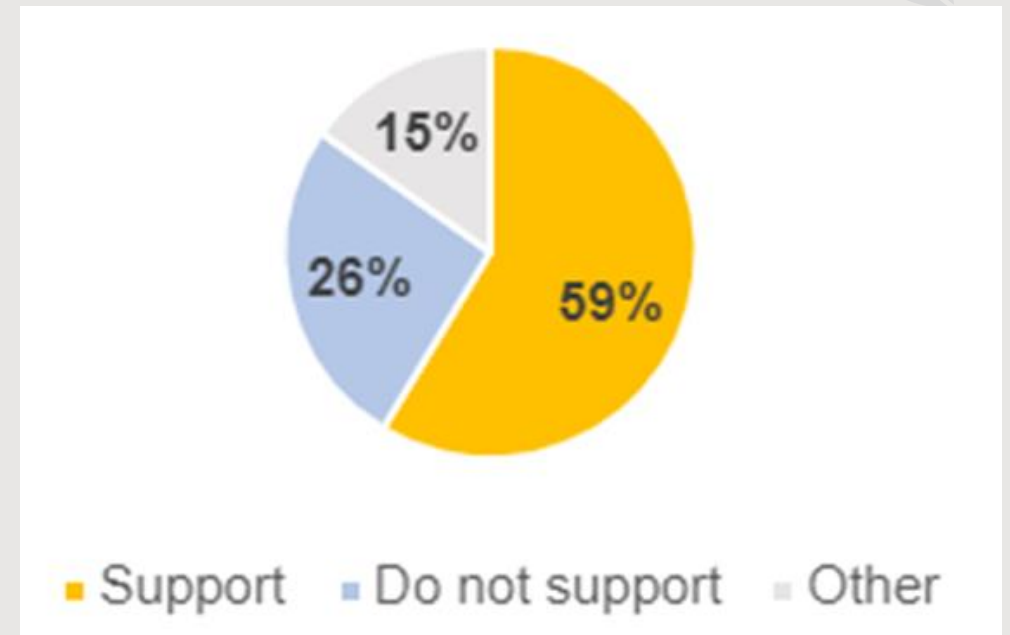


Climate response: improving public transport, cycling and walking options to access parks

The draft Plan proposes to reduce visitor vehicle emissions by improving and promoting public transport, cycling and walking connections to regional parks, and by considering installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for bikes and vehicles.

Comments indicated:

- Strong support for public transport
- Good support for cycling and walking
- Mixed views on electric vehicle charging stations



(92 people responded)



Some themes from emailed submissions on general sections of the draft Plan

Mana Whenua Partnerships

Support from mana whenua and others

Some concerned about council losing control (democracy / public access)

Build trust and engagement

Involve large stakeholder groups in co-management

Managing visitor experiences

Reinforce recreation values

More camping for motor campervans

Open more tracks

Dogs, 4WDs, Paragliders / hang gliders

Natural environment and climate change

Support for environmental policies and climate action

Plant more trees

Public transport, cycling/walking links

Farmed settings

Draft Plan proposes to review farming

Future of farming on regional parks drew mixed views



Submissions on individual regional parks

28

Regional
parks

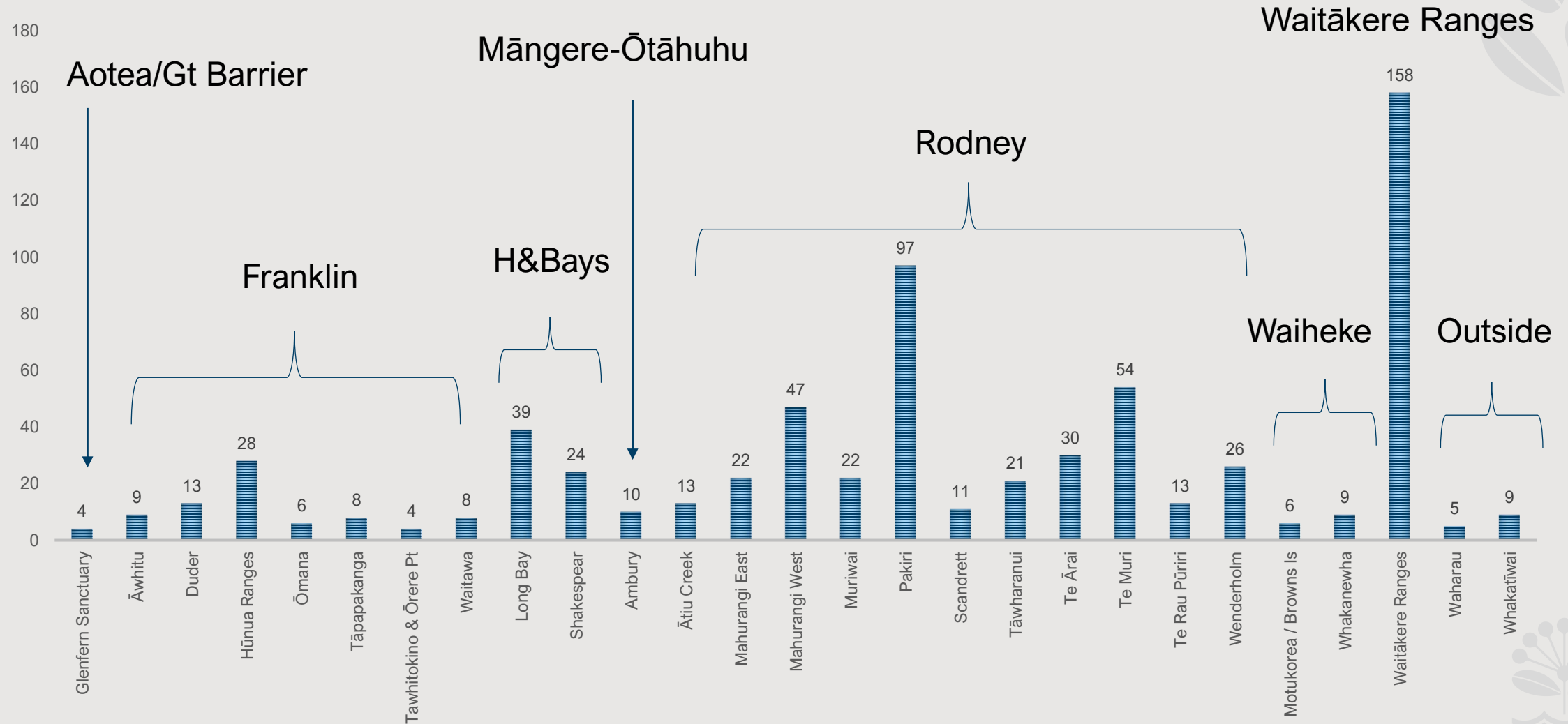
Park chapters were generally well received, with some qualifications and suggestions for improvements

However, the Waitākere Ranges drew many comments on the park vision, approach to manage visitor impacts and opposition to closed tracks / kauri dieback management



Number of submitters to each regional park chapter

NUMBER OF SUBMITTERS BY PARK



Aotea / Great Barrier: Glenfern Sanctuary



- **Biodiversity protection: ‘summit to the sea’**
- **Eduction/visitor centre**



Franklin: Āwhitu and Hūnua Ranges



Maintain park history
Upgrade infrastructure



Hūnua Trail, recreation and track
re-opening plan



Franklin

South-eastern coast

- Walking, cycling links to local areas
- Te Ara Moana / sea kayak trail



Omana

- Enhance local connections
- Te Puru wetlands restoration



Duder

- More accessible camping, new park entry
- Retain Duder name in dual park name



Waitawa

- Develop recreation plan, more camping options
- Marine Education and Recreation Centre



Tawhitokino and Orere Point

- Maintain access /signage
- More information on line for visitors



Tapapakanga

- Improve visitors experience
- Expand vehicle-based camping sites



Hibiscus and Bays: Long Bay and Shakespear



Manage visitors impacts, develop northern area (dogs, camping), remove farming



Extend marine reserve, expand camping, dog access, remove farming, public transport links



Māngere-Ōtāhuhu: Ambury



Expand visitor facilities for large groups

Realise tourist destination potential (education centre)



Rodney

West coast
and
Kaipara
Harbour



Muriwai

- Manage visitors impacts better
- Vehicle access



Te Rau Pūriri

- Develop northern area, boat access
- Extensive wetlands restoration



Ātiu Creek

- Increase recreation options
- Sustainable farming – Kaipara Moana



Rodney

Northern parks

- Links to Te Araroa Trail
- Proposed Puhoi to Mangawhai Trail



Te Ārai

- Conservation focus in the north
- Recreation opportunities in south



Pakiri

- Opposition to development
- Low-impact recreation and access



Tāwharanui

- Wetlands restoration
- Education centre



Rodney

East coast cluster

- Mahurangi great park idea
- Mahurangi Coastal Trail
- Sea kayak trail, water access to parks



Scandrett

- Coastal forest restoration
- Utilise historic farm complex for school education



Mahurangi East

- Open for walking, cycling access
- Protect natural / cultural heritage, pest-free peninsula



Mahurangi West

- Oppose Te Muri bridge
- Retain camping on foreshore at Sullivan's Bay



Te Muri

- Retain sense of remoteness and wilderness
- Access via Hungry Creek Road



Wenderholm

- Allow impromptu self-contained camping in car park
- Advocate for public transport links



Waiheke: Motukorea/Browns Island and Whakanewha



Biodiversity, cultural heritage
protection, low-impact recreation



Track development, pedestrian
access, safety, local connections



Waitākere Ranges

- Retain 2010 plan vision and park category
- Mana whenua involvement
- Kauri dieback management
- Recreation / track re-opening plan
- Limit visitor numbers, no more carparks, retain activity caps
- Upgrade recreation facilities
- Manage visitor impacts better
- Investigate dog access, more enforcement of bylaws



Forming local board feedback



Questions?



Next steps to finalise the plan

DRAFT PLAN consultation

Written submissions: Community, organisations, mana whenua – by 4 March

Local board feedback – April workshops and business meetings

Hearings – in May

Local boards if interested (9 May), mana whenua, community, organisations

Hearings Panel:

Deliberates

Recommends changes to the plan to the PACE Committee

(in June)

PACE committee:

Considers hearings panel recommendations and decides whether to adopt changes

Adopts Final Plan (target: September)

Thank you

Keddle House, Anawhata, Waitākere Ranges Regional Park



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28 March 2022

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Executive summary

This document outlines a summary of the feedback form and email submissions to the draft Regional Parks Management Plan (draft Plan).

The areas that drew the most comment were the proposals on mana whenua involvement and the Waitākere Ranges park chapter. In addition, submitters commented on many details in the 508-page draft Plan.

Summary of feedback on general policies

Mana whenua partnerships

Mana whenua supported the draft Plan's direction for their involvement. They requested changes with reference to te ao Māori values to give effect to this intention.

The proposals relating to partnerships with mana whenua were opposed by some 3800 submitters who opposed co-governance with, or transfer of, management to mana whenua as not democratic, perceived risk of loss of public access, and that the benefits were not convincing.

The proposal to investigate relevant regional parks joining the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park was interpreted by a large group of submitters as a transfer of control away from the council to the Hauraki Gulf Forum, which they opposed¹.

Managing visitor experiences

Recreational organisations considered recreation values needed to be reinforced in the draft Plan. They wanted the plan to deliver more and felt the plan did not reflect that recreation as well as conservation were the twin purposes of regional parks.

Motor camper van users strongly advocated for more overnight space to be provided across the parks.

Paragliders and hang gliders were concerned the draft plan limited their access and sought changes.

Four-wheel drive associations and users opposed the draft Plan's prohibition on recreational use of motorised vehicles within regional parks.

Dogs on regional parks drew a lot of comment particularly to the feedback form question, where views were requested on specific sites at Te Ārai (Rodney) Shakespear and Long Bay (Hibiscus & Bays), Waitākere Ranges and Hūnua Ranges (Franklin).

The natural environment and climate change

Submitters tended to support proposed policies for environmental / biodiversity protection in the plan, with some considering these needed to go further.

There was a solid level of support for proposed policies to mitigate climate change, improving public transport, walking and cycling links to parks, although there were mixed views on electric vehicle (EV) charging stations.

Submitters had mixed views on a general policy for 'managed retreat' in the face of sea level rise. Those who opposed this did not want to lose infrastructure that enabled them to access and enjoy the beaches and sea.

¹ The Our Auckland article titled '[No plan to change ownership or management of Auckland's regional parks](#)' released on 11 February 2022 provided reassurance that council was not planning to relinquish control of the regional parks.

Farmed settings

While few commented directly on the proposed review of farming, views were divided on what role farming should play in regional parks. Some felt climate and biodiversity were more important than farming, while others wanted the farms to be kept for a range of history/heritage, financial, and recreational reasons, and others again felt they should demonstrate more regenerative methods. Providing farm experiences at Ambury for Aucklanders was supported.

Park-specific submissions by local board area

Aotea-Great Barrier – Glenfern Sanctuary: support for biodiversity protection and development of a proposed education/visitor centre.

Franklin – Āwhitu: maintain park history and historic buildings, protect shorebird habitats from coastal erosion, upgrade visitor facilities, focus on recreation activities ahead of events.

Duder: expand camping opportunities, including accessible camping; improve access and entry to the park; improve volunteer facilities, restrict cycling to maintain remoteness, retain original park name in a dual name arrangement.

Hūnua Ranges: Increase recreational opportunities, develop track reopening plan, support for Hūnua Trail, provide for Watercare maintenance requirements, more ecological monitoring, reflect wilderness and remoteness in park vision.

Ōmana: Support enhanced amenities for cycling, improved walking and cycling connections to local communities; restoration of Te Puru wetlands; review economic benefit of farming.

Tāpapakanga: expanding camping opportunities at the park, promote access to Te Ara Moana / Sea Kayak Trail, consider appropriateness of closing public access to the park during Splore.

Tawhitokino and Ōrere Point: provide more online information about tidal access to Tawhitokino, camping and parking, add signage to the track over the headland.

Waitawa: develop a recreation plan to manage congestion and safety during peak periods; expand camping options, including vehicle-based camping; cease farming to provide more space for visitors; develop a marine recreation / education centre.

Hibiscus and Bays – Long Bay: improve public access (shuttles from 'park and rides'), focus on managing high visitor numbers and use, investigate provision for dog access in northern area of the park, continue biodiversity protection.

Shakespeare: improve alternative public access links (bus, ferry), expand camping options, remove farming, ban set netting, investigate more dog access.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu – Ambury: support for expansion of visitor facilities, promotion of park's tourism potential for bird watching, development of education / visitor centre, regional walking trails and cultural heritage.

Rodney – Ātiu Creek: contribute to remediation of Kaipara Harbour through protection of biodiversity and adopting sustainable farming practices; developing access within the park.

Mahurangi East: Support for creating separate park, potential pest-free peninsula; provide public access now for walking and cycling via easement.

Mahurangi West: Strong opposition to proposal to provide access to Te Muri via a bridge across Te Muri Stream due to impacts on local residents. Retain campground at Sullivan's Bay on foreshore, request to provide boat ramp here.

Muriwai: support for restricting vehicles on beaches, protection of dunes and biodiversity, managing visitor impacts and enforcement of dog bylaws.

Pakiri: section of local community strongly opposed to any park development; others support low-impact walking and cycling activities; access issues still to be resolved; support for biodiversity and cultural heritage protection.

Scandrett: Support protecting historic farm buildings; protecting and restoring biodiversity; providing link to other coastal parks and walking/cycling networks.

Te Ārai: conservation focus at Te Ārai North, provision for recreation activities in Te Ārai Point and Te Ārai South; protection of New Zealand fairy terns critical; strong support for protection of cultural heritage

Te Muri: Opposition to Te Muri bridge and potential to lose the sense of remoteness and wilderness experience, access via Hungry Creek Road preferred option. Support for protection of biodiversity and cultural heritage (Te Muri urupa and other sites).

Te Rau Pūriri: support for proposed development in northern area of park, provision for camping and recreational use, boat ramp to be provided; focus on restoration of wetlands and biodiversity protection.

Tāwharanui: Strong support for sanctuary, biodiversity protection and extension of marine reserve to southern coast. Support for proposal to restore wetlands near Anchor Bay and possible expansion of camping.

Wenderholm: upgrading camping facilities, provision for impromptu overnight vehicle camping in main carpark, support for biodiversity protection, maintaining historic building and cultural heritage.

For the north-eastern parks, there was support for ensuring local connections from the regional parks to the proposed trail networks such as the Puhoi to Mangawhai Trail.

Waiheke – Motukorea / Browns Island: have a park ranger on site, create a marine protected area around the island, provide toilet facilities, delineate the walking track to trig, continue replanting and protection of cultural heritage.

Whakanewha: improve pedestrian access and safety, opposed to glamping, strong support for dotterel breeding programme, rāhui to include shellfish collection.

Waitākere Ranges – Waitākere Ranges attracted much comment.

Many were disappointed the draft Plan did not improve access to closed tracks – the draft Plan instead proposes that a track network plan be developed as a priority. Submitters opposed a proposed approach to have tracks around the fringes but not through the heart of the forest. Other submitters supported continued kauri protection measures.

The draft Plan proposes principles and criteria for track development. In response many opposed the current approach to track upgrades, suggesting the infrastructure was more than required to protect kauri and destroyed the natural feel of the forest.

Submitters opposed the proposed new park category 1b to manage the impact of high visitor numbers, arguing it would further increase visitor numbers and degrade the remote / natural experience.

South of Auckland: Waharau: upgrade camping facilities for both vehicle-based and tent camping, review economic benefit of farming, promote Te Ara Moana / Sea kayak trail.

Whakatīwai: provide more overnight camping options including sites with wheelchair access; improve signage to advise track to Hūnua Ranges is closed.

Introduction

This document is a summary of the written submissions received within the consultation period for the draft Regional Parks Management Plan (draft Plan).

This summary is produced for local boards to consider the submissions and produce their own formal feedback at their business meetings in April 2022.

Background

The Parks, Arts, Community and Events (PACE) committee of the council has decision-making authority over regional park planning.

The 2010 Regional Parks Management Plan was due for review under the Reserves Act 1977 and Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 and in August 2020 the PACE committee notified its intention to prepare a new plan (PAC/2020/36).

In September and October 2020 suggestions were sought from the community and organisations, and in December 2020 a summary of suggestions was provided to elected members.

Local boards provided their suggestions for the preparation of the draft plan in March 2021 after workshops where they considered the community suggestions.

During 2021 staff drafted the plan and engaged with 16 mana whenua and the Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum.

The PACE committee approved the draft Plan for consultation on 2 December 2021.

The regulatory committee appointed hearings panel members on 14 December 2021. The hearings panel members are: Cr Linda Cooper (chair), Cr Christine Fletcher, Independent Māori Statutory Board Member Glenn Wilcox, independent David Hill, independent James Whetu.

As required by s. 41(6) of the Reserves Act (for land held under that Act), the draft Plan was open for public consultation from 10 December 2021 to 4 March 2022. The Reserves Act provides for written comments from submitters followed by hearings.

Given the high level of interest in this draft Plan, the consultation period was publicised widely through council channels, emails to mana whenua, previous submitters and a wide list of regional park stakeholders, via social media, on regional parks and through leisure centres. Hard copies were available in a number of libraries and in the Arataki Visitor Centre and a public online briefing was held.

The consultation also followed the special consultative procedure under s. 83 of the Local Government Act 2002. The requirement to adopt the special consultative procedure stems from the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 and applies to the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

The draft Plan

The draft Plan is intended to serve as the reserve management plan for the regional parkland that is held under the Reserves Act 1977. Under s. 41(3) of the Reserves Act, the plan must adequately incorporate and ensure the use and management of the reserve is aligned to the purposes for which it is classified and ensure compliance with the principles set out under the relevant classification in the Act.

It also fulfils the requirement for a management plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park under s. 19 of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008. The council must give

effect to the Act and its objectives when preparing the plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

Regional parkland that is not held under the Reserves Act is held under the Local Government Act 2002.

The draft Plan presents a vision, values, management framework, general policies for all of the regional parks, and specific information about and management intentions for each park with park maps and additional appendices. In all the draft Plan is 508 pages long with 60 maps.

In preparing the draft Plan, staff considered the suggestions and input from mana whenua, local boards, individuals and organisations as required under the Reserves Act 1977 and Local Government Act 2002 and reviewed legislative requirements and current council policy.

Next steps

Local boards hold workshops and provide their formal feedback on the draft Plan through their business meetings in April 2022.

The hearings panel convenes on 9 May 2022 to hear from local boards, then to hear from submitters who wish to speak to their submission. After deliberations, the panel will produce a report recommending changes to the draft Plan.

The PACE committee will receive the panel's recommendations at its August 2022 meeting.

Subject to the PACE committee's decision, the target is to provide the final plan to the PACE Committee for adoption at its meeting in September 2022.

Note: While we have endeavoured to accurately portray the sense of the submissions and as much of the detail as possible, not every point can be provided in this summary and some nuances may have been lost. The submissions themselves and lists of submitters are published on the hearings page, at <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/hearings/find-hearing/Pages/Hearing-documents.aspx?HearingId=526>.

Submission statistics

4684 written submissions were received within the submission period. Of these nine were from mana whenua, 4593 were from individuals or families, and 88 were from organisations (some as joint submissions).

Many submissions were identical or contained identical points.

- 3646 identical submissions from different people seeking that council retain control of the regional parks. An additional 185 variants were counted as 'unique' submissions.
- 61 substantially similar submissions from motor campervan users.
- 66 substantially similar submissions from Pakiri community members.
- circa 50 submitters provided identical/similar points regarding the Waitākere Ranges.

Location of submitters

Local board area	Count of 'unique' submissions	Count of identical campaign submissions
Albert-Eden	56	99
Aotea / Great Barrier	2	0
Devonport-Takapuna	40	130
Franklin	40	208
Henderson-Massey	21	31
Hibiscus and Bays	112	350
Howick	23	184
Kaipātiki	19	100
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	7	10
Manurewa	2	45
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	19	117
Ōrākei	41	271
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	1	10
Papakura	7	43
Puketāpapa	10	31
Rodney	172	241
Upper Harbour	20	117
Waiheke	19	72
Waitākere Ranges	166	114
Waitematā	25	106
Whau	18	37
Outside Auckland	73	1313
Location not provided	112	17
Regional / national organisations	33	0
Totals	1038	3646
Grand total	4684	

Feedback form responses

This section summarises the responses from 420 submitters to optional questions in the feedback form. Most responded online via the AK Have Your Say website, with a few by email or post.

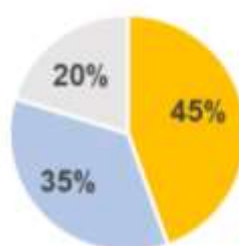
Note: While the numbering of the questions in this summary differs from that in the published submissions, the questions are the same.

Question 1 – Direction of the draft Plan

The draft Plan proposes to continue protecting the natural and cultural heritage of our regional parks, while providing opportunities for all to enjoy them.

We asked people for their overall opinion of the direction proposed in the draft Plan.

411 submitters said whether they supported the direction of the draft Plan.



■ Support ■ Do not support ■ Other

We asked submitters to **tell us why** and 306 people commented. The common themes were:

Themes	Count
General support	60
Supported protecting the environment	51
Specific park-related comments	49
Opposed the focus on iwi involvement	38
Concerns the council may transfer parks to the Hauraki Gulf Forum	19
Supported recreation	16
Supported protection of cultural heritage	11
Concerns and comments about track closures	13
Supported council working with mana whenua	9
Wanted farm animals protected	8
Total fitting into themes	274

Submitters supporting the direction of the draft Plan supported the focus on environmental protection and climate change, accessibility for all Aucklanders, and cultural heritage.

“The plan is a very solid attempt to provide and manage a variety of spaces for public access while caring for the biodiversity and balancing a growing population’s demands”

There was some support for including te ao Māori concepts in park management.

“Integrating resource management with te ao Māori concepts is a step in the right direction....”

Submitters who did not support the direction of the draft Plan focused mostly on governance, iwi involvement and ownership of parks. Some people believed the draft plan proposed to pass the governance of parks to the Hauraki Gulf Forum.

- “The parks must remain fully owned and controlled by the people of Auckland only. The council is the only representative body that has accountability to the people of Auckland. Even if the idea is only mooted or suggested it must not be given further consideration and should be removed from the plan. Until it is removed, I cannot support this plan.”
- Opposition to iwi involvement in co-governance or co-management of parks drew the fourth highest number of comments, with some saying there was too much focus on the Treaty of Waitangi.

We received many comments about a range of topics, including:

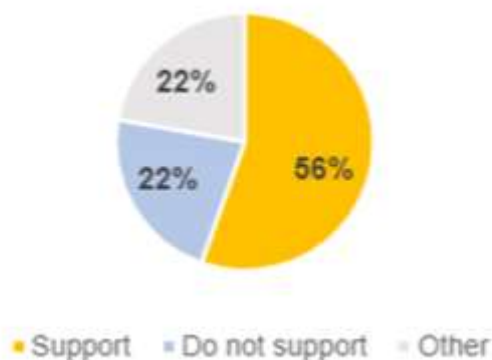
- Opposition to commercialisation or additional developments, such as proposals to make the Hillary Trail a Great Walk.
- Opposition to proposed changes to the park category system, particularly for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.
- Seeking a review of the council’s approach to kauri dieback and track upgrades and removal of proposals designed to provide for increased visitor numbers.
- Changes to aspects of the plan relating to provision of camping, paragliding and hang gliding, and spaces for dogs, and to stop killing farm animals.

Question 2 – Regional parks as inclusive, accessible places

The draft Plan wants to make regional parks more accessible, and more welcoming to Auckland’s diverse communities. See chapter 11 (Providing for a range of recreational uses) and relevant park chapters.

We asked submitters what they thought of this intention.

391 people said whether they supported this section of the draft Plan.



We asked submitters to tell us: What changes, if any, do you expect to see to make regional parks more welcoming? 316 people commented. The common themes raised were:

Themes	Count
Improvements to park infrastructure	65
Accessibility / availability of parks	62
Inclusiveness	41
Dogs	17
Total	185

Submitters suggested a range of ideas for improving park infrastructure including more facilities such as coin-operated barbecues, water fountains, rubbish bins, picnic shelters, skate parks, snorkel trails, and concessions for kayak rental or inclusive kayaking/dinghy clubs. There were calls for better signage regarding track information, history, tree types, protection of wildlife. Signage also came up on accessibility below.

Submitter suggestions on the accessibility and inclusiveness of parks included improved accessibility for people with disabilities / the elderly, better access for those with low incomes and information / signage in other languages. Some submitters said they were satisfied with the current level of accessibility and felt the council was trying to find a solution to a problem that doesn’t exist.

While some wanted parking to be improved to make access easier at the park, others felt there should be less access for vehicles to give pedestrians and cyclists more priority within the parks.

Responses to this question also included requests for more accommodation options and space for self-contained campervans, and allowance in the plan for paragliding, hang gliding, and adventure sports. Comments on dogs are covered under the dogs question.

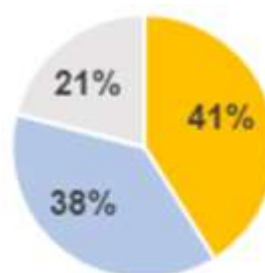
Concerns about the impact a future co-governance approach might have on public access is covered under the mana whenua partnerships chapter later in this document.

Question 3 – Accessing tracks in Waitākere Ranges

The draft Plan proposes principles and criteria to guide track development, assess which tracks to reopen, and where to develop future tracks. See chapter 11 (Tracks), the Waitākere Ranges chapter and Appendix 4.

We asked submitters for their opinion of our proposed principles and criteria to guide track development.

129 people said whether they supported this section of the draft Plan.



■ Support ■ Do not support ■ Other

We invited submitters to **tell us why**.

98 people commented. The common themes were:

Themes	Count
Open more tracks	36
Track infrastructure standards	21
Comments on specific tracks	13
Supported cautious approach to kauri dieback management	9
Total	79

Most of the submitters wanted the council to open more tracks and do it faster. Submitters commented on the lack of longer and more difficult tramping tracks in the Waitākere Ranges, which limits hiking opportunities for locals within one hour of Auckland. Many of these comments were linked to the way the council is managing kauri dieback disease and the limitations this has imposed on track accessibility.

Some submitters felt tracks should remain lightly formed without the gravelling, wooden boardwalks, and paving. Some commented on the currently open tracks being too crowded, over-used and limited in their variety.

Submissions on track infrastructure standards included those who favoured the more intense wilderness experience. This group felt sanitation requirements and excessive track upgrades lost the connection to the wilderness. These submitters did not want the Hillary Trail upgraded to Great Walk standard (also related to commercialisation) and considered the infrastructure standards were not needed in areas where no kauri are present.

“The current (and long standing) lack of hiking opportunities in Auckland has a huge impact on Aucklanders’ ability to take part in this low-cost, healthy activity. I would like to see development of longer tramping tracks to happen alongside the day walk tracks, as part of accessible Auckland based activity, but also to prepare for longer hikes in other regions. Currently we need to travel to Thames or further afield for this.”

“There is currently too much emphasis on walking tracks / highly manicured tracks and not enough options for those seeking the back-

country experience. It is noted that there is limited scope for back-country hiking within two hours of Auckland and therefore it is important to preserve routes and longer, harder tramping tracks in the Waitākere Ranges.”

Others felt it important to maintain a variety of track types from easy wooden boardwalks for older people and children but also more rugged, remote tracks. These submitters wanted better infrastructure such as toilets, parking and better weed control, a greater ranger presence, and more tracks opened to reduce overcrowding.

“I’m particularly concerned that the Te Henga trail and track to Wainamu may get ‘upgraded’ by covering their beautiful natural sand and clay surfaces with horrible gravel or boardwalks. This would stop us being able to walk and run barefoot, and really stops people enjoying and connecting with nature. Squidging your toes in mud is a joy and shouldn’t be sanitised out!”

“A well thought out recreation plan is long overdue for the Waitākere Ranges, the current approach of keep it natural, keep it rustic and small is out of step with the ever increasing population and demand for access.”

Submitters were both for and against allowing mountain biking in the Waitākere Ranges.

Submitters on kauri dieback management seemed to fall into two camps:

- Humans aren’t the main spreaders so this approach is too cautious / tracks should be opened and accessible / we don’t need a higher grade of track infrastructure where kauri are not present.
- This is a good approach to minimise contact of boots on roots and protecting kauri population / we need more research, treatments and a long-term solution before lifting restrictions / some sections of the Waitākere Ranges should remain closed to protect the trees.

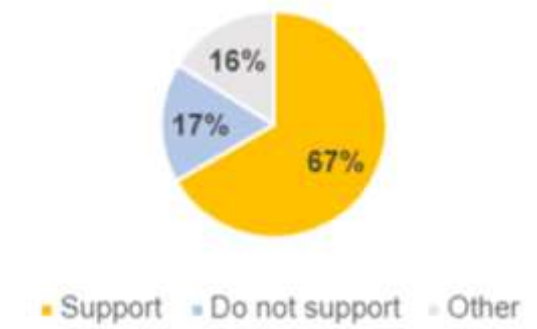
“Restricting access is a necessary evil. It’s an inconvenience, but far better than the alternative of having kauri dieback spread through our forests and wipe out many of our kauri.”

Question 4 – Responding to the climate emergency by protecting existing forests and planting 200 hectares

The draft Plan protects an important biodiversity habitat for 35,000ha of established forest. It also proposes to plant another 200ha in permanent indigenous forest to help absorb atmospheric carbon. See chapter 9 (Embedding our response to climate change) and chapter 7 (Restoring indigenous ecosystems).

We asked submitters for their **opinion of these plans**.

93 people said whether they supported this section of the draft Plan.



We asked submitters to **tell us why**. 64 people commented. The common themes were:

Themes	Count
Plant more trees / reduce farmland to prevent climate change	35
Retain exotic trees / plant exotics	7
Opposed planting / spending money on planting	7
Total	49

Submitters favoured **planting more trees and reducing farmland to prevent climate change** with some suggesting the council plant more than the proposed additional 200ha or phase out farmland altogether. Reasons included to offset visitor vehicle emissions, or to plant out more land in native vegetation.

“I would only say: do more, do it faster!”

Some submitters favoured **the retention / planting of exotics** and felt non-natives should neither be overlooked or “demonised”. Some also submitted that mature exotics should be retained or phased out gradually.

“The worst thing to do for the environment and climate is to cut down mature trees. These mature trees have already sequestered carbon, are creating habitat, cooling the area, converting carbon dioxide to oxygen and feeding seedlings under their protection.”

“It is confusing and disappointing to visit regional parks that are run as farms.... We should be seeing our natural heritage showcased in our regional parks, not the homogenising heritage of British farming culture.”

Some submissions **opposed planting / spending money on planting** – as a waste of money, that it made no sense to plant more trees when the council supported the removal of thousands of other trees, or because planting of kauri will result in land becoming inaccessible to the public due to the need to protect areas from kauri dieback.

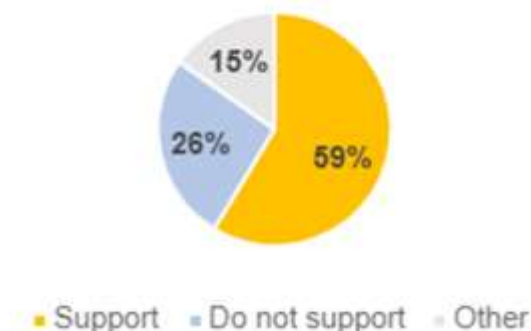
A few favoured retaining farmland and supported no more than 200ha of planting.

Question 5 – Responding to the climate emergency by reducing visitor vehicle emissions

The draft Plan proposes to reduce visitor vehicle emissions by improving and promoting public transport, cycling and walking connections to regional parks, and by considering installing electric vehicle (EV) charging stations for bikes and vehicles. See chapter 9 (Sustainable access).

We asked submitters for their **opinion of these proposals**.

92 people said whether they supported these proposals.



Submitters were invited to **tell us why**. 80 people commented. The common themes raised were:

Themes	Count
Supported more walking, cycling, public transport connections	21
Opposed / uncertain about EVs and charging stations	15
Supported proposals to introduce EV charging	12
Doubts public transport investment is worthwhile	7
Total	55

Comments from submitters supporting more walking, cycling, public transport connections ranged widely.

- Make it harder for people to use private vehicles to reach parks, including charging for parking.
- Promote public transport, particularly by adding regional park stops to existing routes, and making buses free.
- Cycling and walking should be prioritised.

However, some doubted public transport would be used, as it is underutilised in urban areas, would take a long time to reach the parks, and many want to bring a lot of equipment when spending a day at a regional park. Others felt it was unfair to restrict carparking as it was the primary form of access.

“It is ridiculous to think people will utilise public transport to parks when as a society we rely so heavily on our cars just to get around Auckland.”

“New restrictions on cars do nothing to provide a more welcoming experience for those whose rates actually pay for these parks, and the elderly and disabled.”

Similarly, cycling to parks is not for everyone.

“...the demographic using bikes fails to consider families with disabilities, elderly folk and the extremely young.”

Some submitters **opposed, or were uncertain, about EVs and charging stations**, citing their cost and potential impact on the visual environment, while others saw them as something for the wealthy.

“The ordinary person can't afford an EV and public transport, cycling, walking cannot always be an option. So improve the range of options but please don't take away our current accessibility/options.”

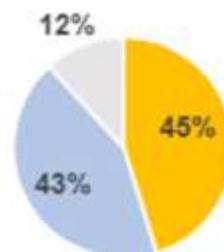
- Submitters also pointed out that most parks are within the range of EVs, making charging stations unnecessary.

Question 6 – Responding to the climate emergency: Reviewing farming

We propose to review farming with the potential to plant more trees to support our climate goals. See chapter 10 (Pastoral management).

We asked submitters for their opinion about farming on regional parks.

93 people said whether they supported this section of the draft Plan.



We asked submitters to **tell us why?**

■ Keep farming
 ■ Reduce farming
 ■ Other

93 people commented. The common themes were:

Themes	Count
People love seeing farming and animals	13
Supported revegetation of farmland	12
Reduce or remove farming to improve natural environment	9
Farming heritage is important	8
Specific farming method comments (more sustainable, innovative, regenerative, different animals, not industrial)	7
Farming makes money / economical to manage	7
Total	56

These submitters agreed Ambury Farm should be kept as a place people can go to experience farming. Views varied as to the value of retaining other farms. Some suggested replanting Tāwharanui and Shakespear where there is predator proof fencing.

Some submitters thought other regional parks should be revegetated because people don't generally go to regional parks for the farming experience, to restore natural habitats and natural heritage, to protect waterways and because commercial farming is a poor fit with the primary aims of regional parks. Negative comments included:

“The purpose of the regional parks is NOT to continue commercial industrial farming. Continuing with this system of land-use is inimical to the stated primary aims and objectives of the parks.”

“Regional parks farming is a commercial myth that does not withstand scrutiny.”

Others commented that they valued the farms on regional parks for a variety of reasons. They loved having the opportunity to **see a working farm and animals up close** and the educational value and role bridging the urban / country divide. They considered regional parks were an appropriate place to display our **farming heritage**, citing its role in our history. One suggested changing the livestock to reflect heritage breeds.

Some wanted farming retained because farming makes money / economical to manage.

Some submitters commented that farming should be undertaken sustainably or using regenerative farming methods.

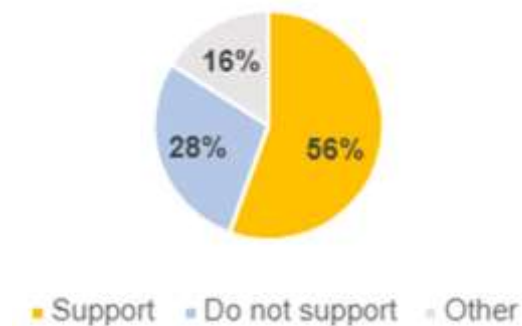
If the farming system was to be shifted to a regenerative approach this would significantly increase and improve the stated aims of tackling climate change and provide greater opportunity for sequestration of carbon than planting trees.

Question 7 – Vehicles on Muriwai beach

In 2021, the council consulted and made decisions to manage vehicles on Muriwai Beach. The draft Plan outlines our decisions to introduce some further controls on access and to continue monitoring vehicles on the beach. See the Muriwai chapter.

We asked: **What is your opinion of the approach outlined in the draft Plan?**

81 people said whether they supported this approach.



Submitters were invited to **tell us why**. 72 people commented. The common themes were:

Themes	Count
Ban or further limit vehicle access	29
Don't restrict vehicles	11
Provide education and/or more enforcement	8
Comments on a paid-permit system	6
Public safety concerns	5
Total	59

Submitters who want to **ban or further limit vehicle access to Muriwai Beach** mentioned damage the sensitive coastal environment, from increase dune erosion to vehicle residues and rubbish. Some cited concerns about dangerous driving and the need for more robust and decisive steps to ensure public safety.

Submitters **opposed to restricting vehicles** mentioned Muriwai as one of the few / only four-wheel drive (4WD) areas around Auckland, and that vehicle access allowed families to appreciate the coastal environment. Some suggested further controls are needed for the few who are causing the problems. There was also opposition to further restrictions on what people can / can't do in their lives.

Some submitters favoured **increasing education and/or more enforcement** with ideas such as gates to control vehicle access to the beach, good signage for new rules and effective enforcement.

Submitters supporting a **permit system for beach vehicular access** said it was needed because of inexperienced drivers on the beach and must be policed.

Submitters also commented on horse / vehicle conflicts and film industry access.

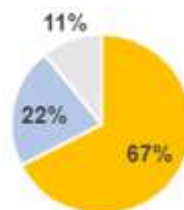
“We would like clarity on the aspect of potentially moving the horsepark, as we would like this moved to the northern side of Okiritoto Stream (leaving the concessionaires in the current horsepark) so that riders are not forced to cross the path of the vehicle access as they do currently (for safety).”

Questions 8–13 – Dogs in regional parks

Dog access rules are set by the dog policy and dog management bylaw. The draft Plan includes some proposals for consideration by the next bylaw review about dog access. Submitters were asked: **What is your opinion of these proposals?**

Long Bay: a potential space for a dog exercise area in the northern part of the park:

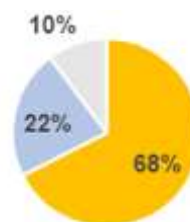
120 people said whether they supported this approach.



Support Oppose Other

Shakespear: investigation of dog use of a large flat grassed area outside the sanctuary between Army Bay and Okoromai Bay near a dog walking track:

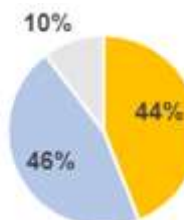
117 people said whether they supported this approach.



Support Oppose Other

Te Ārai: that dogs be banned from the park (allowed currently at Te Ārai Point).

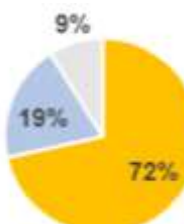
116 people said whether they supported this approach.



Support Oppose Other

Waitākere Ranges: that other dog walking options be investigated in the wider Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area to alleviate the high numbers at the popular Kakamatua area.

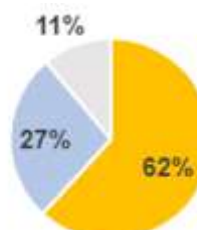
123 people said whether they supported this approach.



Support Oppose Other

Hūnua Ranges: prohibit dogs in the Kōkako Management Zone.

118 people said whether they supported this approach.



Support Oppose Other

Submitters were invited to tell us: **What changes, if any, would you like us to make to the draft Plan about dogs?**

59 people commented (some comments fitted into more than one theme). The common themes raised were:

Theme	Count
Ban dogs from all regional parks	19
Provide more dog access including off-leash / exercise areas / camping	16
Better dog rule enforcement / fines / signage	14
Specific park-related comments	8
Arguments for dogs	7
Total	64

Submitters who **wanted to ban dogs from all regional parks** considered regional parks are wildlife reserves and about the natural environment / people recreating – and dogs are not appropriate in this context. Others felt intimidated by dogs or disgusted by their fouling. They felt that owners can't be relied upon to observe the regulations.

Those who favoured providing **more dog access including off-leash / exercise areas / camping** said there are a growing number of dogs and demand for outdoor spaces for dog walking and more areas are needed. They considered specific dog exercise areas were a good idea, and many agreed that dogs are not compatible with wildlife.

Some strongly **advocating for dogs** noted regional parks had 41,000 hectares of public open space and surely some could be made available.

To propose a dedicated dog exercise area outside of the beach would be a travesty. Our animals are part of our families too.

Some suggested more designated park areas for dogs so they don't take over every park and beach, and that dogs should be banned from entering other areas of the park.

"I support prohibiting dogs from ecologically sensitive are and high use recreation zone (i.e. main beach areas), but would support on leash areas, and off leash areas in less sensitive locations (i.e. pine forest blocks)."

Some considered a blanket ban discriminatory and unfair, when the problems rest with a few dog owners.

Submitters who supported **better dog rule enforcement / fines / signage** suggested leashes should be compulsory and large fines for dogs off-leash, and greater enforcement of bans in other areas of the parks.

Comments on specific parks included:

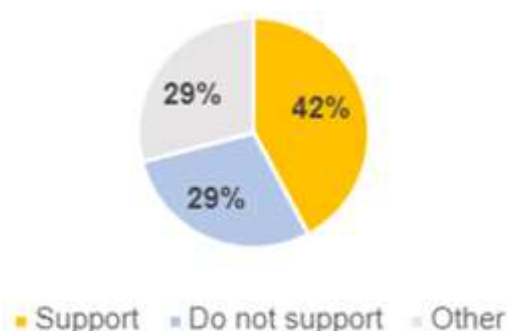
- There are few locations where dogs allowed for the communities surrounding Te Ārai and the dog access at Forestry beach is the only place where dogs are allowed on that stretch of coastline.
- At Long Bay create a dog corridor from the village to the northern end of the beach.

Question 14 – Criteria for setting priorities

The draft Plan is ambitious, and our ambitions are not fully funded. We propose criteria for prioritising our spending and planning for development in parks. (See chapter 14 (Implementing) and chapter 4 (Spatial planning).)

Submitters were asked: **What is your opinion on our proposed criteria to prioritise projects?**

344 people stated whether they were in support of these criteria.



Submitters were invited to tell us why: how can we improve this section. 106 people commented. The common themes raised were:

Themes	Count
Didn't support criteria	26
Supported proposed criteria for prioritising spending and development	11
Specific park-related comments	10
Opposed to funding further development on parks	7
Maintain and upgrade existing facilities	6
Total	60

Submitters who **did not support the criteria** mentioned their opposition to greater infrastructure development in regional parks, climate change isn't real, and the priorities aren't clear.

Submitters **supporting the proposed criteria** for prioritising spending and development strongly recommended a disciplined approach.

Submitters **opposed to funding further development on parks** said spend only what is necessary to maintain the current state.

Some supported a focus on maintaining existing facilities, while others considered climate change and conservation should be a greater priority for funding. One suggested funding should be prioritised on parks more accessible to the public.

Submitter suggestions to attract more funding included implementing a user-pays system, applying boat launch charges to Wenderholm and Sullivan's Bay, asking for donations at popular sites, and providing more opportunities for third parties to fund works. Others saw a risk in relying in commercial funding to make up a shortfall, as commercialisation of the parks could occur.

Question 15 – Comment on other aspects of the general policies

145 people commented. The common themes raised were:

Theme	Count
Opposed mana whenua involvement in management or governance	19
Supported prioritising protection of biodiversity	18
Total	37

Submitters **opposing mana whenua involvement in management or governance** gave reasons focusing on democracy, performance, favouritism and ownership.

They viewed the privileged position accorded to Māori throughout the document as undemocratic and divisive. There was mention of not favouring one sector group over another. They strongly preferred that the council and its ratepayers maintain full ownership and control of the regional parks.

Submitters **supporting the prioritising of protecting biodiversity** cited the mental health wellbeing benefits of regional parks, the need to keep areas off limits, the importance of revegetation, and the need for a much bolder and more ambitious approach to restoring native biodiversity in our parks.

A wide range of other comments included:

- *Please provide some policy guidance and education/signage re the use of portable speakers and music players in regional parks.*
- *I think the wording around cultural heritage (and a few other areas that should have regulatory force) is weak.*
- *I am for wider access to the parks and would like to see expansion of shared use trails as hikers, runners and mountain bikers all enjoy these.*
- *We believe that cattle could remain at the parks for keeping grass down and interacting with visitors without breeding and slaughtering them, something the council has overlooked.*
- *Require all heritage sites and notable trees within regional parks to be listed in the written part of the plan and included on the maps.*

Question 16 – Other comments on, or anything else that should be included in the draft Plan

160 people commented. The common themes raised were:

Themes	Count
Recreation related suggestions	32
Protection of biodiversity and wilderness aspects	24
Oppose mana whenua involvement in park management/governance	18
Total	74

Submitters interested in **recreation-related activities** requested the draft plan re-examine its settings for paragliding and hang gliding to enable this low-impact sport to continue to operate in regional parks, with the Auckland Club listed as a key stakeholder. More camping opportunities were requested particularly for self-contained campervans, a popular activity. Others were supportive of shared-use trails, requested designated open fire permitted locations, and permits for metal detectorists.

Submitters commenting on **the protection of biodiversity and wilderness** mentioned minimising development towards accessibility to maintain the wilderness and natural feel, removing farming from regional parks, supporting continuing pest control, support for returning parks to a natural condition as best as possible through revegetation, and opposition to the proposed new category 1b being applied to some park areas.

“Biodiversity & climate should be top of the list rather than a people centric vision.”

“Please keep our regional parks as wild, pest free areas.”

Submitters **opposing mana whenua involvement in park management / governance** made general comments against co-governance and against regional parks joining the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Some commented the plan is too long, hard to read, and not enough time was provided to digest it.

“The plan is huge. There is no way that individual ratepayers have the time to fully research the plan and give considered feedback. There needs to be more engagement from Auckland Council to explain the intentions to the community.”

A wide range of other comments asked for the draft plan to (among other things) ban glyphosate, provide a rubbish collection for boaties, provide more staff on the ground and better ranger visibility, ban handwritten signs, and include a section on future acquisitions with a list of high priority sites.

Feedback form comments on specific regional parks

Comments from all submitters via the feedback form relating to specific parks are summarised under each park later in the document.

Freeform submissions on general policies

This section contains a summary of more than 3500 submission points received from 441 emailed/posted submissions and 3381 identical submissions, and the more detailed comments provided through the feedback form. The points are summarised in relation to the relevant part of the draft Plan. The names of organisations are mentioned where helpful to the reader. Individual submitters are not named.

General comments and Chapters 1 Introduction, 2 Context

Some 93 points from 35 submitters are summarised here.

General comments

General comments in support included support for the key focus areas of the draft Plan and the balance between conservation and recreation.

These submitters supported:

- Continuing to manage the regional parks as a network.
- The key focus areas of the draft Plan, including protecting the natural biodiversity, landscape, and cultural heritage, providing a range of recreation experiences, responding to climate change, and greater involvement of mana whenua.

“We support and recommend that Council continue kōrero and engagement with mana whenua on developing co-management and / or co-governance arrangements for parks that are of specific interest to mana whenua.”

Federated Farmers supported the objective of 'protecting and maintaining the natural open spaces of the regional parks for the benefit and enjoyment of Aucklanders and their visitors'.

Forest and Bird strongly agreed that Auckland Council should focus on natural heritage, recreation experience, cultural heritage features and landscape values, mana whenua partnerships and climate change and sustainability to direct its work over the next 10 years.

One submitter was "... impressed with the plan's comprehensiveness, integration and cohesiveness."

Those expressing a general concern or a lack of support commented on:

- A lack of strategic focus on regional parks overall, no identification of gaps in the network, no strategic planning to manage the impacts of increasing population growth.
- The draft Plan promotes regional parks' dual purpose – conservation and recreation – in the introduction; conservation was well covered but the draft Plan needed more emphasis on recreation.
- The draft Plan should address differing needs and impacts – from tourism to biking (e-bikes, mountain biking/ trail riding), and the need for more low impact, low-cost accommodation in parks (baches, campgrounds, camper van spaces).
- A lack of an implementation plan, funding and priorities for all objectives.

Mana whenua involvement in co-governance or co-management of regional parks drew a lot of comment, which is covered under chapter 5 Mana whenua partnerships.

Te ao Māori being included in park management drew mixed views. Mana whenua and others supported this direction and requested changes to enable the draft Plan to express te ao Maori better.

“The plan reflects a pākēha view on management of park land and the focus on recreation diminishes what could be a focus on cultural and mana whenua connections to the whenua at these sites.” – Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust

Others were not in support.

“.....while I support protecting cultural heritage, I object to Māori – indeed any spiritual beliefs - having a prominent place in the management of the parks, (Te ao Māori in park management).... Matters of religion and belief are deemed to be a matter for the private, rather than public, sphere”.

See also the general comments in the section ‘Plan drafting and process’.

Changes to chapters 1 and 2

Submitters proposed these changes to chapters 1 and 2.

- Re-order the focus areas: Protecting our Biodiversity and Adding Value to the visitor experience should precede other points, as our regional parks have dual conservation and recreation roles.
- Include a brief history of the regional parks in the context.
- Reinforce the commentary around regionwide recreation needs in the context chapter.
- More investment is required in existing parks to meet demands of population growth.

Other general considerations submitters raised included:

- Developing a strategy to phase out farming on regional parks.
- Including regional recreation groups as stakeholders for all parks.
- Greater acknowledgement of the importance and critical nature of the public water supply source areas located within the Waitākere and Hūnua Ranges.

Chapter 3 Vision and values

Some 28 points from 19 submitters are summarised here.

The dual vision statements were generally supported by these submitters, with some proposing amendments:

- incorporate the word 'recreation' into the treasured parks statement, and drop the word 'support' to show council partners with volunteers and groups as well as mana whenua
- acknowledge that regional parks are also outstanding examples of the diverse landscapes
- Foundation North suggested a central binding focus of regenerating the mauri of the regional parks and connected ecosystems as the priority for climate action
- The Auckland Baptist Tramping Club was concerned the vision ignored climate concerns relating to private vehicle usage.

At least one submitter opposed the vision, requesting the 2010 RPMP vision be retained, commenting that many Aucklanders will not understand the te reo Māori words used such as 'mauri'.

Comments relating to the values were generally positive, with some amendments suggested. One suggested this section needed to be ambitious and world leading. The Tree Council and Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust considered the focus needed to be more on natural values and less on recreation; recreation organisations suggested there was insufficient focus on recreation.

Suggested amendments to the natural and cultural values included:

- Watercare suggests greater acknowledgement of the values of the public water supply sources is needed
- Extend the natural values to acknowledge access to beaches and the marine environment
- Add wording to ensure parks are valued for their own sake, over and above their use for the enjoyment of the public
- Boost the description of landscape values to include reference to iconic scenery and minimal development, as in the 2010 RPMP
- Friends of Regional Parks suggested acknowledging that Aucklanders have similar values to mana whenua about protecting and enhancing the mauri and wairua of parks.
- A statement referring to the mid-1800s should be replaced with 'since early European settlement'

Suggested amendments to the social and economic values included:

- Mention that parks are for recreation, reflecting their fundamental role; a balance is needed between protecting the environment and recreation
- Addition to include the parks' availability for future generations and the strong psychological benefit people derive, as in the 2010 plan
- Mention free and equitable access under the economic values.

Chapter 4 Management framework

This chapter of the draft Plan comprises the following sections: park categories; general and special management zones (SMZ); design principles; and spatial planning. Comments are grouped by section.

Some 47 points from 19 submitters are summarised here.

Park categories

Fire and Emergency NZ supported the categorisation, noting this can help assess fire risk and emergency planning.

Several submitters supported the proposed park categories, including Friends of Regional Parks (FOR Parks). They suggested amending the description of category 1b to include the provision of infrastructure for launching boats and fishing and to include existing community facilities (such as halls, museums, fire stations, surf lifesaving buildings and historic structures).

Others opposed the addition of category 1b, regarding it as downgrading / opening up for development park areas that are a general 'class 1 – natural' under the 2010 RPMP, risking a loss of natural values. Some requested 1b be deleted and the SMZs be used as the instrument to manage visitor numbers in those areas. Some also quoted the intention in the 2010 RPMP that the classification of each regional park was not intended to change over time. (See the Waitākere Ranges chapter for more discussion.)

Foundation North advocates that this section be reconsidered through a lens of te ao Māori.

One submitter observed that the framework didn't reference conservation, rather 'natural values' and mentions the park ranger role only in their capacity to act as visitor hosts, not as kaitiaki of our native biodiversity. "Mentioning only 'protecting natural values' didn't strongly enough prioritise healing our native ecosystems."

General and special management zones

FOR Parks supported progressive upgrading of vehicle parking areas and requests additional cars be accommodated in some locations, with EV charging on a pay basis. Fire and Emergency New Zealand recommended the special management zone objectives include visitor safety and supported the upgrade of access roads, arrival zones over time. Another submitter rejected proposals to expand, seal and mark up car parks.

The Tree Council and others requested the SMZs control the management of high use areas and protect park values from the impacts of increased visitor numbers, including reinstating visitor number caps for specific activities as per the 2010 plan.

Individual submitters requested general management zones aim to avoid, not just minimise, the impact of human activity. One requested direction for the zones to include reference to long-term active conservation initiatives on signage and invitations to park users to join teams of kaitiaki.

Design principles

Several submitters suggested specific additions to the design principles to better reflect that parks are to be used by people, ensure improvements are cost-effective, acknowledge European heritage, align better to the council's other policies, include consideration of visitor use of areas, avoid use of artificial materials to reduce long-term pollution within bush and waterways, and avoid structures being built on significant ridges and the horizon.

Spatial planning

FOR Parks supported the three proposed priorities in the plan for spatial planning: Waitākere Ranges recreation and track plan, Hūnua Ranges track plan and Te Ārai spatial plan.

One suggested the council's spatial planning focus on prioritising actions, and where targets are specific and achievable as otherwise planning is waste of time and resources.

Two submitters supported reviewing and implementing earlier concept plans, as those areas are high visitor use areas and subject to enormous visitor pressures and impacts.

Submitters including FOR Parks and Federated Mountain Clubs argued strongly that public consultation, and particularly neighbour participation, should occur for all planning processes, as there are a wide range of park users keen to shape park directions, including landscape, planting, farm and new structures and other improvements.

They requested an amendment to ensure key recreation stakeholders are involved alongside mana whenua in early-stage planning. FOR Parks suggested this is important for the council's credibility with many users, community and stakeholder groups involved in regional park planning and use.

Proposed addition: Management principles

Management principles were not included in the draft Plan and several submitters requested the reinstatement of the 2010 RPMP's 19 management principles, arguing they provide useful guidance for staff in working to the plan. FOR Parks also suggested the addition of a 20th principle – “adapt to climate change”. In particular, it seeks retention of the management principles of public (citizen) ownership, free access, and that the parks will be managed by a ranger service.

Chapter 5 Mana whenua partnerships

This chapter outlines the council's intention to support the principles of Te Tiriti in park management by partnering with mana whenua in a variety of ways, including co-management.

Some 283 points from 3918 submitters (300 'unique' submitters and the 3831 identical submissions) are summarised here.

Mana whenua supported the proposed policy direction with suggested changes.:

- Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust stated the plan could go further in reference to mana whenua decision-making.
- The Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum recommended more kōrero with mana whenua to develop co-governance/co-management.
- Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust asked the council to provide capacity for Ngāti Manuhiri to actively engage in the ongoing management of the nine parks within its mandated area of interest, including developing a co-management / co-governance plan and embedding manuhiritanga.

Three other organisations and 43 individual submitters supported the draft Plan intentions.

- Foundation North supported mana whenua involvement, also calling for more clarity and more resourcing and capacity for the council to work with mana whenua.
- NZ Walking Access Commission supported the council's intention to engage with mana whenua as Treaty partners, providing long-term public access is appropriately managed.
- The NZ Motor Caravan Association generally supported the draft Plan's intention to pay greater respect to the role of mana whenua in caring for the parks. Some motor caravan users also supported this aspect of the plan while others opposed it.

Reasons given in support of mana whenua involvement, co-governance or co-management:

- It returns mana to the people and recognises historical loss of their governance.
- It recognises the skills and rights of Māori and recognises te ahi kaa of mana whenua.
- Includes mana whenua voices: the people of Auckland include tangata whenua.
- Improved relationships between the council and mana whenua improves opportunities for mana whenua to express their identity and connections to cultural landscapes, supports environmental outcomes, and all benefit from a better understanding of mana whenua traditions.
- Example cited of co-governance working well ("at my work").
- Example cited of good iwi management ("the maunga of Tamaki are more beautiful and safe without cars on them").
- The parks should be returned to mana whenua and this is the first step.

Many submitters stated their opposition particularly to council entering into co-governance arrangements with mana whenua. These submitters included the 3831 people who submitted identical or substantially similar submissions. Some of these submitters referred to involvement of mana whenua in a partnership capacity as a race-based, separatist policy that was undemocratic.

Their reasons included:

- Public property must be proportionally represented through a democratic process with all citizens having the same rights and influence.
- The council has a public duty to manage ratepayer funded assets through elected officials representing all Aucklanders.
- Control is a function of ownership and must not be divorced from ownership.
- There is no mandate for co-governance or co-management (needs a referendum).
- It would increase ratepayer costs substantially as more time is spent on process.
- Park management works well so don't try to fix it.
- It is not clear what the benefit would be / benefits only the minority of Māori elite.
- Negative impacts could include creating divisions and backlash; slower decision-making and bad decisions can result through compromise; public access may be denied.
- Breaches article 5 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- Partnership is not a Treaty principle and partnerships cannot be formed with any group claiming absolute sovereignty.

Other points raised relating to council intentions of working more with mana whenua:

- It is not the council and ratepayers' role to help mana whenua into new commercial and employment opportunities.
- Where agreements are made with mana whenua, such as the council's agreement with Te Kawerau ā Maki over management of kauri dieback, the agreement must be public and attached to this management plan.
- The council should not support all mana whenua applications of rāhui (policy 33) for protection of threatened species; rather bans on access should be informed by science or clear benefits.

A few submitters supported iwi involvement and voice in park management as advisers where their knowledge can benefit specific sites but not to the extent of partnership.

Several submitters suggested more time and discussion are needed before introducing forms of co-governance. They requested better definition of co-management and public engagement of what this might entail to ensure equal access and use.

FOR Parks advocated openness, transparency, public engagement and communication to build trust in new forms of park management and advised this will take time and education.

FOR Parks also strongly advocated that greater involvement of mana whenua should not be at the disrespect of or exclusion of other groups associated with the parks to retain social equity, and because the parks were purchased for all Aucklanders with equal, free access.

Chapter 6 Collaborating with others

This chapter provides a framework and policies to support volunteering and partnerships with community, corporate and philanthropic organisations to care for the parks and help people enjoy them.

36 points from 22 submitters are summarised relating to this chapter.

Submitters supported its intention and sought to strengthen collaboration to maximise limited resources, to make the most of efforts to protect the environment, implement climate change strategies, and provide the best recreation experiences.

Working with mana whenua AND key stakeholders

Several submitters felt the council needed to determine how co-management will work for each park, agreeing that mana whenua partnerships are an essential fulfilment of Treaty obligations. However, they said collaboration must include a meaningful and inclusive public process, and all should be represented in decision-making.

FOR Parks proposed the council should include long-term supporters and non-governmental organisations directly as part of any co-management arrangements under written agreements.

“We believe the trust and principles that could be developed through such a process could lead not only to successful management of the regional parks, but provide the basis for eventual co-governance models should they be needed.” – FOR Parks

Views on private sector involvement

FOR Parks supported more innovative approaches to engaging with the private sector to support acquisition, development, and ongoing programmes.

There were some strong sentiments that the council should not commercialise or commodify parks, that ideally the council should fully resource parks to avoid reliance on co-funding with commercial entities. One submitter felt the council should avoid commercial partnerships that do not align with public benefit to reduce the risk of a continued increase in visitor numbers.

Doing more to support collaboration

Several submitters felt more should be done to support collaboration, e.g., more regular reporting of progress and proactive communication to help target resources and reduce conflicts. The council should also do more to reduce bureaucratic complexity for volunteers, such as making the consenting process easy.

“Any collaboration project [should be] given some priority in terms of gaining both external and internal planning consents or agreements so that the willingness of partners and donors to contribute to a regional park are not discouraged by extended unresolved issues.”

Many submitters requested more acknowledgement of different interest groups collaborating with parks, especially recreation groups. This would expand the list of interested parties for future management and development proposals.

One submitter supported widespread creation of re-vegetation plans to build community support for planting.

“[Re-vegetation plans would] enable better collaboration with philanthropists, community groups and the general public, and avoid the recent situation in Birkenhead with the removal of trees planted in by community volunteers and the debate about clearance of exotic vegetation on Owairaka.”

Several submitters felt more needed to be done to engage neighbours, visitors, and volunteers in each park and recognise their contributions which ranged from emergency services, reporting vandalism, and stopping crime to maintaining infrastructure and pest control. One submitter felt there had been less direct community engagement since amalgamation.

FOR Parks requested an Honorary Ranger Kaitiaki Programme to help with education, coordination, and low-level enforcement. Other submitters felt the council should do more to inform communities of projects that affect them, use local people for parks work because they know the environment, and do more to encourage communities to participate in tree planting days.

There could be greater cooperation around research and data collection, e.g., sharing visitor data and monitoring data around biodiversity, farming, water and soil. Greater cooperation is also encouraged among enforcement agencies for dogs, fishing and anti-social behaviour.

Fire and Emergency NZ supported working with the council to ensure park management helps mitigate fire risk.

Chapter 7 Protecting the environment

This chapter covers policies for all regional parks relating to protecting geological features, protecting biodiversity, managing pest plants, animals and pathogens, restoring indigenous ecosystems and revegetation and their role in supporting the wider regional environment.

Some 117 points from 61 submitters are summarised in the first sections.

Protecting geological features

Six points were made on this section. Most supported the proposal, with suggestions including:

- Geological events are linked to factual geological information, as well as cultural narratives, both of which should be included.
- More geological features should be protected, not just those identified as Outstanding Natural Features in the Unitary Plan or New Zealand Geopreservation Inventory.
- Amend to explain *how* geological features will be protected using relevant policies around this from the 2010 plan.

Protecting biodiversity

Some 27 points were made on this section. Most supported the proposed direction but asked that more be done to protect biodiversity and for it to be done through an ecosystem approach rather than focusing on separate park areas. Points included:

- The need for more marine reserves around regional parks, as they are closely related ecosystems, and our marine environments need more protection.
- Establishing and mapping ecological corridors to combat habitat fragmentation and connect regional parks through biodiversity cycle corridors that create long parks.
- More vegetation and regeneration within regional parks.
- Fewer cows to support climate change reduction and managed retreat of pastoral farming for habitat recovery.
- Further study of the biodiversity within regional parks.
- Support for partnerships with volunteer conservation organisations.

Forest and Bird made several recommendations for wetland management.

“Auckland has the highest level of wetland loss compared to the rest of New Zealand. Wetlands provide ecosystem services and in the case of peat swamps, they are critically important carbon sinks.”

Managing pest plants, animals and pathogens

There were 43 comments on pest management. Many focused on the management of pests and pathogens in regional parks, particularly around the measures taken to minimise the spread of kauri dieback disease. Comments included:

- Greater pest management approaches. For example, establishing a ‘no dogs/cats/pets’ policy within regional parks, and referencing The Indigenous Terrestrial and Wetland Ecosystems of Auckland (2017) plan to better manage pests in highly biodiverse parks.

- Suggestions to open tracks where there are no kauri trees.
- Better information and statistics to the public about the presence, absence, extent or current situation of kauri dieback in regional parks to reduce community distrust towards Auckland Council justifying track closures.
- More research into a cure or treatment for kauri dieback and publicly available data from organisations monitoring its spread and impact. Suggestions also included taking an entire ecosystem approach to the disease and its effects, instead of just focusing on individual trees or areas.
- Allowing natural regeneration with greater and more responsive weed control.
- Greater pest control, funding and prioritisation, particularly for pigs, and referencing Predator Free 2050 in policies and plans.
- Acknowledging the interconnectedness between pest management and climate change.
- Further track restrictions and track maintenance to prevent kauri dieback.

Restoring indigenous ecosystems and revegetation

Some 27 comments were made on this section. Overall, submitters broadly supported the proposed policies and approach to restoring indigenous ecosystems. One submitter noted Auckland's regional parks as being examples of best practice in conservation and biodiversity management. There was widespread support for tree planting.

A few submitters asked for a clear revegetation plan and for more clarity on what kinds of restoration would be taking place (i.e., protecting riparian zones and wetlands, preventing soil erosion). Several submitters asked for a holistic approach to be taken when restoring indigenous ecosystems, so the parks are not being restored in isolation.

Ngāti Manuhiri and others advocated adoption of a te ao Māori approach to restoration:

“We support and want to ensure that Council takes an integrated approach to protecting and enhancing treasured environments through incorporation of tikanga such as kaitiakitanga, rangatiratanga, whanaungatanga, manaakitanga and our unique values.” (Ngāti Manuhiri)

Five submissions emphasised the importance of restoration through a climate change lens. Recommendations were made regarding:

- The managed retreat of pastoral farming in regional parks to support climate change reduction and greater carbon sequestration.
- Wide-scale tree planting to helping to address the council's carbon budgets and offset farming.

Federated Farmers did not support planting purely for the purpose of carbon sinks and suggested revegetation plans with community consultation for each park. They did support planting overall, especially for restoring freshwater quality and using locally sourced plants.

Supporting the wider environment

Some 117 comments from 3920 submitters referred to policy 45 in the draft Plan, which proposes to ‘investigate formally including regional parks that contribute to the coastal area of the Gulf into the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park’.

The policy was interpreted by most to propose that the control of the parks would be handed to the Hauraki Gulf Forum and on this basis almost all rejected this proposal². Reasons included:

- The regional park network should remain intact and be managed as a network
- Rejection of control of the parks being handed to an unelected body as undemocratic
- Concern about lack of public scrutiny if managed by the Forum
- If the management or governance isn't broken, don't fix it
- Concern that Aucklanders could risk losing access to the parks or have to pay for access
- Parks acquired and managed at ratepayer expense should remain under council control
- Respect the intent behind gifted land and bequests to keep the parks under council control for the benefit of all
- Use the parks for the purpose they were originally acquired
- The draft plan doesn't explain how joining the marine park improves the health of the gulf
- No mention in the draft plan of the proposed Hauraki Gulf Forum changes
- Friends of Motukorea considered Motukorea has not been enhanced by its inclusion in the marine park.
- Management of the Hauraki Gulf (maritime area) should be separate as there are a lot of issues to improve the decline of the gulf that need addressing on their own
- The parks and the marine park have entirely different user groups
- The parks have a primarily land-based identity and function which didn't sit well within a statutory framework focused on the marine environment
- Adds another unnecessary layer of control and bureaucracy
- Unclear how the public can engage and be involved in decision-making under the marine park legislation

Some noted that the Hauraki Gulf Forum didn't govern the marine park, however they opposed joining the marine park due to a risk of potential future alienation of regional parkland at a future date if the powers of the forum were to change.

One submitted that the final plan should provide very precise definition of the interface between the council and Hauraki Gulf Forum.

Many felt the draft Plan was burying a radical proposal to disenfranchise them from regional parks with completely insufficient notice or consultation. Submitters rejected any proposal to transfer ownership, control or management to an unelected body.

About a dozen submitters indicated their support for inclusion in the marine park, and for management and / or governance to include mana whenua.

² The Our Auckland article titled ['No plan to change ownership or management of Auckland's regional parks'](#) released on 11 February 2022 provided reassurance that council was not planning to relinquish control of the regional parks.

The draft Plan proposal to work in cooperation with the Hauraki Gulf Forum to improve the health of the gulf received generally favourable comments, with one opposition.

“We understand that turning the tide of degradation in the Hauraki Gulf and ensuring healthy and resilient regional parks will require a collective effort and we are willing to play our part.” – Foundation North – Gulf Innovation Fund Together (GIFT)

Some sought changes to draft Plan to strengthen marine protection joining regional parks:

- Supporting the draft Plan linking with the objectives of the Sea Change report which proposes improvements to the health of the gulf.
- A request to note in the draft plan the proposed marine protected area in the government’s response to Sea Change (adjacent to Scandrett).
- Advocating a marine reserve type protection for any water body joining regional parkland to enable more holistic and wider ecosystem management.

“The draft RPMP fails to protect marine biodiversity... It needs to include a goal to restore marine ecosystems that have been impacted by overfishing. I recommend a protection target of 30% of the [Coastal Marine Area] CMA (in line with Hauraki Gulf Forum goals of which Auckland Council is a member) and 100% of the coastline connected to Regional Parks. Continued inaction from Auckland Council is out of step with its obligations under section 32(d) the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000 “to sustain the life-supporting capacity of the soil, air, water, and ecosystems of the Gulf in the Park” and its own policies for example “Auckland’s ecosystems are functioning and healthy” – Auckland Council’s Indigenous Biodiversity Strategy 2012.”

Other

Some comments fell outside of the five main policies but still related to protecting the environment.

- Support for using a mātauranga Māori lens and recognising mana whenua interests in the ongoing management of the park. That it shouldn’t be just tokenistic.
- Management of parks should consider wider whole-of-council planning for integrated planning, protection and management of park ecology and species.
- A policy to address noise, especially at night.

Chapter 8 Cultural values

This chapter covers policies for all regional parks relating to protecting cultural heritage, naming of parks and park features, protecting landscapes and protecting the dark sky experiences.

Some 43 points by 27 submitters are summarised here.

Protecting cultural heritage

Submitters supported protection and recognition of cultural heritage and recognition of cultural heritage (of all cultures) and suggested the draft policies needed strengthening in various ways.

- The plan should be more specific in defining the ‘special cultural qualities’ to be protected, and suggested whakatauki / proverbs can provide guidance in embedding te ao Māori (Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust).
- List all heritage sites and notable trees in the plan and on the maps.
- Identify fire as a risk to cultural heritage sites and work with Fire and Emergency NZ
- The Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum and Auckland Conservation Board criticised the tokenistic content / lack of priority on educational opportunities related to cultural heritage and requested more focus on this area.
- The Tree Council suggested a cultural heritage inventory and noted botanical heritage (trees and gardens) are just as important as built heritage. It requested conservation plans / heritage assessments be prepared for all significant heritage resources.

The Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum noted the benefits of recognising cultural heritage within parks: it raises awareness and understanding of the history of the area, supported a sense of connection to that place and strengthens people's identity, provides an opportunity to acknowledge and learn from the past.

Some supported protecting all aspects of cultural heritage including early farming practices, relics of timber milling, and names, as it helps build understanding and binds our community together.

Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust want to develop a cultural heritage plan and educational signage for nine parks.

Naming of parks and park features

Most of the 13 submitters who commented on this policy supported it, with one considering it was sound, inclusive and will achieve good outcomes, and another noting that signage and identification of sites of significance to mana whenua are important for raising historical and cultural awareness for those experiencing the park environment.

“Regional parks are full of amazing history, glad it is being shared and recognised, the names tell us connections to ancestors and gives me a feeling of connection.”

Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust felt there was a need to strengthen support for Māori names of parks and places and requested the ‘regional park network’ name be reviewed to reflect the importance of these taonga.

There was support for bilingual park names but not to replace English names with Māori names.

Several submitters felt the name “Waitākere Ranges” is significant to the history and should not be replaced. Another felt names longer than four syllables will be truncated in common use, so an authorised shorter version should be considered.

Two people opposed to reo park names on the basis that people speak English, they are difficult to pronounce or remember, and it's a waste of resources.

A submitter and FMC requested public consultation for naming of all parks and features.

Protecting landscapes

Three points related to these general policies:

- FOR Parks supported maintaining the open landscape for landscape values and to allow for a variety of experiences, and to reflect our heritage and suggests a change to policy 67 to restore views in overgrown areas.
- The Tree Council suggested some policies from the 2010 plan be retained to strengthen the landscape policies.
- Another submitter requested the plan require high-impact and adventure tourism (bungee jumping or canyoning) to avoid using sites with cultural sensitivities or designated as outstanding under the Auckland Unitary Plan.

Protecting the dark sky experiences

Seven submitters all supported this proposal, making these points:

- Support for active management of the principle to protect the dark night sky, including through parks infrastructure management across the regional park network.
- A request that an area be designated in the Waitākere Ranges as a dark sky area for Aucklanders to come and experience the clear night sky.
- Mahurangi Trail Society suggests Te Muri should adopt Dark Skies status while the Tree Council suggested the dark sky objective (27) should apply to all regional parks.
- FOR Parks suggests a change to ensure adjacent residents' views are taken into account when developing dark sky policies in specific parks.
- A request for Waitākere Ranges Local Board involvement in seeking appropriate heritage status for identified areas within the ranges.
- GreenFleet offered its support from its experience of chairing a Low Glow campaign in Bundaberg, Queensland.

Chapter 9 Sustainable management and climate change

This chapter includes sections on embedding climate mitigation and adaptation policies in park management; sustainable access; coastal hazards, inundation and sea level rise; sustainable asset, water and energy management; fire management and contaminated site management.

Some 141 points from 101 submitters are summarised here.

Climate mitigation

About half the submission points for this chapter related to climate mitigation with submitters generally supporting the goals of the draft Plan. Almost all who commented on the sustainable access section supported the intentions to reduce visitor vehicle emissions. Some wanted more done to reduce farm emissions by extending planting while others supported retaining farming.

Some submitters said urgency was required in this area, that stronger measures were justified, and that the draft Plan also needed to have clear initiatives with a timetable. Foundation North supported centering park management decisions around the climate emergency. The Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum expects implementation of Te Taruke a Tawhiri and Kia Ora Tāmaki (Makaurau).

Tree planting was supported by a variety of submitters including mana whenua, individuals, and organisations such as the NZ Four Wheel Drive Association. Several individual submitters, Equal Justice, and FMC suggested the planting could be more ambitious, with some suggesting all or most of it be planted for climate mitigation reasons and for the whenua, and to restore indigenous ecosystems and protect existing forests.

Additional ideas for climate mitigation included:

- Foundation North (GIFT) encouraged the inclusion and exploration of blue carbon (carbon captured by marine systems) opportunities in managing regional parks. This was supported by another submitter who stated the plan completely ignored the ecosystem services provided by marine biology.
- Forest and Bird proposed more wetland restoration, arguing it would contribute significantly to adaptation and mitigating climate change.
- FOR Parks suggested providing more accommodation in regional parks will save carbon emissions.

Sustainable access

Many of the 20 submitters who commented on this section supported promoting public transport, walking, and cycling connections to parks. Several mentioned they supported both the climate and social equity aims of the draft policy.

“This is an appropriate way to mitigate the region’s emissions footprint as many parks involve a drive from your house to access for most Aucklanders.”

Equal Justice supported the aims and proposed subsidised charges on public transport travel to regional parks to reduce carbon emissions, improve access to public transport, and reduce transport poverty for those on low incomes.

Some submitted the most important climate mitigation action is for the council to increase alternative methods of accessing regional parks other than by private vehicle. Matakana Coastal Trail Trust supported the objective and policies. FMC suggested stronger measures

were needed to reduce the impact of vehicles. Federated Farmers sees more value in the council reducing their emissions through public transport than through reducing farms.

Comments on how to achieve this included shuttle services to park entrances / park edge into the park at peak periods, bike racks on buses, reorganising arrival areas to accommodate bikes, e-bikes and e-vehicles, marine trails and working with Auckland Transport to improve shoulders and footpaths along roads.

The Disabled Persons Assembly recommended accessible public transport, including buses from Auckland Transport, have routes taking people to and from parks, especially during peak summer periods, enabling access by disabled people who cannot access cars.

One submitter requested the Waitākere Ranges be added to policy 76 which identifies parks where public transport should be considered.

Pakiri community submitters opposed any new infrastructure to support public transport within parks but supported it to parks.

EV charging stations received positive and negative comments, with some suggesting if installed they should be user-pays not subsidised. Equal Justice supported installing electric charging for all modes of transport saying it would help people switch to electric or hybrid vehicles.

The Walking Access Commission strongly supported proposed policy 74 – improving safe entry and arrival by walking, cycling, public and group transport, providing for enhanced connections to Te Araroa and the emerging regional trail network.

Coastal hazards, sea level rise

The 16 submitters who commented on this section were evenly split in their support for, or opposition to, managed retreat in the face of coastal inundation and sea level rise.

Supporters agreed with the proposed policy to adapt to climate change, noting it would restore lost habitat, provide new habitat for species under pressure, and for resilience against climate change. The Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum sought a more proactive approach than shoreline adaptation plans – restoration of habitats and an increase in planting.

Those opposed to managed retreat, including FOR Parks, argued the appropriate response to sea level rise should be determined on a park-by-park basis, taking into account maintaining heavily used open flat spaces, the need to continue providing water access for boats, and costs involved in replacing infrastructure.

A common concern was reduction of public recreational facilities under the guise of climate change. Another submitter said the council must do a cost benefit analysis of whether removal / relocation, or repair and improvement, was the best approach. Submitters were particularly concerned about retaining boat launching facilities and that the policy would inhibit construction of new facilities.

Sustainable asset management

A few submitters commented on this section, one supporting use of local renewable, sustainable energy where possible, another suggesting adoption of a zero-waste policy for all park operations in line with the visitor policy to take home rubbish. Two opposed the proposed sustainable procurement policy giving preference to Māori employment, arguing this must follow fair and transparent processes.

Fire management

Fire and Emergency NZ supported this section, recommending the draft Plan reference and use the Fire Plan for Tāmaki Makaurau when assessing fire risk in parks. It recommended a policy to ensure water for firefighting when water levels are low and supported working with the council to reduce risks.

Watercare suggested amendments to acknowledge the risk of fire to water supply catchments.

The Tree Council requested resources be allocated to prevent the use of fireworks or open fires on beaches which have resulted in numerous devastating fires in regional parks.

FOR Parks requested the council prepare fire response strategies for each regional park, with priority for Waitākere Ranges given the embedded communities and its size, and requests to involve local communities in these plans. It asked for research to understand fire prone vegetation and impacts of fires in spreading pest plants.

Chapter 10 Managing farmed and open settings

This chapter includes sections on open space and amenity settings; pastoral management; woodlots and other productive settings; and specimen trees and plantings.

Some 57 points from 43 submitters are summarised here.

Open space and amenity settings

There were two comments on this section, one supporting managed retreat for amenity areas and one suggesting a change to protect continued access rather than relocation.

Farmed settings – pastoral management

Submissions on the future of farming on regional parks were mixed. Comments pertinent to the proposed review included:

- One submitter supported the proposed review, but suggested reducing its extent, changing the model to all-regenerative and withdrawing stock from both low lying and steep areas.
- Another submitter suggested consideration of the full costs of moving away from current farming use to indigenous forests.
- Forest and Bird want an investigation into the revenue the council receives from farming and wanted it compared to emissions. It noted the reasons for continuing to farm included the cost of revegetation and suggested the council explore funding from other sources

Submitters who wanted to reduce farming gave these reasons:

- The present farm model exploits animals, is a colonial construct that leads to hundreds of pūkeko being killed every year and can be less intensive and extensive to maintain views and settings.
- Erosion and agricultural run-off are polluting waterways and the moana / ocean, so tree planting efforts need to be scaled up.
- Farm emissions make up 20-25 per cent of the council's emission profile and this must be a key priority area to reduce emissions.
- The climate emergency is more important than providing a farming experience.
- Providing Aucklanders with a farm animal experience can be achieved in a quarter, or less, of the space currently farmed and the plan should look at doing this on a smaller scale.
- Smaller farm parks which are uneconomic or required for visitor growth should be retired.
- Objection to the draft Plan language of 'optimising the net revenue' from activities such as farming and woodlot management because the priorities for farmed parks should be protection and public use rather than production and profit.
- Forest and Bird noted Greater Wellington Regional Council's 2020 Regional Parks Network Plan stopped all farming on their regional parks for climate change reasons and suggested Auckland Council follow this example.

Submitters who recommended continuing with farming gave these reasons:

- There are enough large forests already on regional parks.

- It provides flexible open space for recreation, farming is part of who we are as kiwis, and is a cost-effective land management strategy generating revenue for the council.
- Farming is an historical 'customary use' of land so should be retained, not reduced.

"Farming is a crucial part of the region's history, economy, and identity and through the regional parks it offers an opportunity to continue to tell the story of farming in Auckland. This creates accessibility for many whom do not get the opportunity to visit and understand how food production occurs. We see additional value in open spaces for larger groups, scenic outlooks, reduced load in indigenous forests and less pressure on smaller parks within the region which can be continued through farming and open areas."

– *Federated Farmers*

- Replanting should not be for purely climate change reasons; rather it should occur only in environmentally sensitive areas (unstable soils, along streams, etc) or areas unsuitable for efficient farming.
- FOR Parks said carbon sequestration is not a goal; rather the focus should be on replanting areas to stabilise soils, farming efficiency, and water quality.
- Match the farm emissions target by an equivalent in transport emissions reduction, so farming is unequally penalised.

Submitters commented on how the council should farm on regional parks and suggested changes to the draft Plan.

- Some suggested regional parks should develop and model more plant-based sustainable regenerative-organic agriculture that isn't dependent on synthetic fertilisers, monocultures, or killing animals.
- One submitter notes the council has an opportunity to lead the change for farming systems in the Auckland region.
- Another submitter suggested the council select stock to encourage docile behaviour, reducing public risk and damage to farming assets.
- Equal Justice supported regional parks educating people about the impacts of climate change from agricultural emissions and the need for more sustainable farming practices.
- Some submitters said farming practices need to change and must be outlined in individual farm plans as part of individual park plans, highlighting how the general policies in Book 1 are implemented in a park.

Woodlots and other productive settings

A few submitters suggested minor amendments to woodlots. Other productive settings are covered in the discussion above.

Specimen trees and plantings

Two submitters supported specimen trees. The Tree Council requested a change to specify the use of specimen trees that can be allowed to grow to maturity in open settings. Fire and Emergency NZ suggested a change to include fire hazard management in the reasons to manage vegetation in policy 121.

Chapter 11 Managing visitor experiences

This chapter includes sections on providing for a range of recreational uses, improving equity, walking and running activities, supporting safe water recreation, cycling and mountain biking, play, recreational horse riding, general rules and conditions for park use, park visitor safety, rubbish, restrictions on access, demand management tools, services and facilities to support park use, barbecues and fire, tracks, place name, signage, interpretation, accommodation and learning opportunities.

Some 195 points from 77 submitters were summarised covering general sections.

General sections

Key themes included:

- Support for including enhancing visitor experience as a key focus area
- Maintain and enhance access to parks
- Develop an Auckland-wide informal recreation plan
- Address the demand for a more diverse range of activities
- Visitor safety.

Maintaining free access was important to many, as well as enhancing access for those with limited mobility, improving equity and making regional parks more welcoming for our diverse communities. Submitters also supported steps toward making regional parks more accessible by public transport.

“We suggest that giving priority to establishing access connecting nearby regional parks, reserves, forest land, unformed legal roads, and critical linkages over private land is key to providing alternative landscape-scale access.”

Access for beach access, fishing, recreational boating, and other marine activities was also important, with some submitters suggesting the council provide more boat ramps at parks.

Access for those with limited mobility is discussed in more detail below.

Submitters thought there was a critical need to prepare an informal Auckland-wide recreation plan to address how recreation and leisure in regional parks complements opportunities in local parks and spaces managed by the Department of Conservation. Some considered the draft Plan failed to address the demand for a more diverse range of recreation activities, the effects of increasing visitor numbers, and the impacts of high population growth.

Four-wheel drive clubs likewise requested the council prepare an updated regional plan to identify locations for four-wheel drive recreation which could inform the regional parks management plan.

The New Zealand, Auckland and Waikato hang gliding and paragliding clubs requested their activities be a permitted activity in Te Ārai, Pakiri and Tāwharanui Regional Parks as per the 2010 plan, given their low impact on other park users.

Submitters show undertake hang gliding and paragliding advised they are constantly identifying and testing new flying sites, so listing parks as “unsuitable” is not an accurate reflection of the way recreational gliders use the parks. They want gliding recognised as a permitted activity across all regional parks and want clubs to be recognised stakeholders on parks.

Submitters supported policies on visitor safety, but also suggested these could be improved through better visitor information (online and digital, multi-language and for vision-impaired), better signage and the use of SafeSwim.

Several submitters commented on the need to make greater use of park rangers as the face of the parks and accessible to visitors. Submitters supported the proposal to give them enforcement powers under the Reserves Act to respond to anti-social behaviour, solve problems and create goodwill for council.

Some submitters felt the park ranger service had declined and become fragmented in recent years, and requested it be built up again so that park rangers could be more visible and have a stronger presence and role in education and visitor interactions.

Friends of Regional Parks recommended boosting the ranger service into a Kaitiaki/Ranger Service including recruiting more iwi rangers and following international models. This would bring benefits of strengthening the ranger role and professionalism, ability to work with iwi, ability to manage visitors and conservation projects, and would improve staff satisfaction.

Improving accessibility and connectivity to parks was supported.

“We suggest that giving priority to establishing access connecting nearby regional parks, reserves, forest land, unformed legal roads, and critical linkages over private land is key to providing alternative landscape-scale access.”

Tracks and Appendix 4 (track development principles and criteria)

Some 103 points from 28 submitters are summarised here. These include points made relating to the track development principles and criteria in Appendix 4.

Key themes from those supporting the draft Plan included:

- Providing more access for people to enjoy parks.
- Agreement with initiatives to improve connectivity between parks and local communities.
- Plan allowed for a range of recreational activities and in some cases access to water.
- Revising track layout to make some one-way loop tracks – conditional support.

The Walking Access Commission supported the draft Plan’s approach to enhancing public access protection and use across the network. It strongly supported policy 182 which focuses on expanding and enhancing the track network, with a particular emphasis on improving connectivity, and also aims to provide one accessible low mobility track in each park.

There was conditional support (and opposition) to making some tracks one-way to manage demand, noting this was “.....*only feasible for loop track systems which returns users to the transport terminus (be it public or private transport) by which they travelled to the park.*”

Submitters opposing the draft Plan were most concerned about:

- The council’s interpretation of track standards and track guidelines to manage kauri dieback
- Track upgrades – costly, over-engineered and ruining the wildness experience
- Lack of track maintenance in the past
- Opposition to one-way tracks

- Opposition to the closure of tracks
- No review of temporarily / permanently closed tracks included in the draft Plan
- Lack of planning to extend the track network across the region
- Opposition to the track development principles and assessment criteria.

Auckland University Tramping Club thought the current approach of either closing large areas of parks or highly engineered and extensive track “upgrades” did not adequately address the needs of users seeking a wilderness experience. They felt this wasn’t a sustainable long-term approach. They considered that the draft Plan did not adequately address the need for true wilderness multi-day tramping experiences that include overnight stays in tramping huts.

Suggestions included:

- Encouraging the council to investigate ways to create more public access to alleviate the pressure on outdoor recreation arising from kauri dieback access restrictions.
- Making tracks and walkways fully accessible to disabled, low mobility and low vision visitors.
- Incorporating a vision of a network of trails that are both a destination and a means of connectivity.
- Provide a full register of tracks, their category, length and open / closed status, plus a list of opportunities for multi-day walks.

The Disabled Peoples Assembly made recommendations on how to make tracks and walkways fully accessible with tactile strips and smooth walking surfaces. They wanted well-constructed safety barriers with appropriate signage, as shared tracks don’t maintain the safety of disabled people and other track users. They also recommended that pedestrian walking tracks, footpaths and paths be sufficiently separated from cycleways and mountain biking tracks for safety.

One submitter saw a key focus for the network of trails as allowing urban trail users to benefit without having to travel. They suggested developing multi-day activity experiences or itineraries in conjunction with local operators and transport authorities.

Submitters commenting on the track development principles and criteria in Appendix 4 wanted more detail of the standards / specifications being used and which version of the kauri dieback mitigation guidelines was being followed for track resurfacing.

Others wanted the principles and criteria deleted, saying these should be informed by the results of the kauri dieback survey and the proposed recreation and track network plan for the Waitākere Ranges. They suggested revised principles and criteria could be adopted as a variation to the plan at a later date.

The track user survey commissioned as part of the regional parks management plan review was criticised as having a systemic survey bias to encourage specific outcomes, with the submitter wanting to provide input into track use research.

Camping

Some 41 points from 55 submitters are summarised here. Some of the key themes were:

- The need to improve or replace the overnight booking system for self-contained vehicles,
- An ability to spontaneously book a site by phone,

- More sites and locations need to be provided,
- Planning for population growth and increasing demand for camping opportunities is required,

Numerous submissions were received from owners of self-contained campervans (SCCs) both in support of the submission from the New Zealand Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA) and as individual comments.

A common theme was the need to address problems with the online booking system and improve this immediately. Several submitters suggested the Department of Conservation's booking system for national parks was much easier to use and should be adopted.

Others wanted more sites and locations for self-contained vehicles to camp in regional parks, and the opportunity to stay longer than one night. They also wanted the ability to spontaneously stay in a park overnight using phone bookings.

The NZMCA suggested a weakness in the draft Plan was its failure to recognise the effects of increased visitor demand on the regional parks network, and that not enough effort had been given to planning for this growth.

Suggestions included:

- Set a 10-year target for expanding camping opportunities.
- More consideration of the location of SCC sites.
- Allow freedom camping in regional parks.
- Providing disability access to camping sites.
- Clear signage indicating where overnight parking is permitted.

NZMCA suggested the council set a 10-year target for expanding camping opportunities in regional parks, allowing for a 33 per cent growth in capacity. This would reflect likely population growth, the existing availability of camping opportunities, possible growth in demand, and the draft Plan goals to address challenges of equity of access and reduce carbon emissions. One submitter felt more consideration should be given to the location of SCC camping sites, suggesting these should be integrated into camping grounds generally accessible for vehicle-based camping.

Similar submissions from 61 submitters who are active campervan users sought more provision for SCC sites across the parks network to make this activity more accessible to more people, including young families, older people and those with health or mobility challenges.

They suggested expanded SCC opportunities be considered at Ambury Farm, Ātiu Creek, Āwhitu, Duder, Long Bay, Mahurangi West, Muriwai, Ōmana, Scandrett, Shakespear, Tāpapakanga, Tāwharanui, Tawhitokino, Te Ārai, Te Muri, Te Rau Pūriri, Waharau, Waitākere Ranges at Huia, Waitawa, Wenderholm, Whakatīwai, plus the addition of Waiheke.

Another submitter suggested freedom camping should be allowed, especially for SCCs operating on solar power. This would allow more people to visit for longer, reduce emissions, and generate more revenue which could support further development of camping areas.

The Disabled Persons Assembly requested that all accommodation facilities, especially those the council operates fully or partially, be built to universal design standards with features including sufficient mobility parking, accessible seating, and picnic / barbeque areas.

Chapter 12 Authorisations for park use

This chapter sets out how the council proposes to manage activities that require specific authorisation.

Some 51 points from 22 submitters are summarised here.

Commercial activities

As a general rule, all commercial activities on regional parks are regarded as discretionary activities requiring approval.

Submitters were generally in support of commercial activities on regional parks being subject to conditions, including not granting exclusivity to particular commercial operators and aiming for shorter-term leases to ensure that vendors are meeting visitor and community needs.

Some opposed commercial involvement as it risked privatisation of public space.

FOR Parks proposed changes to policy 216 (reviewing how work with commercial operators) to achieve an appropriate rather than optimal financial return for the council, and to policy 217 to provide for trading authorisations for longer than 12 months where the start-up costs for some operators require a longer financial return. They agreed performance should be reviewed after 12 months and then the duration for authorisation after that to be limited to 12 months.

Another submitter strongly felt that concessions should never be for an unlimited, unspecified amount of time and should always be subject to regular reviews and potential termination if conditions are not met.

Two submitters considered that a more detailed description controlled and discretionary activities was required. They disagreed with the proposal that discretionary activities should not be publicly consulted upon, as some of these will have a significant impact on the public or be of greater interest to the public, or specific interest groups, and risk impacts on the values of the park. The Hillary Trail Marathon was cited as a good example of this type of activity that has been publicly notified in the past and should also be in the future.

Ngāti Manuhiri considered that mana whenua should be given the opportunity to be able to tap into cultural resources on parks prior to any other businesses or commercial operators. This would mean that council needs to work with mana whenua to support the capacity for them to be able to compete for commercial licenses/permits within parks.

Submitters supported council continuing to facilitate filming in regional parks noting a code of conduct to minimise impacts on the natural values and wildlife in parks was necessary.

The Disabled Persons Assembly recommended that all organisations or individuals applying for public event permits in regional parks should be required to have their events in areas which are fully accessible to everyone, including disabled people.

Carbon offsets or offsets

Several submitters including the Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum did not support the proposed policy to consider allowing carbon offsets by commercial entities:

“The draft plan encourages approaches from private corporates wishing to invest in planting to offset their carbon emissions. This creates an additionality problem. It would be much better for NZ’s carbon footprint if the private sector invested in carbon sequestration on land outside of the public estate which should already be prioritizing this work.”

Greenfleet supported the approach to favourably consider activities to offset carbon by supporting restoration efforts, however they questioned council retaining the carbon credits.

FOR Parks requested that carbon offsetting align with the vision and values of this plan, and wider environmental values and are consistent with the plan for the specific park.

Mahurangi Trail Society considered the carbon offset process should be strengthened, as the carbon trading scheme is a high fiscal risk and is not core council business. They supported the idea of council owning any carbon credits present on regional parks but were concerned that the presence of carbon credits would limit options to manage bush.

Other authorisations comments

Watercare sought clarification as to whether their activities associated with maintaining dam infrastructure was not subject to the policies included in the public utilities section.

One submitter requested that council continues to prohibit set netting from regional parks.

Another submitter advised that fitness classes and sports training in the Lake Wainamu Area are increasingly invasive, impacting on residents and visitors. They noted policy 206(g) refers to Fitness Training and Bootcamps, but considers these activities inadequately addressed by the draft Plan, where it refers to the “quietness and darkness of the Waitākere Ranges” as specific heritage features of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area under s. 7(2)(e).

Submitters also advocated for re-instating the tables of permitted, controlled and prohibited activities in each park chapter.

Off-road recreational vehicle use

The draft Plan prohibits off-road recreational vehicle use in regional parks, noting no suitable areas have been identified for this activity.

Some 37 points from 13 submitters are summarised here.

Submissions from several four-wheel drive associations and clubs and four-wheel drive vehicle users suggested that the draft Plan be amended to allow for responsible four-wheel drive use in regional parks and acknowledge this activity is permitted. The draft Plan should also specify that use shouldn't be restricted because of a minority of irresponsible drivers. They supported managed use of vehicles on the park and the promotion of responsible vehicle use and were concerned prohibition would encourage more bad behaviour.

These submitters requested council consider changing the wording in the section on Prohibited Activities (page 149) relating to off-road recreational vehicle use to from “prohibiting” four-wheel drive recreational use in regional parks to “restricting”. They suggested council allow a permit/registration system (similar to that existing at Muriwai and Kariotahi beaches) for responsible vehicle use in identified regional parks, in recognition of

the contributions made by clubs towards improvement of various regional parks over the years.

They also requested that four-wheel drive clubs be included as key stakeholders to work alongside council to manage this activity.

Dogs

Dog access into regional parks is controlled by the council's dog policy and dog management bylaw. In the draft Plan, a few areas were identified for consideration of changes in the next bylaw review.

Some 47 points from 16 submitters are summarised here.

Most of these submitters sought more access for dogs in regional parks in saying:

- Allow dogs within some camping sites, at least for small dogs as they pose a minimal threat to native fauna
- Maintain the existing areas where dog access is allowed
- The protection of birdlife is important but so were taxpayers' rights to a fair use of shared spaces
- Provide for dogs on lead in sensitive areas rather than an outright ban.

Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club disagreed with the statement that dog policy, bylaws and enforcement was outside the scope of the draft Plan and expected that the Plan would have some direction and objectives around intentions for dog access to regional parks.

Other submitters suggested dogs were a threat to native wildlife and local parks needed to absorb more recreational activity such as off leash dog walking.

Chapter 13 Administration

This chapter contains sections on management of unformed legal roads, management transfers, honouring gifts and bequests, protecting 'in perpetuity' and encroachments.

Unformed legal roads

Some 14 submitters including the Auckland 4WD Club, Alpine Sports Club and the NZ Walking Access Commission opposed draft policy 270 to work with Auckland Transport to progressively close unformed legal roads within the regional parks. Reasons included:

- They could be of use to recreational 4WD vehicles
- They provide for future public access including to the beach and private property
- Unformed legal roads preserve public access in perpetuity
- Unformed legal roads are not within the scope of the plan as they are on separate titles and come under Auckland Transport
- Opposition in principle unless there are special circumstances.

The Tree Council and Titirangi Residents & Ratepayers Association supported the draft policy to incorporate the land into the parks.

The NZ Walking Access Commission suggested alternative wording to ensure public engagement before any closures occur.

The NZ Walking Access Commission supported draft policy 269 seeking formal agreement with Auckland Transport over management of unformed legal roads adjoining / adjacent to regional parkland and suggested they be party to that agreement.

Management transfers

This existing policy in the 2010 plan was carried over into the draft Plan.

Twelve points made by 3696 submitters are summarised here.

FOR Parks requested any transfer of management be in part only (not a whole park) and be subject to public consultation, and always maintaining council ownership, governance and management ensuring continued free access. Others also submitted that public consultation must occur before any transfer.

Many submitters regarded this policy as the mechanism the council would use to transfer park management to mana whenua. These submitters often strongly opposed transfer of management to an iwi authority because:

- Ownership, governance, accountability, and management should stay with the council
- It is contrary to the spirit and purpose of regional parks being owned and accessible by all Aucklanders
- A management transfer implies that the relevant provisions in the RPMP become of no effect
- It allows for transfers of a magnitude and type not seen before and at exactly the same time broader changes are sought to management and governance
- Ratepayers have funded, gifted and developed the parks with the expectation that the council will continue to own and manage them

- Regional parks are paid for, maintained, and used by all, so the management must be fully accountable to the democratic process
- Managing parks is the council's core business.

"This proposal opens the door to a transfer of the regional parks to another group by stealth and should be struck off immediately"

Protection in perpetuity

The few submitters who commented on this policy were all in support.

Encroachments

FOR Parks supported this policy with a suggested objective change to establish priorities to remove encroachments. It also suggested the council look at any instances of park encroachments into neighbouring property in park plans.

Mahurangi Trail Society submitted that the council publish both the full list and a set of encroachments it is working on as part of each park management plan so the public is aware of the scale of the problem.

Chapter 14 Implementing and reporting

This chapter covers funding and prioritising delivery, consultation and reporting.

Some 41 points from 26 submitters are summarised here.

Funding delivery

Some submitters commented the plan did not provide sufficient detail about what would be implemented and when. They requested an implementation plan with budgets.

“Council must develop a budget in conjunction with the RPMP that shows how and when proposals included in the RPMP will be funded. Transparency for ratepayers is essential.” – Piha Residents & Ratepayers Association

Several submitters commented it was more of a management framework that did not commit to anything specific or prioritise actions.

“The RPMP does not go far enough in setting strategic priorities for the funding and implementation of the proposals outlined in the document. Currently, while its intentions are supported, it lacks the teeth to ensure confidence in what, how or when those intentions will be realised.” – Alpine Sports Club

There was criticism of it being an ‘aspirational’ plan, suggesting the council focus more on practicalities and on sharing and working co-operatively with local voluntary groups instead.

“A ‘plan’ without careful costings is not a plan,....just dreaming,..... which should form no part of a statutory task.”

Submitters objected to statements such as “subject to resourcing we intend to” throughout the parks chapters which provide no certainty. They asked for a framework to prioritise the park management intentions.

Some were concerned that insufficient funding was allocated to park management.

Priorities for delivery

Some supported the proposed priorities for capital expenditure and the proposed spatial planning priorities identified in chapter 4.

Federated Farmers said core functions and climate responsibility should be prioritised, with development and additional infrastructure delayed until funding is available.

“Council and the community are operating in uncertain and unpredictable times where council needs to refrain from unnecessary spending on above and beyond projects.” – Federated Farmers.

FOR Parks submitted a missing priority was the need for spending for increased use and significant unmet needs and noted the need to budget for work with mana whenua and with other stakeholders. They said priorities should include reopening tracks, trialling innovative alternatives to accessing the parks to reduce vehicle emissions and improving communications and engagement with park users.

Drowning Prevention Auckland recommended more focus and resourcing of the west coast rock fishing project to continue to save lives.

Some submitters requested greater funding for tree planting.

Consulting over park changes

Submitters objected to the proposal that the council would consult in accordance with legal requirements only, suggesting this was far too narrow and ignored the many interested parties willing to support and work with the council in managing the parks.

Some submitters requested communities and neighbours be involved in any plans relating to specific locations, farm, revegetation. Key stakeholder groups want to be involved in early planning alongside mana whenua.

"There needs to be far greater consultation and engagement with neighbours, locals, volunteers and visitors in specific regional park locations."

Reporting

Submitters supported the draft Plan's proposal to produce an annual report on progress, with some calling for more frequent reporting and proactive communications with stakeholders. Some wanted the reporting to be robust including baselines and progress against them, allocation of funding to parks, the performance of co-management and status, park-by-park reporting, and upcoming priorities

"Monthly or bi-monthly newsletters would be well received and should include information about goals, achievements and developments of individual tracks and the wider development of serious engagement with the community." – Auckland Baptist Tramping Club

Plan drafting and process

Some 36 points from 24 submitters are summarised here.

Some found the draft Plan too long and difficult to read, huge and complex, and hard to comment in detail.

Some submitters felt the consultation period was too short given the plan's length, and the process felt rushed and lacked clarity of purpose. Several organisations and individual submitters were also critical of the timing of the release of the draft Plan (over the summer break) which, in addition to its size and complexity, made it difficult to comprehensively review it. They wanted council to take the time necessary to seriously listen to concerns. Some organisations also considered there was a lack of engagement.

Several submitters struggled with the use of te reo Māori, particularly as these words were not translated. Some suggested a glossary would be helpful.

While it is accepted that we must encourage and incorporate the use of Te Reo Māori in our language and documents, the extensive use of Te Reo without matching English interpretation makes much of this document unintelligible to the majority of people, particularly the older population and "new" New Zealanders. – Piha Residents & Ratepayers Association

Others found the draft Plan easier to read and interpret, supported use of te reo, and stated they liked the structure of the plan, having individual park chapters after general policies.

Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara felt the plan reflected a Pākehā worldview.

'Use of Te Reo throughout the plan is supported and should be a focus when writing these plans. It is important that the Te Reo is proofed by a proficient speaker and writer. The inclusion of mana whenua in writing this plan and further use of Te Reo would have ensured more of a cultural narrative was weaved through the plan, rather than just within chapters that speak to cultural values. In addition, it would have resulted in more of a mana whenua perspective that includes the practice of kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga.' – Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust

Suggestions for changes relating to structure and drafting included:

- A list of achievable targets, a commitment, and a timeframe to achieve those targets, and a priority assigned in the event of funding being limited.
- Strengthen and quantify the wording around management intentions so that it is clear what the council intends to do and remove the words 'subject to resourcing'.
- The plan needs to focus on day-to-day operations, which is the foundation of a good parks service.
- Rename the RPMP as a strategy or management framework and create delivery-focused plans.
- Avoid repetition throughout Book One by not restating objectives and policies in the preamble to each section.
- Provide estimates of historical and current park use and estimates of future use over the duration of the plan.
- Review Book One every 15 years and review individual park chapters in Book Two every 5-10 years to enable more focused consultation.

- Include current research on climate change in an appendix and ideally include modelling of the effects of climate change on kauri to support planning and management.
- The track development principles should be in a policy section rather than hidden in an appendix.
- Add regional stakeholders to the stakeholder lists for every regional park (several submitters).
- Add 'working with relevant stakeholders' to every reference of 'working with mana whenua' to elevate stakeholders.
- Improve the park visions to better capture the parks' essence and importance, particularly the importance of coastal parks for beach access and activities, and to better reflect park uniqueness and role.
- Typos and errors in the text and maps were noted. Some organisations requested consistency and correct use of their names or activities.
- Requesting changes to the maps to show a clearer distinction between private and park land to clarify where public have access; more detail on maps showing more heritage sites and notable trees; regional maps to show the location of trails.

Other comments

Some 81 points from 46 submitters are summarised here.

Submitters proposed additions to the draft Plan including:

- Include a section on ongoing research needs to guide park management, evaluate plan performance, and inform areas of future adjustment to the plan.
- Include a high-level direction for Mutukaroa / Hamlins Hill, don't leave it without any direction for staff and volunteer work on that park, and also for Hūnua Falls Scenic Reserve in the interim before a plan is prepared with mana whenua.
- Develop one park as a model garden / horticulture / arboretum including traditional Māori gardening methods.
- Include policies to keep local boards informed and provide opportunities to convey community viewpoints.
- Give a directive to guide management of tenanted houses on regional park land.

About 20 submitters requested the council develop a regional parks acquisition plan and/or encouraged the council to add more parks to the network. Growing populations around Pukekohe, Karaka, Paerata and Drury, and in the north-west were identified. Submitters suggested a need for better access to beaches in the area, more overnight opportunities, and connections between new urban areas, local parks and maunga.

One submitter suggested new concepts for regional parks be explored, such as converting golf courses and racetracks into urban natural spaces. Some submitters requested a Tāmaki regional park be created from Point England and associated local reserves. Another suggested Green Road local park become a regional park.

Submitters were concerned that the council retain ownership of water catchment land for regional park use through the Three Waters reforms.

Submissions also included requests for:

- Financing regional parks from a fixed target rate including a percentage for future land purchases, or consider where user pays, or donations could be introduced.
- Support for local board involvement/engagement in planning and decision-making.
- Investigating how contracting out parks work affects efficiency and job security, with the view that parks should be run by qualified staff under elected councillors.
- Reduce the pressure on prime camping sites within the parks by providing areas for people who are reduced to living their vehicles to go, with toilet amenities.
- Make reports affecting public spending on kauri dieback management accessible.
- Continue good relationships and liaison over site specific requirements with recreational stakeholders including the Auckland Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club.

Finally, a comment from a submitter who is a parks volunteer:

I am very appreciative of the Northern Regional Parks Ranger team ... Their wise counsel, support and day to day help for all volunteers as well as overseeing contractors and attending to all the other ranger responsibilities lead to a quality boutique Park. This type of commitment by rangers and their immediate management is in my experience reflected in Parks I have seen in the Rodney East area.

Submissions relating to specific regional parks

All comments made relating to specific parks (whether provided in the feedback form or emailed) are summarised in this section.

Aotea / Great Barrier

Glenfern Sanctuary

Four submitters commented on this park.

A key concern was the possible renaming or adoption of a dual name for the park. All submitters stressed the importance of discussing any proposed changes with the Glenfern Sanctuary Trust prior to decisions being made.

FOR Parks considered the park should remain part of the regional park network and not be included in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park. They supported the development of an environmental education / visitor centre with accommodation for volunteers and rangers, developed in conjunction with the Trust and consultation with iwi and the community.

They suggested any strategy to increase visitors must be developed in conjunction with the Aotea / Great Barrier community to ensure it aligns with the community's long-term goals for the island.

Drowning Prevention Auckland suggested the council work with sector experts to mitigate any increased risk associated with developing a 'summit to the sea' pathway which could create easier access to the water and potential risks.

Franklin

Āwhitu

Nine submitters commented on this park.

Comments included:

- Allow hang gliding and paragliding as a permitted activity in this park
- Maintain and represent the history of the park including its historic buildings
- Improve signage for the existing dog walking area and, if necessary, create more on-lead dog walking tracks
- Maintain scrub and grassland and /or create a fire break on the park borders adjacent to residential properties on Brook Road
- Provide more funding for recreation
- Coastal erosion control and buffer planting at Brook Road to protect shorebird habitats.

NZMCA supported proposals to improve visitor experiences by upgrading and developing park infrastructure and suggests a small expansion of SCC parking sites would be appropriate as these upgrades happen.

FOR Parks suggested the vision should include the key aspect of providing recreation access to the Manukau Harbour, given safe access is very limited. Improvements to encourage recreation use should take precedence over festivals and events.

One submitter was opposed to the proposed closure of Brook Road and turnaround area, as it also provided access to their property.

Drowning Prevention Auckland requests the council work with sector experts to manage any potential risks from increased visitor numbers, additional activities such as kayak rental, and increased access to coastline through a planned boardwalk.

Duder

Thirteen submitters commented on this park.

Comments included:

- Allow hang gliding and paragliding as a permitted activity in this park
- More information required on visitor numbers and activities they do at the park
- Don't allow bike riding to preserve the natural experience
- Improving facilities for volunteers
- More emphasis on providing accessible camping opportunities for south Aucklanders
- Options for park renaming and retaining the current name.

NZMCA suggests developing a modest sized (up to 60 people) camping ground with access to composting toilets, cold water showers and potable water near Umupuia Beach, together with more SCC vehicle parking. This may help to alleviate unlawful freedom camping.

FOR Parks supported the draft Plan and agreed with increasing the recreation role of the park to cater for a range of outdoor recreation activities with any actions based on an assessment of visitor numbers. They also agreed with improving the attractiveness and

functionality of entryways, accommodating buses, bikes and vans, and exploring a second entry point to improve access to the park.

Submitters were supportive of retaining the original name of the park to honour the family that farmed the property for many years, but also agreed with a dual European / Māori name.

Drowning Prevention Auckland asked Auckland Council to work with sector experts to mitigate any increased risk associated with a new entry point from the north, as well as other existing risk.

Hūnua Ranges

Some 64 points from 28 submitters are summarised here.

Comments covered:

- Suggested improvements to park vision
- Mixed support for park categorisation proposals
- Watercare lease and maintenance requirements
- Concern that Hūnua Falls SMZ is not included in the plan (and ideas for this area)
- Strong support for proposed development of the Hūnua Trail
- Requests for more emphasis on ecological monitoring
- Widespread support for enhancing recreational opportunities especially through track access and development
- Many requests for urgent confirmation of track reopening plans
- Concern about limited trail options at present.

Park vision

FOR Parks suggested changes to the vision for Hūnua Ranges to include the park supporting remote, less developed track experiences and longer distance trail use, and a key role in providing outdoor recreation for the rapid growth in south Auckland.

The Tree Council agreed that the vision statement should emphasis wilderness values and opportunities for Aucklanders to seek respite in nature.

FOR Parks expressed strong support for all management issues and intentions in the park plan.

Park categorisation

Ten submitters expressed strong views about the proposed park categorisations of 1a (natural / cultural) and 1b (destination) for the Hūnua Ranges. Until the Hūnua Falls SMZ is developed, the SMZ for in the 2010 Regional Parks Management Plan (RMP) applies. In the 2010 RMP, the classification is 1 (natural).

There is strong support for the Hūnua Ranges to remain as classified in the 2010 RMP to recognise this large conservation park as a significant “lifeboat for biodiversity in the Auckland region”. Submitters were concerned about the proposed “downgrade of the classification” to category 1b and believe this will result in over-development of the area / loss of wilderness values.

The Tree Council has compared the 2010 RMP and this draft Plan and feels there is no basis to change the categorisation, given there is little difference between the two plans. They requested retaining the Mangatāwhiri Valley / Moumoukai SMZ as classification 1.

Similarly, Forest & Bird want to see the entire Hūnua Ranges considered category 1a, with no introduction of a category 1b status.

Several submitters felt the SMZs could be used more effectively to control high use and enable protection of park values, as an alternative to applying the 1b category.

In contrast, FMC felt the proposed category of 1a didn't match the available visitor experiences. They suggested that the Hūnua Falls SMZ should be a category 3 (developed recreation) to support high visitor numbers, good visitor infrastructure and accessible walking tracks.

Another submitter wanted reconsideration of caps / controls on specific activities as in the 2010 RMP to help protect park values and manage use in this park.

Water catchment area SMZ

Watercare wanted the park plan to acknowledge their need for maintenance and construction / renewals to achieve ongoing reliability and resilience of Auckland's drinking water supply. They requested the park plan enable and encourage Watercare to adaptively manage its infrastructure within leased catchment areas, such as infrastructure for wastewater reuse, solar / hydro power generation, and managing fire risks.

Watercare has requested specific amendments to the plan to acknowledge their efforts revegetating the Hūnua ranges, that water supply catchments are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change through weather events, that public access arrangements are negotiated via Watercare's lease, and their correct lease area.

Hūnua Falls SMZ (not in the draft Plan)

The Tree Council notes the draft 2022 RMP does not include a section for Hūnua Falls and supports a continued SMZ for Hūnua Falls (and Mangatāwhiri Valley / Moumoukai) to recognise higher visitor numbers to the area, the size of the area, its scenic qualities and pest control programme.

Drowning Prevention Auckland supported the plan's recommendations. They want the council to continue supporting no swimming at Hūnua Falls and the collaborative Hūnua Falls water safety project supported by Water Safety New Zealand and YMCA North. They suggest that kauri dieback advisors could play a role in reducing drowning, as they are often in the area.

The Tree Council notes the draft 2022 RMP does not include a section for Hūnua Falls and supported a continued SMZ for Hūnua Falls (and Mangatāwhiri Valley / Moumoukai) to recognise higher visitor numbers to the area, the size of the area, its scenic qualities and pest control programme.

Hūnua Trail SMZ

Several submitters support the plan's focus on developing the Hūnua Trail - it will be "*an excellent sustainable tourism option this area*". Two submitters asked for this project to be expedited, especially the Hūnua Cycling Trail from Clevedon to Kaiaua.

Suggestions for the trail included ensuring safe connections to local roads, encouraging cyclists to ride into the area rather than drive, and more basic shelters at the campgrounds to help attract and support visitors to the trail. FMC felt the walking trail is "*uninspiring*" due to

its route via open shingle roads / not within forested areas, requesting consideration of alternative routes.

NZMCA notes that increasing demand for the trail is likely to result in increased demand for tramping-based camping and accommodation.

The Tree Council submitted that while the proposed Hūnua Trail is located within a category 1 park, there is no mention of an environmental impact assessment prior to construction. Such an assessment would provide a baseline for future monitoring.

Conservation management and ecological monitoring

In addition to site-specific monitoring, The Tree Council wanted the park plan to include a policy reflecting a commitment to ecological monitoring and contributing to State of the Environment monitoring (like the previous 2010 RMP) and completion of a conservation plan for the Hūnua Ranges.

FOR Parks supported ongoing large-scale pest control and preventing kauri dieback in the park. They support the Hūnua Ranges continuing to be managed as a regional park given its role in the water catchment, conservation, and recreation.

One submitter is concerned that clear felling of pines will lead to more silt in reservoirs and natural waterways, due to climate change bringing more extreme weather, and prefers selective logging.

Another wanted more emphasis on discouraging 'off track' wandering.

Recreation opportunities and track development

FOR Parks supported "*expanded recreation offerings*" especially extending walking and biking tracks with supporting infrastructure and the proposed development of a heritage trail. They support the expansion of recreation opportunities in exotic forested areas free of kauri in the north-west.

Several submitters favoured proposals to support horse riding and more camping.

FOR Parks, FMC and other submitters strongly support the proposal to develop a Hūnua Ranges Regional Park Recreation Plan and agree with the council that this should be a high implementation priority. There were many requests for this to be part of the 2022 RMP process, not delayed, to confirm the "*track reopening plan*" as soon as possible. Another submitter wants this recreation plan to promote to park's fragility and significance to users.

Many submitters supported track access and development proposals, however there were concerns about track quality and access:

- Several submitters compared equity of funding between the Waitākere Ranges and Hūnua Ranges, with suggestions that the latter should have a visitor centre, significantly more track investment, better education on how to use tracks safely, and information on which tracks were currently open.
- Concern that Te Araroa walkers are currently bypassing Auckland / the Hūnua Ranges and wanting firmer commitment that the plan will include a trail through the Ranges
- Concern that the development plan for the Forestry Block bypasses important park features and that tracks with features are required to improve visitor numbers
- Concern about closure of several longer walking tracks, and that this has focused visitor numbers into remaining available locations

- Concern about lack of maintenance, especially Trig K hut which has heritage value, enabling non park volunteer use, and to few huts
- Concern that if access to Kohukohunui Track becomes easier, further infrastructure may be required, affecting what the Kōkako Management Area SMZ is trying to achieve
- Better construction methods for track upgrades
- One submitter supported restoring access to Mangatangi and Mangatāwhiri Dams including for kayaking
- One submitter opposed cycling and mountain biking opportunities in the park due to the risk to the park's ecosystems and wanted the plan to clearly state that mountain biking tracks will not be developed.

Other suggestions

DOC notes the plan is proposing to phase out pig hunting permits and would like to discuss the implications of this with council in terms of placing more demand to hunt on contiguous public land it administers.

One submitter cautioned that should the government's proposals under the draft Three Waters legislation result in transfer of assets to central government ownership, Auckland's water supply and the biodiversity goals for water reservoirs would need protection.

Two submitters request that council fix a factual error – the historical account references Marutūāhu as an iwi, but it is a collective.

One submitter didn't support more car parking in the park, preferring a bus service to increase visitor access.

FMC is concerned that leaving rubbish at Upper Mangatāwhiri Campground is in direct conflict with the general policy not to provide rubbish facilities at regional parks.

Ōmana

Six submitters commented on this park.

The comments related to:

- Better ongoing protection of the broad intertidal shore platform which provides habitat for a range of coastal birds
- Continue the existing number of camping and SCC vehicle sites
- Support for enhanced biking amenities / facilities, improving camping experiences and improving cycling and walking connections between surrounding neighbourhoods
- Implementing an integrated pest plant and animal management programme to protect the wetland habitat and species.
- Continue restoring and enhancing the Te Puru wetland
- Recognition that Ōmana Beach also marks the northern end of the waka / sea kayak trail.

Two submitters questioned whether farming was economic or sustainable at the park.

Drowning Prevention Auckland requests that Auckland Council works with sector experts to mitigate any increased risk of improved access to the water.

Tāpapakanga

Eight submitters commented on this park.

FOR Parks supported the park vision and suggested that reference to position within the Te Ara Moana / Sea Kayak Trail be included.

The NZMCA supported the plan's intentions to improve the park's visitor appeal and considered this could be achieved in part by expanding vehicle-based / vehicle accessible camping opportunities to include a further seasonal camping ground for 80 people on a site south of the Tāpapakanga Stream near the foreshore.

One submitter considered it was inappropriate to close the entire park to the public for free access during the Splore Festival.

Two submitters sought a correction to a factual error referring to the Marutūāhu collective (not an iwi).

Drowning Prevention Auckland noted that the park has access to water-based recreation at Ashby Beach and the freshwater lagoon at the mouth of the Tāpapakanga Stream. They suggested that doubling the Seaview Campground capacity may increase drowning risk and requested the council works with sector experts to mitigate this risk.

Tawhitokino and Ōrere Point

Four submitters commented on this park.

Submitters considered there was insufficient information available on visitor numbers, use, access, parking and camping for this park, and suggested more information should be provided online informing visitors about tidal access to the park. They also suggested entry points to tracks around the headlands were marked at beach level and the tracks continuously maintained.

FOR Parks supported the management intentions for this park and suggested its accessibility along the Te Ara Moana Kayak Trail and associated camping facilities should also be highlighted on maps.

Waitawa

Eight submitters commented on this park.

There was general support for the draft Plan, although several submitters suggested more focus was required on managing visitors during peak periods.

FMC suggested there was a need to adopt management strategies to manage the congestion and unsafe roads in busy times, such as encouraging people to go to alternative parks further east, restricting / prohibiting campervan stays, and ceasing farming operations to provide additional space for visitors.

The NZMCA suggested that greater use could be made of Waitawa Regional Park to meet the outdoor recreation needs of those in south Auckland, including camping and vehicle-based camping.

The NZMCA was aware the existing SCC camping sites were underused and suggested this was because of their location away from the beach. They suggested a new camping site be

developed close to a beach either at Waitawa Bay or at Matakaitai Bay Beach that was vehicle accessible and could cater for at least 80 people.

Auckland Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club requested their activity be included as a permitted activity in the park.

FOR Parks supported the draft Plan but highlighted the immediate need to develop an informal recreation plan for the park which is serving a rapidly growing south Auckland community. They consider the park has the capacity to absorb more recreation and encourage the council to engage with iwi, users, potential partners such as MERC and the public on how the concept plan should be adapted to accommodate more people and a modified mix of activities.

Sir Peter Blake MERC supported the plan and confirmed they would like to partner with regional parks and mana whenua to establish a new marine education and recreation centre at the "Bunker" in the park.

Hibiscus & Bays

Long Bay

Some 65 points from 39 submitters were made on this park.

The comments related to:

- Marine protection
- Protecting biodiversity
- Mana whenua involvement
- Managing visitor behaviour, safety and pressures
- Expanding recreational opportunities and mobility access
- Dog access
- Farming.

Marine and biodiversity protection

Submitters supported initiatives to protect biodiversity in the park, including riparian planting and ensuring fish passage is in place.

One submitter suggested the aims for Long Bay should be to achieve a balance of use and nature, to protect the intrinsic natural and cultural landscape, increase biodiversity and add value to the ecosystem, and address climate change. They proposed introducing a Perennial Food Forest system of organically established plants similar to a community garden, that could be continually harvested and used for educational and volunteer opportunities.

Some submitters were concerned about illegal fishing and taking on shellfish in the marine reserve. Although they acknowledged this was not the responsibility of council, they suggested the council could provide more education about the reserve. FOR Parks agreed and suggested the marine reserve should be integrated better into the park's operations, management, and educational programming.

Mana whenua involvement

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust specifically sought to provide for mana whenua involvement in park management, and to strengthen recognition of their identity and connections to the park and opportunities for interpretation. They sought to give the park a dual name, and to change the park category from 3 to 2 or 1b, to recognise the cultural significance of the park land.

Managing visitor behaviour

Suggestions to manage visitor behaviour and safety included providing more park ranger resources during busy summer periods, a better litter management plan when people don't comply with the "take your rubbish home with you" approach and advocating for more public transport, such as shuttle buses from Albany Bus Station.

Submitters referred to behavioural issues with car parking during the peak summer periods, the pressure on the park and the impacts of large numbers of visitors on park values, e.g. rubbish.

Todd Property referred to issues with anti-social behaviour such as car-racing, burnouts, vandalism, drug and alcohol use, and illegal dumping at Piripiri Point Drive at the northern area of the park. They also mentioned illegal fishing in the marine reserve. They suggested

special measures were required in the management plan to ensure visitor safety, such as promoting greater use of the northern park area, providing better signage and more ranger presence in the northern area, and installing physical measures such as speed humps, better lighting, and CCTV coverage to deter this behaviour.

Recreation opportunities

Many submitters suggested ideas for expanding the recreational opportunities on the park. These ranged from providing dedicated toilet and drinking water facilities for Te Araroa Trail hikers to developing a wheelchair accessible track to the beach near where families with disabled people congregate.

Submitters requested more pedestrian access to the park, linking to the coastal path north of Vaughan Homestead, and potentially providing low impact walking tracks through the heritage protection zone. They also supported extending public access further north to connect with Okura Bush Walkway.

FOR Parks supported expanding the coastal trail along the Okura estuary southern foreshore eventually linking the park to the Department of Conservation estate on the northern side of the estuary, creating another significant regional trail that also links to Te Araroa.

The NZMCA proposed that the council consider the potential for a camping ground on the less developed northern half of the park located near Granny's Bay.

Others hoped that the recent acquisition of the land containing the Red Barn and cottages could be used for bach accommodation, or provide for education and training opportunities for staff, volunteers and community groups.

The submission from the Long Bay and Okura Great Park Society requested the council investigate purchasing a property at Vaughans Road to incorporate into the park, due to its outstanding natural values. The land would enable significant extensions to current recreational tracks, allowing and walkers and cyclists to enjoy large loop tracks extending over the whole park and offering families an alternative experience to the beach park.

Dogs

Dogs are a contentious issue at Long Bay and were the subject of many submissions. There were mixed views, with strong support for investigating options to provide more access and equally strong opposition to allowing dogs in the park at all.

Some suggested a shared access approach for all users, where one part of the park could be 'dogs allowed' and the rest dog free. Others wanted a change to permit leashed dogs to walk from the new Long Bay development through the park, via a designated route, to the beach.

Some submitters were very concerned about proposals to increase dog access and wanted the ban on dogs to continue. They also wanted significantly more enforcement of the dog bylaws, as many people continued to bring dogs to the park.

FOR Parks suggested that with intense use of the park and limited space for growing visitor use, dog walking areas should be provided in local parks in the area and only in lesser used areas of the regional park.

FMC proposed that farming should be phased out to provide expanded recreational facilities, including more shade trees given the high use and the primary reasons people visited the park (picnics, swimming).

Shakespear

Some 37 points from 24 submitters were made on this park.

The comments included:

- Impacts of kite surfing
- Remove farming from Shakespear
- Increase marine protection
- Mana whenua involvement
- Recreational opportunities
- Support for investigating dog access.

Several submitters questioned the impact of kite surfing on shorebird nesting areas. Some felt there was no justification for saying kite surfers were adversely affecting breeding rates for dotterels and other birds, while others wanted kite surfers banned at Te Haruhi Bay during the August-February nesting season.

Kite surfers advised this park was a taonga for them as its beaches are among the few in the region suitable and safe for surfing in southerly winds. They requested information on breeding numbers over the past few years to indicate whether there had been a decline and that kite surfing had an impact more than other beach users.

They also wanted to have input into any management plans, with the hope that issues could be handled with education, information and an understanding of which areas and pathways are significant to kite-surfers and which nesting areas to stay clear of.

SOSSE suggested increasing the use of protective temporary fencing; increasing the size of fenced -off areas; increasing signage to warn park visitors, banning kite surfing during the nesting season; creation of good practice guides for kite surfers; and restricting kite surfer access to the beach to place away from nesting sites.

Some submitters suggested farming should be removed from the park and that more of the open grassland be converted to permanent indigenous forest to support native wildlife. The existing predator proof fence provides the unique opportunity to further restore native habitats and makes this an ideal location for people to experience native wildlife, and there are many opportunities across Auckland (and New Zealand) to see sheep / cattle on farms, but extremely limited opportunities to see our native wildlife.

SOSSE and other submitters supported a total ban on all fishing and shellfish collection within the park to protect the marine environment and recommended a year-round ban for set netting, long-line, multi hook fishing and rod fishing. Submitters were also concerned about excessive shellfish collection at Okoromai Bay and impact of available food for wading birds.

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust specifically sought to provide for mana whenua involvement in park management and to strengthen recognition of their identity and connections to the park and opportunities for interpretation. Te Kawerau sought to change the park category from 3 to 2 or 1b, to recognise the cultural significance of the park land.

FOR Parks also supported a park category change to 2.

Several submitters supported the expansion of recreational and camping activities in the park. The NZMCA supported the development of future recreational uses on an area

adjacent to Ōkoromai Bay on the park's western boundary and suggest that this might be a useful site for the expansion of CSC vehicle parking and seasonal camping.

FOR Parks supported expanding recreational offerings especially given projected population growth for the peninsula and surrounding area. Walking tracks were particularly important as well as providing boat access to the gulf.

They also supported promoting alternative methods of accessing the park, improving walking and cycling access, connection to the ferry service at Gulf Harbour, and public transport, including buses with bike racks. Several submitters supported the proposal to realign the park entrance and initiatives to reduce the number of vehicles entering the park.

SOSI did not support dedicated or shared mountain biking routes in the park, noting the existing track network was not suitable for mountain bikes as it was already heavily used by walkers / cyclists.

Drowning Prevention Auckland noted that Shakespear is popular with swimming, fishing, kayaking and kite surfing, and the boat ramp at Army Bay is heavily used to access the Hauraki Gulf for recreational boating, fishing and diving. They supported the proposed ban on set netting, the proposed review of the configuration of Army Bay boat ramp, and the proposal to actively manage kite surfing at Te Hāruhi and Ōkoromai Bays.

Several submitters strongly supported the proposal to investigate options for more dog access to some parts of the park.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Ambury

Some 26 points from 10 submitters were made on this park.

The comments related to:

- Park values and the unique visitor experiences Ambury provides
- Expanding and developing visitor facilities
- Potential of Ambury as a tourist destination
- Park naming
- Public transport access to the park

Overall, submitters favoured the development proposals for Ambury, including updating the park layout and expanding visitor facilities.

NZMCA supported the draft Plan's proposal to upgrade the campground facilities and its focus on generally maintaining the current level of camping activity, suggesting provision could usefully be made for an additional five SCC parking sites.

FOR Parks suggests the vision should emphasise Ambury's accessible location to urban Auckland and role in introducing people to animals and farming, its internationally recognised bird habitat and birdwatching, and links to a regional trails network.

FOR Parks supported a dual name for the park, however one submitter wanted clarification on whether the English name would be removed, or the intention was for a dual name (inconsistency in the chapter text).

FOR Parks said the key to increasing the tourist potential of the park is to promote the bird watching feature, by developing an education centre with easy pedestrian access to the foreshore, bird hides and potentially a café. They supported expansion of the regional trail along the foreshore.

FMC considered the visitor numbers are high for a relatively small park in an area of Auckland not well served by other regional parks. This indicated a critical need to identify other locations for a regional park to serve the general south Auckland area. They supported establishing a second arrival / amenities area and requested shade trees be included.

Watercare suggested amendments to clarify the status of their work programmes, plans and further discussions required around the possible transfer of Watercare land.

Drowning Prevention Auckland supported redevelopment to allow for more visitors and a better experience and were keen to work with council to mitigate any increased risks associated with access to the shoreline.

Rodney

Ātiu Creek

Thirteen submitters commented on this park.

The comments related to:

- Enhancing the natural biodiversity of the park by moving to a sustainable farming model.
- Providing vehicle access to the campground.
- Mana whenua aspirations to be involved in protection and restoration of ecosystems.
- Woodlot management.
- Expanding recreational use ahead of events.
- Access for horse riders.

FOR Parks suggested the park vision should include more active recreation than walking, providing for mountain bikers, trail runners, horse riding as well as providing for family camping. They agreed that expanding recreation use, e.g., extending the track network and investing in improvements that support these activities, should take precedence over events.

One submitter felt there was massive potential at Ātiu Creek to improve biodiversity of this important part of the Kaipara catchment – increasing and restoring natural vegetation and showing leadership on how farming can be beneficial to the soil and to conservation values. This could be done in partnership with groups like the Kaipara Moana Remediation Project.

One submitter expressed their frustration at not being able to drive down to the campground to enable young children to access the beach or walks, as the distance to walk from the car park was too far for young children. They suggested vehicle access should be provided through the gates on the farm road to allow the park to be fully enjoyed.

Another submitter opposed vehicle access into the centre of the park, suggesting the priority should be to minimise vehicle use to prevent sediment run-off. However, they did suggest providing an option for a (farm) vehicle transport of camping equipment, for an additional fee.

Te Uri o Hau confirmed their aspiration to be directly involved in the 'protection and restoration of the ecosystem in Ātiu Creek', noting their support for the intention to strengthen relationships and explore ways to be involved in park management. They expressed hope that this will be a partnership that can be joint funded.

Horse riders requested access to Ātiu Creek be aligned with all other parks managed within the Horse Riding Network pass, by shifting from keys to combination locks on park gates.

Two submitters provided suggestions on managing the woodlots more effectively, by taking a farm forestry approach to produce high-quality wood products, trialling other species, and exploring opportunities to provide for recreational use in these areas.

Mahurangi East

Some 58 points from 22 submitters were made on this park.

The comments included:

- Protecting natural biodiversity, park values and sense of remoteness
- Access to and in the park
- Recreational opportunities
- Park composition and category

There was strong support for protecting and enhancing the natural biodiversity, values and sense of remoteness of the park.

Submitters supported making the peninsula a pest free sanctuary with a predator fence at a suitable location and plans to retire the park land from grazing to protect and enhance native vegetation.

Access

Several submitters provided suggestions on how to provide access to and within the park, with strong support to open the park to the public for walking and cycling.

Most submitters supported the plans to provide future vehicle access into the park, but recognised the extensive costs required to develop a car park and upgrade the roading. They thought the immediate focus should be on providing access for walking and cycling, using the easement and farm roads, with the possible addition of toilet facilities.

FMC saw this park as an opportunity not to provide vehicle access, with the associated significant roading infrastructure that would be required. They saw this is a chance to provide some regional parks (similar to Ātiu Creek) where the primary access is walking or cycling only. Others agreed that the public should access the park by foot, cycling, and by water.

Submitters also supported investigating pedestrian and cycle access to and from Martins Bay, other adjacent parks such as Scandrett, and connections to other proposed walking and cycle trails in the wider area such as the Puhoi to Mangawhai Trail.

Mahurangi Trail Society, Matakana Coastal Trail Trust and Mahurangi East Residents Association indicated their willingness to be involved in the development of plans for future kayaking, biking, walking, and water access recreational routes.

Recreation opportunities

Submitters supported potential future recreational activities including picnicking, camping, mountain biking, water-based activities such as swimming, kayaking and the opportunity for bach accommodation in an existing dwelling onsite.

Mahurangi Residents and Ratepayers Association suggested the park could be showcased as an e-vehicle friendly facility by installing e-bike infrastructure. They were disappointed the plan only proposed walking tracks, as many residents would access the park using E-bikes.

Park composition and category

Several submitters commented on the composition of Mahurangi East Regional Park, questioning whether Scott Point should be included instead of joining it to Mahurangi West, as they considered Scott Point was more aligned with Mahurangi East. Several submitters made suggestions regarding the management of Scott Point, and these are included in the submission summary for Mahurangi West Regional Park.

Others supported Mahurangi East being a separate park and agreed with the proposed future recreational uses.

A combined submission from Mahurangi Action / Mahurangi Coastal Trail contained several points regarding supporting a proposed Mahurangi Coastal Trail, including suggestions for creating one large Mahurangi Regional Park by combining Mahurangi East, Mahurangi West, Te Muri and Wenderholm.

Some submitters also questioned the park category, suggesting that the destination category of 1b was incorrect and it should be category 1a or 2.

Mahurangi West

Some 65 points from 47 submitters were made on this park.

The comments included: commented on:

- Te Muri bridge proposal
- Access, car park and traffic impacts on Mahurangi West / Ngarewa Drive
- Recreational use and opportunities
- Boat launching facilities
- Park composition – inclusion and management of Scott Point

Te Muri bridge and car park at Mahurangi West

A significant proportion of the total submissions strongly opposed the proposal to construct a boardwalk / footbridge across Te Muri Stream and a car park on the northern side at Mahurangi West. Key reasons included the impact on local residents from increased traffic and visitor numbers; existing issues with car parking along Ngarewa Drive during the summer peak periods; lack of safety for walkers and cyclists; and impacts on the natural values and wilderness experience at Te Muri. The general consensus was that Mahurangi West was not the right place and should not be used to provide access to Te Muri – this should be via Hungry Creek Road instead.

Several submitters noted that the proposal for the footbridge had been put forward by a small group of people who did not represent the views of iwi or the wider community at Mahurangi West.

A small number of submitters supported the bridge and Mahurangi Coastal Trail proposal.

Submitters also opposed the construction of a car park at Tungutu Point as it would destroy the natural beauty of the headland and compromise the culturally and historically significant kumara pits. The car park at Sullivans Bay is only at capacity a few times a year, and a car park at Tungutu Point would be an unused eyesore for most of the year.

There were numerous comments on existing recreational use of Mahurangi West. Submitters valued their camping experiences at Sullivan's Bay and Mita Bay and did not agree with proposals to provide more camping platforms of the hillside about the bay. People wanted to camp by the beach and that was where the campground should remain.

Submitters supported the intentions to increase access to the park by walking and cycling but were concerned with visitor safety given Mahurangi West Road is *"... a single lane in each direction and is winding ...with no cycle lanes, footpaths or even verges in many places; and as such is already dangerous for cyclists and walkers....."*. Submitters

considered there was no point in considering secure bicycle parking facilities or e-charging at Mahurangi West if routes to the park weren't safe.

The NZMCA supported the continued location and operation of the Sullivan's Bay campsite. They noted the popularity of the campground has led to conflict between users and illegal camping on Ngarewa Drive and suggested that the draft Plan should identify areas where more vehicle-based and vehicle accessible camping could be accommodated. This could be provided more off Ngarewa Drive or by providing vehicle access to the Mita Bay campground.

Mahurangi Trail Society suggested that Mahurangi West and Te Muri could also be connected to the others by a ferry or water taxi service to provide alternative access options. They also suggested connections should be considered from the parks to the proposed Puhoi to Mangawhai Trail.

Two submitters requested more boat launching facilities at Mahurangi West due to the pressure on existing boat ramps in the wider area.

Park composition – Scott Point

As mentioned in the Mahurangi East chapter, several submitters were not certain about including Scott Point in Mahurangi West Regional Park.

Submitters supported Scott Point being a Special Management Zone (SMZ) to ensure an integrated approach among the many parties with responsibilities for managing this area, including the reserves. Submitters want better signage on the road leading to Scotts Landing to control speed, and warn about walkers and limited parking.

FOR Parks supported Mahurangi West being managed separately from Mahurangi East but suggested there could be links between the parks with land, water and kayaking trails. Links to public transport should also be promoted especially during peak season, or when connecting trails are built or bus shuttles established.

Muriwai

Some 93 points from 22 submitters were made on this park.

These submitters commented on:

- Biodiversity protection, pest control and dogs
- Mana whenua involvement
- Recreational use and opportunities
- Dogs
- Vehicles on beaches
- Amendments to SMZs
- Drowning prevention

Community views

Muriwai Community Association (MCA) and Muriwai Environmental Action Community Trust (MEACT) provided two detailed submissions outlining local community views on the draft Plan. These included support for specific provisions, additions and amendments to

management intentions, comments on SMZs and suggestions on a range of topics. These comments are summarised under the relevant sections below.

Biodiversity protection and pest control

MEACT suggests any assessment of heritage trees in the Mitchelson block should consider the age and health of the trees stabilising the terrain and whether they should be replaced now with natives.

They suggest the council should consider temporary closure initiatives to parts of the park during the sea bird breeding season, particularly for Kororā / Little-blue penguin and Oi / Grey-faced petrel.

MEACT have been collaborating with the council on how they could provide resources for predator control (excluding deer eradication) in the 5 Mile Strip SMZ. This would require vehicle access to Te Oneone Rangatira Beach or those employed on the project.

Mana whenua involvement

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust sought to strengthen their decision-making role in park management, in recognition that the park contains taonga including wāhi tapu, wāhi tupuna and customary resources. They want greater recognition of their identity and connection with the park, including their customary rights and opportunities for interpretation.

MEACT supported the council discussing with iwi changing the name of Muriwai and Ōkiritoto Stream and is not averse to any other name changes that make positive contributions to the cultural history and stories of the Muriwai area.

Muriwai Community Association supported bilingual signage within the park should this be recommended / suggested by mana whenua.

Recreational use and opportunities

One submitter proposed deletions and amendments to the management intentions for recreation and use at Muriwai specifically relating to the management of vehicles on the beach (controlling access, restrictions, permit system and community advisory group).

Paragliding and hang gliding representatives wanted the importance of Maukatia as a launching site recognised and requested the open grassed area along Oaia Road be retained for this purpose.

The NZMCA noted that although the park is very popular, there is limited opportunity to expand camping locations beyond those already offered at the Muriwai Beach Campground. They considered there are a few opportunities to provide up to ten SCC vehicle parking spaces, including the proposed carpark off Jack Butt Lane.

MEACT strongly supported the council's intention to *"Explore the potential to provide further food and beverage services through a range of options"* and suggests the range of options investigated must include options for development of services in this 'town centre' location.

MEACT would like to see a cap on the number of buses and full enforcement of the permit system and suggest the council might consider options such as competitive bidding for commercial slots, or a per person charge. They recommend full enforcement and a transparent connection between the money raised through the permit scheme and its reinvestment in the very values of the park that visitors come to experience.

MCA strongly resists any proposal to manage growing visitor numbers with additional car parks. They support the proposed reconfiguration of existing access points to the park to ensure visitors fully use the existing car parks, along with improved signage.

MCA also supported any measures to provide public transport access to the park. In the medium to long term, they strongly advocate for additional vehicle access points (e.g., via Restall Road and Rimmers Road) to the park and beach that avoid creating additional vehicle traffic along Motutara and Waitea Roads.

MCA also supported residents' desire to cycle to the park and beach, recognising there is a lack of safe or secure cycle parking. They strongly suggest that this be provided with urgency, with potential points for cycle parking near the Surf Tower, next to the Changing Sheds / Showers, by the Toilet Block and at Maukatia / Māori Bay.

MCA would also like a process developed to allow local artists to have appropriate, locally contextual art placed within the park, establishing an Art Trail as an additional recreational activity for visitors.

Dogs

MEACT submitted that there should be increased enforcement of the strict 'No Dogs' areas of the park (and appropriate signage to support the ban). They would strongly support an education campaign targeting the local and wider north-west population about the bylaw and the reasons for it.

MEACT also notes that at Ōtakamiro Point / Maukatia SMZ there is mounting video evidence straying domestic cats are having an adverse effect on shorebirds breeding areas. They suggest controls on domestic pet cats should be at least equal to that for dogs in the 'designated' seabird breeding areas of the park, with 'No Dogs' signage to be replaced with 'No Domestic Pets' signage.

Vehicles on beaches

Submissions from the New Zealand Four Wheel Drive Association (national and northern branch) and four-wheel drive vehicle users outlined their concerns that the draft Plan is too restrictive on 4WD vehicle access to Muriwai Beach, and that most drivers are responsible and law abiding. In their opinion, community groups including local four-wheel drive clubs are dealing suitably with the minority of irresponsible drivers in their community.

MCA supported the proposed vehicle access controls (seasonal restrictions and a paid permit vehicle access scheme). They requested that any revenue raised by the scheme be used to manage vehicle access with any surplus used for ongoing improvements to the park.

MCA suggested that effective ongoing monitoring to ensure the protection of the dunes and beach, with regular review dates, and urged the council to implement such a scheme with urgency.

Some submitters supported providing horse and vehicle-only access zones on beaches and creating new four-wheel drive and dirt bike tracks elsewhere, to reduce vehicle pressure on the beach.

MEACT strongly supported the vehicle access management intentions, noting their prime interest is to stop the serious destruction of important ecosystems in 5 Mile Strip by motorised vehicles. They also strongly support the advisory group, the intentions to implement an incremental programme of additional measures, and continuation of the advisory group until bad behaviour is under control and management of beach access is sustainable.

MEACT supported the beach access privilege to the Muriwai Fishing Club and the basis on which this is granted. Restricted access for vehicles at the southern end of Muriwai Beach to allow only members of the Muriwai Sport Fishing Club has been successful in ensuring both limited numbers and appropriate, safe behaviour by drivers.

Drowning prevention

Drowning Prevention Auckland supported the plan to continue supporting safety programmes and activities such as safe fishing practices, or competence in water-related activities. They recommend Auckland Council continues support for the West Coast Rock Fishing initiative.

Special Management Zones within Muriwai

5 Mile Strip SMZ

One submitter requested deletion of all management intentions relating to 5 Mile Strip, as the land was not owned by Auckland Council and ratepayers shouldn't bear the costs of managing this area.

MEACT supported all management intentions for 5 Mile Strip and recommended urgent attention be given to protecting ecosystems and pest control for threatened species. They also strongly support the change in reserve status from Recreation Reserve to Scenic Reserve, to protect threatened species from vehicles.

Motutara / Central SMZ

The same submitter requested deletion of the management intentions relating to Motutara Road, as it is a formed legal road managed by Auckland Transport and not under the council's jurisdiction. Their opinion was that this road should not be restricted or closed as it is the only formed two-wheel drive road access to Muriwai Beach.

MEACT and MCA strongly support the council's intention to; "Explore the potential to provide further food and beverage services through a range of options" and suggests the range of options investigated must include options for development of services in this 'town centre' location.

An individual submitter suggested reconfiguring the Motutara Road / Jack Butt Lane intersection, proposing that the café be relocated to steer people into the northern car park and making it more central for visitors.

Ōtakamiro Point / Maukatia SMZ

MEACT supported all management intentions for this SMZ and suggests that the council's intention to manage the area as a scenic reserve be given priority. MEACT also suggests the area of pōhutukawa forest between the Dunz Cafe and the beach where a significant population of Ōi grey-faced petrel breed, should be given consideration for equal legislative protection.

MEACT strongly supported the intention to expand the area designated for Takapu /Australasian gannet breeding.

An individual submitter suggests this part of the plan should be re-worded to reflect Maukatia remaining as a recreational reserve and questions whether reclassification from recreational to scenic has already occurred. The submitter notes this area is highly used by surfers for recreation.

Pakiri

Some 207 points from 97 submitters were made on this park.

Two versions of local community form submissions were provided, both representing around 50-60 individuals. Submissions were also received from Friends of Regional Parks (FOR Parks), Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC), Mahurangi Trail Society, Matakana Coastal Trail Trust, Department of Conservation, Pakiri Preservation Society, Drowning Prevention Auckland, the Taumata B Whanau and individuals.

The submitters commented on:

- Protecting and restoring biodiversity including dune protection, wetlands restoration, and replanting of native forest
- Protecting cultural heritage
- Access and developing the park
- Property boundaries and signage
- Recreational opportunities – for and against camping, horse riding, dogs, walking/cycling trails and connections, infrastructure development
- Sand mining

Protecting natural and cultural heritage

There was general support for the draft Plan's focus on restoring biodiversity and maintaining the natural beauty of the park

“The local community was strongly supportive of the Pakiri Regional Park being designated as 1a – Natural and Cultural because that will preserve the natural beauty and remote wilderness experience of Pakiri by restoring the natural environment”.

Some considered this should be the primary focus with public use and enjoyment the second priority and only given effect once native species have been established. They requested this order of priority be reflected in the Plan.

Suggestions relating to biodiversity protection included maintaining effective pest control in the park and potentially linking this to pest control and replanting programmes by the Forest Bridge Trust on other parks in the vicinity, including Hauturu. Submitters also recommended including a community-run native nursery within the park to help provide sourced plants for revegetation.

One submitter suggested the council should cease farming activity and plant natives to prevent erosion and retain the raw and historical nature of the area.

Submitters generally supported the recognition and protection of cultural heritage sites, as it was important to increase signage to improve the understanding of the cultural history of Pakiri and ensure that people respect the sites. The protection, enhancement and signage for Te Kiri's Pā as a key cultural feature was a high priority as well as the papakainga.

A form submission from the local community opposed the draft plan and all development at Pakiri, including recreation trails for walking and cycling, notice boards, wayfaring signage, car parking, toilets, and picnic areas.

They considered the proposal for development did not protect or preserve the natural values of the park, including the unique landforms, vulnerable ecosystems, large expanses of native

bush and rural landscapes. Development would also result in dangerous traffic levels, affect pedestrian safety, cause increased dust, nuisance, noise, crime and littering.

They didn't think the council's standard regional park model was suitable for Pakiri and that further development and increased public access would destroy the area. Instead, they believed the draft Plan needed to focus on preserving the unspoiled and undeveloped nature of the park and its impact on Pakiri.

The Pakiri Preservation Society submitted similar comments in opposition as those above.

Access

Proposals for access to the park generated a significant number of comments, both for and against opening the park.

Taumata B Whanau have identified ownership, access and property boundaries in relation to the park and Pakiri Beach as an issue that needs to be urgently resolved, as it will affect any future public access to the beach contemplated in the draft plan.

A second form submission from the local community agreed that property boundaries and beach access to the southern end of the beach are contested and requested that Auckland Council clearly defines and widely communicates the legal status of the ownership, boundaries, and access issues in this area.

Submitters supporting access identified the need to ensure beach access for the local community and the public along the beach to the southern end in all tides. They supported the main park entrance and access to the beach being located at the northern end of the park (Option 1), as this is where amenities such as the campground and public toilets are already located. They considered that intensification of infrastructure at the north end would best maintain the remote aspect of most of the park.

However, these submitters also highlighted that the roading around the park is dangerous, rutted and poorly maintained and didn't cope well with existing vehicle use. Increased use would considerably exacerbate their condition and sealing the roads is the minimum requirement prior to development of the park and its consequent increase in traffic.

Most submitters opposed the proposal to locate car parks on M Greenwood Road at the south end of the park (Option 2) as it would compromise the remoteness and ruggedness of the park's southern area. In addition, parking areas in this location would facilitate access to the sensitive archaeological sites of the south end of the park, including Te Kiri Pa, with inevitable degradation of those sites due to people walking and riding over them.

In contrast, mana whenua from the Taumata Block favoured Option 2, although they had concerns this would become a secondary access to the beach. Their preference is for this location to provide access to the park itself with the primary access to the beach at the northern end of Pakiri Beach. This is because of their concerns about over-harvesting marine life from the rocks at the southern end of the park, and people waking over the dunes where birds are nesting.

Taumata B residents requested that the rocks area be off limits and not be included in any walkways, while the local community wanted a moratorium on the hand gathering of marine life on the southern rocks around the Goat Island Marine Reserve.

Recreational opportunities

Submitters supporting the draft Plan agreed with the development of low-impact activities in the park, such as walking and cycling, and wanted an assurance that visitor numbers will remain low in keeping with the remote, wilderness experience of Pakiri and its 1a status.

Submitters did not support camping, horse riding or dogs being allowed into the park or on the beach. They were supportive of hang gliding and paragliding, although mana whenua didn't support these users launching from the area adjacent to Te Kiri's pā and wanted the fence around pā site to be returned to its previous position to prevent this. Representatives from these clubs were amenable to working with the council and mana whenua to determine 'no go' sites and restrictions to enable them to continue to use this park.

FOR Parks supported developing walking and recreational cycling trail networks that connect the park to the regional trail network, for example the Ti Point - Leigh - Goat Island walkway and the Te Araroa Trail, and for council to provide supporting facilities such as trail information, secure bicycle parking, drinking water and toilets and potentially primitive camping. They considered the development of walking and cycling trails should be a priority given the demand for these trails in Auckland.

Mahurangi Trail Society fully supported council's intention to work with Matakana Coastal Trail Trust on the development of the Puhoi to Mangawhai cycle and walking trail which traverses the park northwards through to Mangawhai.

Matakana Coastal Trail Trust is the entity developing the Puhoi to Mangawhai Trail and requests the council commit capital funding to provide connections to and through the Rodney eastern parks, with Pakiri being an early priority, and amenities to support walking and cycling and water transport through parks, such as dedicated camp sites.

The Trust has proposed an addition to the park management focus: "Working with all stakeholders to develop through connections for the Matakana Coastal Trail (or Pūhoi to Mangawhai route)".

Sand mining

Several submitters noted there is no mention of sand mining operations that are potentially affecting the beach and dunes and they would like this included in the draft Plan.

Scandrett

Some 18 points from 11 submitters were made on this park.

The comments included:

- Protection of the endangered coastal forest
- Need for intensive pest control for rabbits
- Maintaining the historic farm buildings
- Expanding recreational opportunities in the park
- Walking and cycling links to other parks and trails

One submitter, who is a volunteer at the park, was particularly concerned about the endangered coastal forest and the extreme threat rabbits are currently posing to young, regenerating trees. There is an urgent need for intensive pest control to address this problem.

This submitter also questioned why the ecology at Scandrett did not receive the same level of protection as Tāwharanui in terms of a 'no dog' 'no pets' policy to protect the Pacific geckos and shorebirds.

Submitters supported maintaining the historic farm buildings and recommended further onsite interpretation information be provided, e.g. placing copies of the Scandrett history booklet in the baches.

Two submitters proposed options to expand recreational opportunities at the park. The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association suggested there was scope for developing a seasonal camping ground for perhaps 60 people and increasing the number of parking sites for SCC vehicles.

“The Association suggests that there is scope for the development of a seasonal camping ground for perhaps 60 people on the park and for an expansion of the number of parking sites for CSC vehicles. While such an expansion may compromise the amenities of those fortunate enough to be able to rent the cottages/baches on the park, this will democratize the space by making it more widely available to Aucklanders of more modest means.”

A submitter provided a map proposing a series of developments at the park including a new boat ramp, a one-way ring road up to the northern end to link with the top road, a car parking area for cars and trailers, another toilet block, a changing shed near the boat ramp, picnic tables and barbeques in front of car parking area. They said that with the growth in visitor numbers in the wider area, providing a new boat ramp and the other developments would use the park to its fullest.

Submitters also supported providing walking and cycling connections to other nearby parks such as Mahurangi East, Scotts Landing and Martin’s Bay.

Drowning Prevention Auckland suggested there was an opportunity to use the three baches on the beach front to provide educational information on drowning prevention.

Tāwharanui

Some 48 points from 21 submitters were made on this park.

The submissions commented on:

- Designation of the Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary as a Special Management Zone
- TOSSI’s proposal for restoring wetlands
- Opportunity for an education centre
- Advocating for extension of the marine reserve
- Expanding camping options
- Park category

Submitters commented on the success of the sanctuary and considered the number one priority at this park should be protecting birdlife and preventing pest incursions.

TOSSI presented a detailed and strongly supported submission outlining their proposal to restore the wetlands near Anchor Bay. Submitters felt the restoration would enhance biodiversity, contribute to mitigating climate change and enhance the visitor experience. TOSSI also proposed an education centre be established at the park, to educate new New Zealanders and overseas visitors on the protection of threatened species and conservation actions.

The Department of Conservation noted that both the Tāwharanui and Shakespear chapters made strong introductory comments about the importance of pest management in their buffer zones, however there was no related management focus statement or management intention included on this matter.

Submitters supported advocating for an extension of the marine reserve to the southern coast and prohibiting fishing in the lagoon. Some submitters questioned whether farming in the park was compatible with the marine reserve and suggested there needed to be more focus on mitigating the potential effects of land management activities on water quality. Removal of grazing and replanting native vegetation were identified as ways to address this.

Submitters were also in favour of expanding the opportunities for camping in the park, including more sites for self-contained vehicles and the potential expansion of the campground at Anchor Bay.

Another submitter suggested there should also be an opportunity for non-bookable overnight (one night only) parking by certified self-contained vehicles in the main car park, provided they arrive after 4pm and depart before 9am.

One submitter suggested that council should specify wheelchair accessible camping as a vision and goal given the changing status of this park. This would require disability beach access and dedicated space for disability camping near an accessible changing room with disability shower and toilet.

Drowning Prevention Auckland supported the idea of establishing an underwater marine trail within the marine reserve on the northern coast at Tāwharanui. They also noted that Tāwharanui is popular for swimming, surfing, walking, fishing (southern coast), and welcomed the opportunity to work with the council to mitigate drowning risk.

Mahurangi Trail Society suggested that given intensive vehicle use, it is important to investigate options for new cycle trails and walkway links from the Pūhoi to Mangawhai Trail to provide additional access by alternative modes. They noted there was already a good trail from Matakana to Omaha and Point Wells and suggested it would be appropriate to develop a link through to the park as well.

Te Ārai

Some 112 points from 30 submitters were made on this park.

The submitters commented on:

- Protecting and restoring the biodiversity, wetlands, dunes and lakes
- Access to the beach
- Recreation opportunities
- Dogs
- Sand mining.

There was strong support for the protection of Te Ārai's biodiversity and ecological values, with submitters agreeing this must be the priority for management of Te Ārai North.

Te Ārai Protection Society and other submitters supported more intensive management near the mouth of Te Ārai and Poutawa Streams, wetlands near Te Ārai Point, Little Te Ārai Point Lake and Little Shag Lake to protect habitat and sensitive ecosystems and that there might be temporary measures to restrict recreation activity in these areas.

There was also support for including the “Lakes to the Sea” concept to protect the whole of Te Ārai Stream to facilitate multiple agencies working together to enhance the ecology of the entire freshwater ecosystem.

Submitters supported protection of the dune systems and lakes but also asked if there was some way of enabling limited public access so people could share their ecological values. Providing opportunities to view shorebird habitats was also suggested as a way of encouraging visitors to understand the importance of the wider area.

Submitters strongly supported the proposed park category of 1a for Te Ārai North with its focus on protecting ecological values and offering a wilderness experience. The New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust (after consultation with Te Ārai Beach Preservation Society, Save Te Ārai and Department of Conservation) suggested further consideration on whether the particularly sensitive habitats in the park such as the Te Ārai Stream mouth would be better protected by a ‘scientific’ or ‘wildlife’ classification.

FOR Parks suggested adding a management intention for the council to work closely with Department of Conservation, the Rodney Local Board and environmental and community groups (including Te Ārai Beach Preservation Society and Save Te Ārai) on the consistent management of the park lands and habitats of endangered species and enforcement of council bylaws and court decisions.

Access

Submitters commented that vehicle access to Te Ārai South had been secured via direct access from Ocean View and Te Ārai Point Roads. This left Pacific Road as the only remaining unsecured access point for vehicles. They recommended the process to vest Pacific Road needed to begin and be completed as soon as possible to ensure ongoing public access to the northern area of the park.

Submitters supported options to increase non-vehicular access and recreation into and inside the park. Some suggested special attention was required to the walking access from the inland ring of the park via public access easements through private land in South Te Ārai to ensure its suitability for a wide range of access for recreation including bicycling and horse riding.

Submitters also supported the prohibition of unauthorised vehicle access to the beach along the entire coastline adjacent to the park.

Recreation opportunities

Submitters generally supported recreational activity being directed to Te Ārai South, provided there are adequate buffers at areas of high habitat value such as Poutawa Stream and Slipper Lake, or that recreational activity and walking tracks are directed away from those sites.

The joint submission from Te Ārai North Ltd, Te Ārai Residents Association, Te Ārai South Holdings Ltd, and Te Ārai South Owners Society proposed amendments to the management intentions to allow recreation amenities including surf patrol and marine recreation facilities, public toilets, a sealed road network, the deletion of unnecessary public access easements, small-scale commercial activities, and both a vehicle and non-vehicle-based campground that included a designated area for SCC vehicles.

Other submitters suggested that with the inclusion of Te Ārai in the Te Araroa Trail and the Puhoi to Mangawhai trail, provision should be made for facilities for tent-based campers to stay in the park. They noted that many trail walkers camp in the dunes between Pacific Road

and South Pakiri, and that offering a managed area (either at Pacific Road or Forestry) would help encourage more responsible use of the park.

Mahurangi Trail Society supported the council's intention to work alongside the Matakana Coastal Trail Trust on the development of the Puhoi to Mangawhai walking and cycling trail that would traverse Te Ārai. Submitters requested that the proposed route of this trail be shown on the park maps and Te Araroa Trail.

In reference to recreational activities on the Tomorata Lakes, some submitters opposed the exclusion of power boats as they had nowhere else to go. Responding to the proposal to allow non-powered watercraft on Slipper Lake, Te Ārai Protection Society suggested that further consultation was required with the New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust and the Department of Conservation on whether access needed to be restricted during the nesting season.

Other submitters suggested drones should be banned from the Te Ārai coastline and did not support cycling along the beach due to the potential impacts on shorebird habitats.

One submitter suggested promoting the historic mana whenua connections to the park, saying enhanced wayfinding signage and interpretation would add greatly to the visitor experience and develop a broader understanding of the rich history of the park.

Dogs

There was mixed support for allowing dogs access to the park, although generally submitters agreed they be prohibited from Te Ārai North.

The New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust agreed with the prohibition of dogs from Te Ārai North but was not opposed to continuing to allow dogs on Forestry Beach, with the proviso of restrictions on dogs around Poutawa Stream, particularly in the bird breeding season.

Te Ārai North Ltd, Te Ārai Residents Association, Te Ārai South Holdings Ltd and the Te Ārai South Owners Society supported continued dog access to the beach at Te Ārai South.

Other submitters opposed allowing dogs anywhere in the regional park, in particular near the Poutawa and Te Ārai Streams because of the threat to nesting shorebirds. Tomorata, Spectacle and Slipper Lakes should also be dog free areas.

Save Te Ārai Inc proposed a seasonal dog walking boundary at the southern pedestrian access easement that runs through the private golf course land which would allow a recreation loop steering people and their dogs away from the sensitive areas around Poutawa Stream.

Te Ārai Preservation Society suggest that further consideration be given to how a dog exercise area might be accommodated within Te Ārai Point and the wider area of Te Ārai South, away from sensitive habitat areas.

HBC Dog Training Club and Dog Friends Auckland and Rodney disagreed with the proposed ban and questioned where people living in the area could walk their dogs.

Sand mining

Both the New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust and the Te Ārai Preservation Society suggested that the draft Plan should include a policy to advocate against the offshore sand mining along the coast because of the potential negative impacts on the values of Te Ārai Regional Park.

Te Muri

Some 66 points from 54 submitters were made on this park.

The comments related to:

- Protecting the natural biodiversity, wilderness and sense of remoteness
- Options for providing access to Te Muri
- Opposition to the proposed boardwalk/footbridge across Te Muri Stream
- Suggestions for upgrading facilities at the campground
- Preferences for recreational use in the park.

There was general support for policies directed at protecting and enhancing the natural biodiversity, ecosystems and habitat on the park.

“Te Muri is a special place and deserves to remain the peaceful spot it is. It is a place with a stunning natural ecosystem and home to many native birds. The primary goal of the council should be to protect this.”

Access to the park raised a variety of concerns among submitters, with some wanting the park retained as a farm and closed to the public. Others agreed with providing access as long as it was not at the expense of losing the sense of remoteness and natural beauty of the park and creating an adverse effect at Mahurangi West.

There was significant feedback on the options for providing access to Te Muri. These included proposals to construct a boardwalk / footbridge across Te Muri Stream; develop a new car park at Mahurangi West (Ngarewa Drive); and develop a new main arrival area near the Hungry Creek Road entrance to the park.

There was strong opposition to the boardwalk / footbridge option and an associated car park at Mahurangi West. Submitters said Mahurangi West Road and Ngarewa Drive were already congested over the summer period and not designed or suitable for high volumes of traffic. The roads are narrow, windy, unsealed in parts and not safe for walkers or cyclists.

Several submitters commented that the bridge / walkway access is being promoted and privately funded by a small group of people and is not supported by the local iwi or the residents of the Mahurangi West area.

Submitters agreed:

“Te Muri Regional Park does need access, but Mahurangi West is the wrong place for access, it will ruin the atmosphere forever. It should never be the only access, and never the main access.”

Submitters instead suggested access to the park should be via Hungry Creek Road, as signalled in the earlier variation to the 2010 plan (adopted in 2016).

“I believe it is essential that the plan specifically include reference to the provision of viable access to Te Muri via Hungry Creek Road.”

One submitter suggested the park could be developed by providing bike trails across the farmland from Hungry Creek Road. Others suggested developing new tracks in the park should be a priority given the shortage of tracks elsewhere in the network.

A combined submission from Mahurangi Action / Mahurangi Coastal Trail contained several points regarding supporting a proposed Mahurangi Coastal Trail, suggestions for creating

one large Mahurangi Regional Park (by combining Mahurangi East, West, Te Muri and Wenderholm) and options for providing access to the parks.

Other suggestions included:

- turning the existing dwellings on the park into bach accommodation
- upgrading campground facilities (showers and toilets)
- utilizing the shed near the campground as a small bach or a resource for campers, by providing a freezer and kitchen and/or using the space as a games room

One submitter opposed any shift of the campground away from the beach, as they did not consider it at risk from sea level rise. However, they did support any new infrastructure for the campground being located away from the coast.

Some submitters suggested investigating providing water access to the park (and adjacent parks) via barges or water taxis. There was mixed support for this idea: some supported the idea while others opposed the intrusion motorised boats would have on kayakers and others.

“...alternative methods of access could be looked at, such as water taxis from Wenderholm or Sullivans Bay. Leaving the park as it is, however, should be the preferred option”

“I am opposed to water access from Wenderholm, Scotts Landing, etc. Small craft - kayaks - row boats sailing dinghies, and swimmers love the relative safety of these harbours without risk of injury by larger noisy pollution generating craft traversing back and forth. One of the things we love is to explore these safe waters in our small boats the thought of a ferry type system being imposed is an abhorrent one.”

A few submitters commented on the need maintain and protect Te Muri urupā. One submitter requested that the descendants of the tupuna buried at this wāhi tapu should have the opportunity to give feedback when the time comes to discuss serious matters such as relocating the urupā.

Te Rau Pūriri

Some 23 points from 13 submitters were made on this park.

There was general support for the proposed management intentions for this park, particularly those that reflected the concept plan recently consulted on for park development.

The comments included:

- Suggested wording changes for the park vision
- Develop the northern area for recreational use and boating access
- Expansion of multi-use trails in the park
- Potential for developing regional day and multi-day walking trails from the west coast through to the Kaipara Harbour

Submitters agreed with the proposal to shift the park entrance north to the safer location at Omokoiti Bay and developing this area for recreational activities, including additional camping and SCC facilities. The New Zealand Motor Caravan Association supported this.

“The park is a relatively isolated and undeveloped park which has real potential to open up the natural and cultural landscapes of South Kaipara for Aucklanders to experience. Given its isolation, overnight stays should be accommodated for visitors as is indicated in the draft Plan.”

There was strong support for providing a boat ramp and continuing to allow boat launching using a permit or similar system to help provide much needed boat access to the Kaipara Harbour. The boat ramp area was important for hunters and anglers, given the shortage of adequate boat launching sites in the Kaipara.

Some submitters were disappointed that the plan did not reference the opportunity to work with the Department of Conservation (DOC), mana whenua, landowners and the Ministry of Defence to create multi-day walking experiences from the west coast through to the Kaipara Harbour, including a potential loop taking in Kaipara Head. While they thought this was hinted at in the park vision, there was no management intention included relating to this proposal.

Submitters saw the potential to create linkages from the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, to Muriwai through the southern portions of South Head and passing through the DOC land to end at the coast of the Kaipara at Te Rau Pūriri. A multi-day experience as described has the potential to link the Manukau Harbour, West Coast and Kaipara Harbour and could also be an extension of the Hillary Trail.

Other submitters wanted to see access to Lake Rototoa provided from the park and supported working closely with DOC to jointly achieve this.

DOC clarified the situation regarding management of the marginal strip, confirming it could not transfer the land under the Reserves Act but rather transfer the right to manage the land, should this be pursued by council.

Wenderholm

Some 38 points from 26 submitters were made on this park.

There was general support for the proposed management intentions for this park. Comments included:

- Allowing overnight parking (one night only) by certified self-contained vehicles in the main car park
- Providing better camping facilities and the opportunity to camp with your dog
- Mana whenua involvement
- Expanding public transport links to the park, and connections to coastal trails, cycle trails and adjacent parks
- Amendments to park history section.

Several submissions requested the opportunity for certified self-contained vehicles to stay overnight in the main carpark, arriving after 4.00pm and departing by 9.00am. This would allow for impromptu use of the car parks after day visitors have left the park and expand opportunities especially for older people to have mini breaks within the region.

One submitter opposed relocating the certified self-contained vehicle sites from the main car park if it means building a new carpark, and instead supported the suggestion to allow overnight parking in the main carpark.

Te Kawerau ā Maki specifically sought to provide for mana whenua involvement in park management and strengthen recognition of their identity and connections to the park and opportunities for interpretation. Te Kawerau sought to give the park a dual name, and to change the park category from 3 to 2 or 1b, to recognise the cultural significance of the parkland.

Several suggestions were made by submitters to increase public transport links to the park. This included options such providing a commercially operated bus service network running from public transport hubs in Warkworth and Wenderholm, using smaller seating buses with bike racks. A second option was to develop a passenger ferry service, again running from public transport hubs to access points to tracks on the coastal trail networks

A combined submission from Mahurangi Action/Mahurangi Coastal Trail contained several points relating to supporting a proposed Mahurangi Coastal Trail, including suggestions for creating one large Mahurangi Regional Park (by combining Mahurangi East, West, Te Muri and Wenderholm), with access and connections created between parks and trail networks.

There were mixed views about water or ferry type services, with some submitters clearly opposed to such activities while others supported it.

Friends of Regional Parks supported the link to Te Muri and the proposed development of the Puhoi to Mangawhai Trail, and the establishment of the Mahurangi Coastal Trail linking Wenderholm, Te Muri and Mahurangi West, as this would enable the three regional parks to be accessed by public transport and walking or cycling.

In addition, they suggested amendments to the section on park history to accurately reflect Wenderholm was one of the first parks purchased to become the foundation of the regional parks network, together with the Centennial Memorial Park in what is now the Waitākere Ranges. Friends of Regional Parks support maintaining the current park name.

In terms of recreation provision, submitters requested reinstating the boat ramp and greater emphasis on enforcing dog bylaws to ensure the safety and enjoyment of the park by other visitors. Auckland Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club requested that provision be made for this activity to be allowed as a permitted activity at Wenderholm.

Waiheke

Motukorea / Browns Island

Some 21 points from 6 submitters were made on this park.

Submitters were concerned that dogs need to be actively managed on the beaches, proposing that one beach could allow access but not on the remaining beaches, as dogs disrupt nesting shorebirds.

Friends of Motukorea generally supported the draft plan but feel it lacks a strong vision. They considered the island has potential for higher biodiversity protection and low-impact recreation opportunities.

Suggestions included:

- Provision of toilet facilities
- Managed shorebird roosting / breeding area
- Stop fishing, ban set netting, and created a marine protected area around the island
- More revegetation planting and a greater focus on weed management
- Delineating a route for walkers from the beach to trig
- Protection of European and Māori history and installation of interpretation
- A full-time ranger present on the island

FOR Parks agreed with the suggestions above and included ongoing geological protection and pest animal and plant eradication.

Drowning Prevention Auckland saw no immediate need for improved water safety measures as the island can only be accessed by small boats or kayakers.

Whakanewha

Some 15 points from nine submitters were made on this park.

Comments related to:

- Pedestrian access from surrounding areas and pedestrian safety
- Track development proposals
- Camping settings and management
- Protection of historic heritage
- Protection of marine resources from land-based activities
- Safe swimming.

Support

Three submitters, including FOR Parks, supported this plan and felt the park's "sensitivities are clearly well understood." The dotterel breeding activity in the park was seen as a huge asset for the island.

FOR Parks encouraged the council to continue implementing policies and strategies which contribute to improving the health of the Hauraki Gulf, and Whakanewha remaining in the regional parks network.

One submitter strongly supported the plan to build new tracks to join Kowhai and Nikau Tracks to avoid dangers for walkers on the road, and for clearer signage so that people do not walk along the road. This submitter also strongly supported the plan to properly form and interpret the track near the pā site.

Opposition

Two submitters opposed the proposal to expand camping options to include glamping, as they considered this should be left to the private sector. Glamping would also require significant upgrades to water management. They believe the current settings for camping allow for high turnover / more people to use the facility.

One submitter felt introducing camping sites at car park locations would reduce the area's attractiveness for them.

One submitter had concerns about the suggestion that all management intentions within this chapter over the next 10 years could only be done after consultation with “undefined” mana whenua.

Suggestions

One submitter proposed a new connection from near the beginning of Nikau Track through the bush to the Central Track, to enable people with dogs to connect the two tracks without walking on the dangerous road or illegally using Pā and Rua Tracks.

Another suggestion was to identify, protect and interpret the historical puriri timber post and rail fence (seaward side of Dotties Lane, near Peter's Patch) as this was a unique feature on the island.

Submitters also wanted clearer pedestrian access from the suburb of Omiha / Stony Bay to the park, so that the bus service could be used to access the park more easily. Current access is restricted by tides and terrain. The aim should be to make access “*more like a walk [to] an urban park.*”

Several submitters commented on campervan use and proposals, suggesting the car park on Carsons Road should be opened to campervans and have a lockable gate. Another submitter suggested supporting campervans in the park would require proper chemical toilet management provision.

Two submitters presented strong concerns about stormwater run-off from dirt tracks, a clean fill site and a farm entering the park's stream system, indicating this needed urgent attention by the council and Auckland Transport to avoid the loss of native fish species such as giant kokopu. The submitters considered “*the solution could be as simple as sealing a small stretch of road.*”

Drowning Prevention Auckland noted that Whakanewha Bay is a tidal location popular for swimming, boaties and sea kayakers when the tide is in, and they wish to work with the council to mitigate drowning risk.

In reference to protecting marine resources, one submitter observed cockles and pipis are being taken from Whakanewha daily, plundering the resource, and wanted this included in the rāhui.

Waitākere Ranges

Waitākere Ranges

Some 987 points from 158 submitters were made on this park.

Due to the size of this regional park, park chapter and quantity of comments received, comments are summarised into sub-sections.

Park vision

There were about 50 comments on the park's vision. This included varying opposition for the new vision, with several submitters suggesting the 2010 version better captures the multifaceted role of the park and included mention of 'wilderness' and 'respite' and reflects the need to provide for these experiences.

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust requested *“remove pests and humans from the centre and high biodiversity catchments of the forest to ensure that the mauri of the bulk of the forest can thrive and thus provide a biodiversity refuge and ‘mauri sink/reservoir’ that can support recreation on the edges or in targeted and controlled parts of the forest.”*

Submitters felt the rugged and remote nature of the park and the importance of fostering stewardship were lost in the new vision. They did not want to be relegated to the 'fringes of the park' but have access to all the park and be able to experience the wilderness the inner forest offers. It was noted the park was established for recreation and conservation.

A few submitters were concerned about 'accommodating growing visitor numbers', seeing this as a focus on tourism or support for increasing visitor numbers. Some noted the vision's focus should be on enhancing the ranges, with one noting it lacked reference to native biodiversity. Watercare requested amendments to the vision to acknowledge the significant role of the park for water supply.

Submitters noted:

“The ability to lose yourself in nature away from crowds teaches the importance of kaitiakitanga to city people. Limiting access to the fringes where crowds experience a more highly managed visit with more infrastructure loses the ability to connect with the wilderness element.”

“By ignoring the intrinsic value of wilderness in the Waitākere Ranges the draft RPMP ignores the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008.”

“Wilderness values have to be the most important priority of management and stewardship of our park and all of us users must feel that we are stewards of the park.”

“the significant vision of recreation in natural places for Aucklanders has been completely removed, and the inconvenient visitors have been exiled to the fringes of the park only”

“the park has been a carefully managed taonga in the past. Current management is diminishing mauri and locking people out under the guise of a “brave new vision” conveniently bolstered by kauri dieback.”

“Presupposes that people will understand the words ‘mauri’, ‘ngahere’, and ‘taonga’ as being legitimate reasons for losing access to inland forested

areas; and they have been adequately consulted about this loss even though the science is indeterminate on the need for permanent closure.”

“the emphasis in this latest plan is all wrong. This place needs to stay as wild as can be. It’s not the east Coast, its very nature is turbulent and ever changing. People need nature to be itself. That’s what is most important.”

Park categories

There were close to 140 individual comments on the park categories within the park. Most submitters opposed the introduction of the Category 1b and suggested the park be managed entirely as a Class 1 or Category 1 park, as it had in the past, recognising its heritage, ecological, wilderness and recreational values and minimal infrastructure.

Submitters saw the 1b category as a downgrade and suggested this will result in encouraging visitation, over-development of these areas, too many car parks, environmental impacts, and the loss of wilderness values.

Submitters supported the use of SMZs to control the management of high use areas and protect park values from the impacts of increased visitors.

Several submitters specified areas where they did not want to see the category 1b introduced. FOR Parks supported the category 1b and recommended Little Huia be added into category 1b and Cornwallis be 1b or 2, given its high use of the beach, wharf and other fishing spots.

Submitters noted:

‘the notion of 1b directly undermines and renders useless the SMZ notation which was about protecting the values of an area of the Waitākere Ranges parkland as it is, not transforming/developing it into something more akin to a Class 2 park.’

‘turning the Waitākere Ranges into an urban park is incredibly sad and a misuse of a heritage asset.’

‘the impact of crowds is massive and the land cannot take any more of a battering’

‘Auckland’s regional parks should be managed in a way that makes them “good neighbours”. This principle has been overlooked in the plan. The 1b classification drives towards increased visitors and commercial activities, while provision of resources to manage visitor impacts are “subject to resource availability.’

The FMC noted ‘Category 1a was not applicable because no wilderness experiences are available to park users and that Category 1b is most appropriate – “...intensive management and monitoring of visitor experiences...” or Category 2 for the higher use areas where visitor numbers have now been concentrated because of availability of only a small kms of open tracks.’

Mana whenua involvement in park management

There were about 30 comments relating to mana whenua involvement in park management. A few touched on proposed co-management / co-governance, suggesting mana whenua know their whenua and as kaitiaki managed the whenua in harmony with Papatūānuku long

before tauiwi arrived. Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust supported being able to give full effect to their kaitiakitanga and to ensure management is based on mauri-first principle. They also sought to progress the Deed of Acknowledgement and a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe with the council to formalise their iwi-specific relationship with the council and RMA matters, including the preparation of an annual work programme to deliver these mana whenua outcomes.

Submitters noted:

'The Waitākere Ranges and Auckland's West Coast beaches are held as a taonga not just by the local iwi, Te Kawerau ā Maki, but also by European settlers, who have lived, worked, played and died here over many generations. While supporting the cultural and spiritual values of Māori in this area, at the same time we need to give equal credence to other races ... who have also come to regard this area as their cultural and spiritual turangawaewae. The wishes and beliefs of one group should not necessarily override those of other groups who are equally committed to the area.'

'Names given to features and places by Te Kawerau ā Maki should be recorded on maps and referred to. Prior to European colonisation, Te Kawerau ā Maki named every headland, valley, stream, hill, rock, caves and all features in the Waitākere Ranges. Bring back all of those names. We deserve them as our heritage. We need to know them. They are very much part of our heritage and the taonga of the Waitākeres. We may be told the stories of Te Kawerau ā Maki, which I would say are part of our heritage as well.'

Some comments suggested some lack of support for Māori decision-making and partnerships. FOR Parks submitted the wider community, in addition to mana whenua, must be engaged to develop common agreement on management priorities and implementation strategies. A few submitters requested the publication of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Auckland Council and Te Kawerau ā Maki. They questioned 'how are the people of Auckland to submit on matters vital to the management of their regional parks if contractual arrangements important to the care of the parks are not publicised.'

Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act

Some submitters pointed out the link between the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act (WRHAA) and the legal requirement to recognise the park's national significance and protect and enhance its heritage features. One submitter commended the draft plan for having a more robust acknowledgement of the obligations and duties park governance must adhere to under the WRHAA. Te Kawerau ā Maki, along with other submitters, requested a new forum be created to implement the WRHAA, including alongside them, council and central government representation.

Submitters, including FOR Parks, suggested the management intentions must consider the whole Act. There was particular reference to Section 7 which outlines the national significance and heritage features of the area (clauses e, f, g and m) relating to the quietness and darkness, dramatic landforms, wilderness opportunities and accessible public places in close proximity to metropolitan Auckland.

Submitters supported monitoring of the environment and recreation impacts in accordance with the Act. One submitter suggested the draft Plan fails to give effect to the purpose and objectives of the Act while others suggested the proposed category changes breached the Act, or the closing of the tracks did not align with the Act.

Other general comments

Submitters noted the Waitākere Ranges are a precious resource not replicated anywhere else in the region and we need to protect these experiences for future generations. It was suggested the draft Plan needed to include more European history, noting Europeans also had a deep spiritual connection to the forest.

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust sought clarification regarding the mention of Taitomo being referred to in the management intention to protect parkland in perpetuity through S139 of the Local Government Act, as Taitomo is the name of the island in their customary title.

There was concern the draft Plan proposed promotion of sites such as Karekare, Fairy Falls and Spraggs Bush and this would lead to visitors having experiences like those on the Tongariro Crossing, Cathedral Cove or the Botanic Gardens. A submitter questioned how the park can provide a wilderness experience if the plan is to seal the roads and provide much bigger car parks right up to it. They suggested this surely makes it just a view to be seen rather than an experience to be had.

Watercare requested the focus of the park include recognition of the significant contribution it makes to the region's water supply. They requested Watercare be enabled and encouraged to adaptively manage its infrastructure within its leased and licensed catchment areas, to consider alternate water supply options such as wastewater reuse, energy neutrality, and emissions sequestration and reduction. Another submitter noted if the Three Water's legislation results in the transfer of assets to central government ownership, the plans will need to be sufficiently robust to ensure that a centralised management model aligns with the protection of our water supply and biodiversity goals in and around our regional water reservoirs in the Waitākere and Hūnua Ranges.

Kauri dieback and track management

This section reports on comments relating to kauri dieback management, tracks, the proposed track network plan and principles and criteria for tracks as they relate to this park.

The closure of tracks as part of kauri dieback management and the recent upgrade of tracks drew a lot of passionate comments. These topics were quite interrelated with submitters covering various aspects of the proposed management and the proposed recreation plan / track network plan.

There were around 50 comments specific to **kauri dieback** and very much related to access into the forest. Several submitters requested the finalisation of the draft Plan be delayed until the results of the kauri dieback survey were available. Others noted this will inform the track network plan, which should include significant consultation. It was proposed the recreation / track network plan should trigger a variation to the RPMP. It was also suggested the current closed tracks should be maintained to enable their future re-opening.

More than 40 submitters specifically requested the opening of tracks, and that access into the heart of the forest or wilderness experiences be available now.

In relation to kauri dieback driving the track closures and upgrade programme, there was a range of comments, including:

- Stop the track upgrades until science decrees it is necessary.
- Open the tracks immediately, as there was not the science to support their closure and the risk of the disease spreading by human traffic was 'very low'.
- Factors such as climate change and natural thinning of regenerating forest are not mentioned.

- More control or the elimination of feral pigs is required.
- The targeted rate appears to be a grab for tourism infrastructure.
- The council has been allowing misinformation dissemination as a cover for the track closures and extraordinary track upgrades along the Hillary Trail and others where there is little or no kauri.

Submitters comments included:

“DOC has shown, upgrading for kauri dieback protection is possible with a much less extreme and more cost-effective standard than Auckland Council has adopted. If a lower cost model had been adopted by council, more tracks could have been upgraded and re-opened more quickly. The targeted environmental levy is budgeted to provide \$43.5M over 10 years for track upgrades and vehicle wash-downs - more than enough to upgrade all the approximately 250 km of tracks in WRRP to an acceptable kauri dieback standard.”

“We want an independent unbiased review of the way Auckland Council is applying the MPI National Kauri Dieback Track Infrastructure Guidelines (1/7/19) and the MPI Kauri Dieback Disease Management National Technical Specification for Track Mitigation Measure Rev C (6/9/2019) to protect kauri dieback, with concern that extensive track upgrades are sanitising the Waitākere parkland and undermining its wilderness values.”

“Our residents have all chosen to live in the forest because they respect, enjoy and conserve the environment (we contribute to weed and pest control in the park, among other things) but we are becoming increasingly frustrated by our inability to use our local tracks.”

A few submitters were disappointed people were sneaking into closed tracks or letting their dogs off lead, risking the spread of kauri dieback. One submitter noted the importance of protecting all kauri, including rickers, so they can become significant kauri.

Some submitters mentioned the recent **upgrades of tracks** as providing sanitised, homogenised footpaths rather than a connection with nature, or immersive experiences. There were examples given of specific upgrades and in some cases the costs to deliver these. Submitters also mentioned the mental health benefits of walking and tramping in the natural environment and the respect and care it fosters for nature.

It was noted the park is under increasing pressure due to Auckland’s population growth, upgrading of tracks, and increased advertising attracting more visitors. There is pressure on the limited number of tracks that are open, with the demand for these being overwhelming. It was suggested this increasing pressure needs careful management if the unspoiled nature of the region is to be maintained. The Waitākere Ranges Protection Society strongly advocates the importance of preservation of the Waitākere Ranges and believes it requires protection from development and proper management of visitor numbers.

Two submitters noted their support for the upgraded tracks, one noting these not only address the issues around kauri dieback, but also to help cope with the significantly higher use already occurring and the increasing number of storm events.

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust sought recreational infrastructure to protect the mauri of the park centre and provide a variety of experiences to meet demand, with a focus on key hubs. They also requested amendment to the plan where it suggests ‘back country tramping and running

experiences are unlikely to be provided' replacing this with 'rough natural surface tracks are likely to be limited' to avoid confusion between 'remote' and the standard of the track.

A few submitters voiced their opposition to the rāhui and to discouraging off-track activity.

Proposed track network plan

Several submitters supported the proposed preparation of a recreation plan including track network plan with some suggesting this should begin immediately or have a committed timeframe.

Comments included:

- No tracks should be permanently closed – all are needed for pest control or have heritage values.
- The 2019-24 Track Reopening Plan committed a further review of temporarily closed tracks would be part of this review of the RPMP. This commitment is not delivered by this draft Plan and is a critical missing component.
- The new plastic mesh and step walks are horrific, no more please.
- The council has failed to listen to 61% of 800 submissions in 2018 wanting more access, more trails, longer trails. The proposed plan is essentially closing at least half of the Waitākere Ranges permanently, this is not what the residents of Auckland want.
- Council must recognise 100 years heritage of tramping track use and volunteer maintenance by including the Auckland clubs and groups in the track design process. We are not your enemy unless you decide we are.
- Unless the public can experience the wonder of the forest, they are not going to understand the need to protect and conserve it.
- There needs to be a greater variety of track options appropriate to the terrain offering a more challenging and varied walking and tramping opportunities.
- Continue to keep infrastructure to a minimum and don't locate it in prominent positions such as cliff edges or on the foreshore.
- FOR Parks challenges the validity of the track users survey in 2021 and requests comprehensive independent surveying take place during the preparation of the Recreation and Track Plan. They asked the council to focus on reopening as many tracks as possible that serve Aucklanders rather than tourists and that the assumption that remote back-country tramping and running experiences are unlikely to be provided in the park be tested during the preparation of the plan.
- This needs to be done with meaningful consultation and collaboration to properly understand what different user needs actually are, involving key stakeholders in the planning.
- Connection of tracks was seen as important and linked tracks, such as the Hillary Trail, should be the highest priority.

Several submitters called for strategies to **control visitor numbers** in the Waitākere Ranges, including dispersing them by promoting less used parks and destinations. There were requests for the council to not market the Waitākere Ranges parkland, hold concessions at current numbers, and not develop specific visitor destinations such as selfie lookouts or bridges.

Other comments relating to recreation and use

These included the proposed accommodation review, access to and within the park and mountain biking.

Several submissions related to the wider recreation plan and touched on accommodation within the park. Some did not support the intention to review of accommodation, saying this was unnecessary and could be covered in the RPMP.

There was a request to upgrade campsites or create more primitive camping sites, to be assessed as part of the recreation plan. There was support for including Whare Puke (Huia) and Paturoa House (South Titirangi Road) as baches.

There was both opposition and support for the proposed hut in the Pararaha to support the Hillary Trail. Those opposing it stated there was plenty of accommodation options within the local communities along the trail, it was only 1.5 hours walk from Karekare, it was contrary to protecting the environment and a previous hut in the location had been abused and vandalised to the point it was closed and demolished.

A submission in support noted 'more huts will get more families with young families out doing multi-day trips. We need these stepping stones close to home to train them up for the longer trips that are further afield and require more investment to get to.'

The Auckland University Tramping Club and other submitters specifically requested upgrading the section of track leading to the Ōngāruanuku Hut to enable its use. Two submitters suggested this should remain in its current location.

The NZMCA noted there is significant pressure from people living within the Ranges to manage the park and its resources just in their interests, when in fact it is an asset for all Aucklanders and should be managed as such. They recognised opportunities to expand vehicle-based camping within the park are very limited, making it important to use the existing camping areas as well as they can be. They proposed further camping / parking opportunities be investigated at Barn Paddock in Huia, on Huia Rd west of the Huia Stream, up to Huia Dam Rd, on Lone Kauri Rd near the Karekare Beach car park and for the expansion of sites at the Arataki Visitor Centre. One submitter requested that no additional SCC camping be provided in the park, noting the large vehicles are obtrusive and energy intensive, and not consistent with wilderness area experience.

Submitters commented on access into the park and objected to maximising and expanding car parking. Comments included 'opposes formalising roads or parking by sealing, marking out or curbing and channelling' and 'additional hard-stand carparking should not be used as a means of accommodating increased visitor numbers as it results in increased traffic along narrow winding roads and is unsustainable in the long term.' One submitter noted the current car parking requires better layouts and marking as many visitors are urban and without demarcation parking is often very random and inefficient.

Numerous submitters supported the proposal to investigate different transport options, saying this would reduce pressure on car parks and the need to expand these, as well as addressing climate change. There was support for shuttle bus services with several suggestions how these could be run from the rail stations, other public transport connections or from Arataki.

Some submitters supported more cycling and e-bike access to the park.

There was a request to reinstate the caps on certain activities contained in the 2010 plan. One submitter requested an explanation for 'limits of acceptable change methodology and other monitoring and recreation management tools' and another asked for greater

explanation on 'how the use of management tools and digital communication will be used to manage increased numbers.'

Several submitters opposed any further biking in the park, other than the family cycling provided on Exhibition Drive. Two submitters supported providing for mountain biking within the park, with consideration given to locations such as Cutty Grass Track where their development will not cause environmental damage or degradation of walking tracks. One submitter requested more attention be given to preserving and improving cycle safety for the large community of cyclists who use the Waitākere Ranges.

Several submissions requested the continued prohibition of motor or dirt bikes in the park, while also opposing the provision of 4WD within the park or on the beaches. FOR Parks opposed a blanket prohibition of vehicles on beaches, suggesting the council needs to supply boat ramps to remove the vehicles in some locations.

Other recreational activities mentioned included:

- Acknowledge hang gliding and paragliding in the section on recreation provision.
- Support for the continued prohibition of recreational hunting in the Waitākere Ranges
- Seek appropriate heritage status for areas within the park that the 'dark sky' can be enjoyed.
- Support the investigation of other dog walking options in the wider heritage area.
- Ban the use of drones within the park, except with express permission.
- Continued ban on set netting.

A few submitters specifically supported opportunities for those with limited mobility, suggesting the retention of views in places along Scenic Drive. Some noted 'a range of selected tracks be provided for people with mobility issues, ensuring these tracks are not in places which already suffer from congestion and limited space.'

Several submitters supported vegetation clearance to ensure viewshafts were protected, with some suggesting old views be reinstated.

Drowning Prevention Auckland noted there are many locations for water activities in the park, including Cornwallis, Kitekite Falls and Lake Wainamu. They also supported the proposed continuance of advocacy for safe fishing practices on West Coast beaches.

Other – natural environment and heritage

Other comments relating to the protection of the natural environment and heritage included park naming, heritage protection, biodiversity protection, pest control, climate response, and notable trees.

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust supported formalising the change of name of the park to 'Te Wao Nui ā Tiriwa / Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. Two submitters that supported this and several opposed it. FOR Parks noted they want to keep the name Waitākere Ranges Regional Park because of its historical significance and international recognition and use in the WRHA Act.

There were calls for greater biodiversity protection with support for the eradication of pests. Forest and Bird suggested a focus on how pest control measures such as 1080 could be used in areas to complement community trapping, and other submitters supported a landscape level pest control trial similar to that in the Hūnuas. Others noted they did not like the use of poisons.

Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance requested pest plants be included in the 'pressures and challenges' section. One submitter suggested the council had been too slow to react to some well-known establishing pest species and they recommended a larger budget for managing the weed species that could totally alter the Whatipū Scientific Reserve. Two submitters mentioned the need to control feral cats.

Submitters noted:

'the focus must remain on the enhancement of the forest, staying as close to nature as nature itself (leaving the infrastructure for the city), and creating a predator-free environment so that the birdlife can recover and return, inanga can spawn and the ngāhere be restored.'

'general redirection of budget from infrastructure to urgently needed pest plant and pest animal control throughout the Waitākere Ranges Park.'

Some submitters noted the need to protect heritage sites in the Ranges, with a few naming specific features such as the tunnel boiler. One submitter requested that interpretation be balanced and equitable in its presentation of iwi and tauiwi histories and cultural values.

Climate change impacts on the Waitākere Ranges was raised by a submitter suggesting the plan needed to recognise changing temperatures and increased intensity of weather events, not just flooding. Extra effort is required to increase the resilience of native species, and a plan is needed to protect not only infrastructure and cultural heritage, but also coastal habitats for species at risk of storm surges and sea level rise.

Another suggested long-term climate change planning should recognise the risks of flooding in coastal areas and include more inland and higher elevation tracks that are not so vulnerable to increasingly severe weather events. Watercare noted the increasing risks of bush fires and intense rainfall events that can initiate mass land instability events also needs to be considered in the plan.

Some submitters advocated for an Order in Council for those parts of the park not already covered by one, to protect that land in perpetuity (principally in regard to Taitomo Block, Piha).

Some submitters suggested additions or amendments to the stakeholder list for various community organisations and recreational groups, such as Karekare Landcare, Fire and Emergency and volunteer fire services and local tramping groups.

Special Management Zones in the Waitākere Ranges

Anawhata

Submitters generally agreed with the intentions to manage Anawhata as a remote experience area with a small gravel car park, toilet and directional signs.

Submitters raised concerns around safety, maintenance and crowding issues on Anawhata Road, including overnight parking; the need for pest control; better measures for dog control, and the adoption of more sustainable farming practices.

Other submissions suggested:

- The SMZ area should be expanded to include Whites Beach which is accessed through Anawhata and north Piha.

- The council should research the novel pyrophytic vegetation as part of forming a fire plan.
- FOR Parks believes that fire is a major risk and requests priority be placed on pest plant control in cooperation with neighbours in Anawhata.
- Work with private landowners to protect Anawhata as a remote park, as there are parts of the beach and dunes which are privately owned,
- Support volunteer group Friends of Anawhata.

Arataki Visitor Centre and surrounds

Several submitters suggested:

- Maintaining Arataki as a Class 1 park.
- Supporting the Friends of Arataki and its annual Children's Day.
- Improving visibility along Scenic Drive so traffic is visible to those in the centre or its grounds, however submitters requested vegetation not be removed.
- Establishing a shuttle bus service between Arataki and other destinations.

Other suggestions for Arataki include allocating resourcing for the tree canopy walkway, improving food offerings, recognising the engineering significance of Waitākere Dam, FOR Parks supported rebuilding the bush camp as a high priority, and more mountain bike links.

There was mixed support for management intention 45(b) to create a new track linking Arataki with the Incline Track.

Cascade Kauri

Two submitters support managing Cascades Kauri / Ark in the Park as a special management zone, for the area to be maintained as a Class 1 park instead of a 1B park category, and to provide picnic areas for groups.

One submitter notes that the Ark in the Park project also monitors various native species and contributes to DOC's national seed fall monitoring project. They suggest collaboration with the Ark in the Park project to include facilities to support our community conservation work.

One submitter mentioned a high level of bat activity along the waterways, suggesting any changes made to the Waitākere waterfalls needs to consider the impact this may have on the bats.

Another submitter stated that having re-opened the Montana Heritage Trail, there will be significant recreational value in linking that trail from Simla through to the Cutty Grass Track.

Cornwallis

Submitters supported managing Cornwallis as a SMZ and maintaining the area as a Class 1 park, deleting reference to the 1b park category. They considered there was no need to downgrade the classification.

FOR Parks suggested that Cornwallis be 1b or 2, given its high use of the beach, wharf, and other fishing spots.

Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance supported the removal of wilding pines from Pūponga Point and protection of penguins and Oi /Grey-faced petrels. Submitters opposed renaming Cornwallis Peninsula to Karangahape Peninsula.

They suggested all work should be done in consultation with local stakeholders and requested that Save Cornwallis Old Wharf (SCOW) and the Petrelheads be added to the stakeholder list.

FOR Parks requested increased pest control in conjunction with volunteer groups and strongly supported management intention 59 (investigating pedestrian access to the beach and wharf for those with limited mobility). They considered Cornwallis wharf should be part of the recreation plan.

FOR Parks also proposed additional management intentions to include development of a camping area, cycling tracks, upgrade of boat launching facilities, increased enforcement of dog control bylaws and support volunteer group pest control efforts.

FOR Parks opposed management intention 61 (managed retreat) and considered further discussion was required with the local community on this approach.

Fairy Falls and Spraggs Bush

Submitters supported Fairy Falls and Spragg Bush being managed as an SMZ and maintaining the area as a Class 1 park instead of a 1B park category. One submitter suggested any future work in the area should consider impacts on kōkako nesting there.

Kakamatua

Submitters supported Kakamatua being managed as an SMZ and proposals to investigate developing dog walking options in other locations to reduce the demand and pressure on Kakamatua. This should be given urgency to reduce the degradation being caused to the riparian and forested areas.

They also supported the council working to rationalise parking and the prohibition of parking along Huia Road.

Submitters were concerned about dogs chasing birds and suggested improved signage and more enforcement of dog bylaws was required. They also suggested the need to urgently review impacts of dog walking on kauri, and the potential risk of kauri dieback spreading.

Submitters urgent pest plant control in the Kakamatua wetland, which is becoming overwhelmed by invasive weeds, and on the fire site above the beach.

Karamatura

One submitter supported managing Karamatura Valley and Farm as a SMZ.

One submitter supported Karamatura being categorised as 1(b) park category due to the increase in visitor numbers, while two submitters opposed this and wanted the area to be maintained as Class 1 and the reference to 1b deleted.

One submitter suggested the area needed more parking at the farm and for shuttle parking to access Whatipu, improvements to the campground and encouraged continuing support for the Huia Settlers Museum

Karekare

Submitters supported Karekare being managed as a SMZ.

Submitters opposed changes to the park category to 1b and wanted it to remain a category 1a (or Class 1 in the old system). They explained that visitors enjoy Karekare's wildness and remote natural values and this must be maintained.

Submitters opposed any management intentions relating to:

- Sealing car parks, marking parking spaces and creating new car parks.

- Changes to Pōhutukawa Glade, as this is an important recreation area for visitors and the local community.
- Developing a walking trail along the tramway alignment from Karekare to Whatipu.
- Charging for access to tracks.
- Tramping huts in the Pararaha Valley.
- Allowing access for mountain bikes.
- Vehicle access to beaches.

Submitters were concerned about parking issues on local roads, increasing visitor numbers, adverse impacts from visitors such as rubbish, environmental damage at Karekare Falls and the local environment, and possible conflicts between cyclists and vehicles as cycling to Karekare becomes more popular.

There was also concern about the track reopening plan, with submitters concerned this didn't offer enough walking opportunities in the Karekare area. Submitters suggested that main tracks such as Zion Ridge should be upgraded, and other tracks such as Odlins, Buck Taylor and Walker Ridge be upgraded to open over the summer months only.

One submitter suggested measures to enhance safety and visitor experience which included:

- Only allowing residents and residents visitors to park on the side of the road.
- Limiting visitor parking to the existing beach car park, no new car parks to be developed.
- Creation of a narrow wooden protected walkway along Karekare Road.
- Installing a "Parking full" digital detector at Karekare car park that relayed to a digital sign at the top of Karekare Road to inform visitors parking capacity had been reached.
- Providing a small compostable toilet at the waterfall.
- Installing a closed rubbish bin at the beach car park at the top of the waterfall.
- Enhancing beach safety with educational signage.

Lake Wainamu

Submitters strongly opposed the proposed change in the park category from Class 1 to park category 1b. Submitters were concerned increasing visitor numbers were already adversely affecting the dunes and the high amenity values that this environment provides to the local community.

Several submitters mentioned car parking issues and voiced their opposition to increasing capacity. Concerns were also raised about the narrow road access, school buses being unsafe on the road and that increasing car parking will only exacerbate these current issues. Some thought greater enforcement of illegal parking by Auckland Transport was needed.

One suggestion was pedestrian walkway between the Lake Wainamu and Bethells Beach car parks, to help provide additional parking capacity to access the lake. Another suggestion was a shuttle bus service from a park-and-ride facility, as an alternative way to access Lake Wainamu.

Submitters also commented on the impact of visitor activity on the local environment and community, including the use of portable speakers and the noise from large groups,

particularly fitness and sports groups. Some suggested a full-time ranger is needed to manage visitors and enforced opening and closing hours to Lake Wainamu. Some suggested a full-time ranger is needed to manage visitors and requested enforced opening and closing hours to Lake Wainamu.

Other concerns included the increase in graffiti, the extent of rubbish waste, and fires. Some submitters suggested a need for a community-led action plan to better protect the environment and to manage visitor numbers more effectively.

A proposed management intention was for council to work with local landowners to better protect the environment, limit disruptive activities and stop visitors trespassing on private properties. Some submitters were concerned that the draft Plan had failed to recognise that part of Lake Wainamu is in private ownership, particularly where public track access is made through private property.

Several submitters were concerned about the expired management agreement with QEII Trust and that there was no resolution on the classification status of Lake Wainamu to date. They noted there is a need to constitute a management plan for Lake Wainamu under section 41 of the Reserves Act.

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust noted Te Kawerau ā Maki have a particular interest in this area and are planning to develop a new marae on land near the park.

Submitters generally agreed there needed to be better signage around dog rules and more strict enforcement where dogs are prohibited. There was also support for the prohibition of unauthorised motor vehicles and watercraft, and for the removal of exotic weeds on the dunes.

A new management intention was proposed as follows:

“Restore Lake Wainamu to a healthy indigenous ecosystem with the aim to improve Water Quality. Undertaking comprehensive monitoring of pest weed and pest fish and maintain numbers at a threshold that improves the health of Lake Wainamu indigenous Ecosystem”.

Improvements to the track network were also suggested, including opening up the Waitākere Quarry site and bringing forward reopening of tracks in Te Henga / Bethells.

Lion Rock

Submitters supported managing Lion Rock as a SMZ but opposed the proposed park category of 1b, and wanted the area retained as a Class 1 Park.

Two submitters suggested there needs to be further consultation with iwi and community stakeholders on any proposal for re-opening access for people to climb to the top of Lion Rock.

All submitters acknowledged the need to remove pest plants at Lion Rock.

Little Huia

FOR Parks recommended Little Huia be added into category 1b in the Waitākere Ranges.

They supported the management intentions, noting the importance of needing to manage the huge increase in demand for boat launching and associated parking. Suggestions to address this included upgrading the boat ramp to reduce vehicle use of the beach, and retaining the front paddock as casual unformed parking area to serve the fishing community in peak season.

Submitters suggested more pest plant and weed control is required to support private property owner efforts.

Submitters also commented on Project K lodge, suggesting it needs immediate renovation to avoid further deterioration, and this could be actioned by partnering with a compatible environmental or recreational community organisation.

Mercer Bay Loop Walk and Lookouts

Submitters opposed changing the park category for Mercer Bay loop track and lookouts to park 1b and requested the Class 1 category be retained.

Specific track comments / suggestions included:

- Restrict disability access to the lookout, as it's too impractical to build and would lead to over-engineering the start of the track.
- Ensure the existing lookouts are safe but unobtrusive.
- Install dog bag dispensers as dogs are permitted to use the track.
- Oppose any new tracks or rerouting of tracks through the scheduled Radar Station site.
- Retain the full extent of the existing Mercer Bay Loop Track and do not build any additional tracks to lookouts.
- Do not allow any concessions on this site.
- Do not change the Mercer Bay Loop Track name to Te Kawerau ā Maki.

Other submitters suggested the need for an improved focus on removing invasive weeds, not just along the tracks.

Submitters were concerned about access issues and wanted a ban on tour buses using Te Ahuahu Road which is too narrow and didn't have a turnaround area when gates at the end of the road are closed. Car park capacity cannot be increased on Te Ahuahu Road or the end of Log Race Road due to their narrowness. Submitters were also opposed to proposed angle parking at Log Race Road.

Another submitter suggested using shuttle buses.

Submitters were concerned about a lack of pest control and revegetation in the area, while some called for a ban on new cats in the location.

There were requests to develop a plan for the maintenance and protection of the scheduled WWII Radar Station and to improve maintenance of the site using community volunteer support.

Mt Donald McLean Lookout

Submitters supported this area being managed as an SMZ.

FOR Parks suggested that as the lookout is increasingly being used as a trail head for Karamatura and Whatipu area tracks, the council should consider providing improved facilities including toilets. This could include interpretation providing descriptions of the summit views to Manukau Heads and back across the city.

North Piha / Te Waha Point

Submitters opposed the area being category 1b and wanted it to be retained as Class 1.

They highlighted the need for pest plant control at North Piha and Whites Beach, better signage on where dogs are permitted and prohibited, more enforcement of dog bylaws and the exclusion of dogs from picnic areas.

“Protect penguins and grey faced petrels by discouraging people from visiting places they are known to nest on Te Waha Point, the caves and also the cliffs behind the grassed picnic area next to the carpark.”

United North Piha Lifeguards requested the council provide additional storage space and observation platforms alongside the installation of new public toilets to assist with their lifeguarding duties.

Pae o te Rangi

The submitter supported Pae o Te Rangi being managed as an SMZ special management zone and the area being park category 2.

Pararaha Valley

Submitters supported Pararaha Valley being managed as an SMZ.

Submitters queried the value in adding a new hut in the valley, given it would be located within 90 mins walk of the car park and historically huts in this area have been vandalised. Others valued the wilderness experience and thought establishing a new hut would reduce this.

Some submitters thought construction of the new footbridge across the stream had already negatively impacted the remoteness of this environment and suggested that if a hut was needed it would be better located on the old Muir hut site.

Some submitters requested access to the lower Pararaha Gorge for swimming. They thought the lower part of the gorge would be easily accessed due to the gentler gradient and that visitors could walk alongside the stream instead of making a new track through kauri forest.

Other submissions included opposition to Pararaha Valley being classified as a 1b park category due to concerns that the sensitive environmental area would be degraded through higher visitor use.

There was general support for prioritising plant pest control, especially in wetlands areas, upgrading tracks such as Pararaha Valley and La Trobe tracks and opening them to the public, and support for the preservation of the old milling boiler and other items of historical milling activities in the area.

Pukematekeo Lookout

Submitters supported this area being an SMZ, but wanted the area classified as Class 1, deleting references to park category 1b.

Rose Hellaby House and Lookout

Submitters supported the historic precinct and lookout being managed as an SMZ.

They also supported a new commercial licence for the operation of the house, as long as free public access to the gardens and house was maintained.

Taitomo / Tasman and Gap Lookouts

Submitters supported this area being managed as an SMZ.

Several submitters voiced their concerns about the delay in implementing the approved plan variation for the Taitomo / Tasman and Gap Lookouts area, suggesting the entire variation should be included in the draft Plan.

Submitter comments relating the tracks included ensuring that the Tasman Lookout Track is not widened to protect the area's wilderness values; reducing the width of the planned track; moving the boardwalk from the herb field, moving the track to the blowhole and removing the built steps into the blowhole.

Other suggestions included installing more 'dogs prohibited' signs at access points to protect wildlife; mitigate the fire risk with a Fire Risk Plan and availability of an emergency water supply.

Protect Piha Heritage Society requested the council actively engage with the local initiatives from key community groups such as Piha Resident and Ratepayers Association, Waitākere Ranges Protection Society, Piha Coastcare, Pest Free Piha and FOR Parks.

Some submitters considered the plan was deficient in terms of pest plant control and submitted that more work was needed to remove gorse along the Tasman Lookout Track, replacing it with fire resistant planting.

Te Ara Tuhura / Hillary Trail

Some 40 submitters rejected the proposal that the Hillary Trail be developed to Great Walk standard. They were concerned about the trail being overdeveloped, over-used and opposed any commercial concessions on the track, except for transport providers or those providing formal youth education or development programmes. They were supportive of mana whenua concessions.

Others opposed the re-opening of the Hillary Trail while the rāhui was in place and opposed any changes to the name of the trail.

Several submitters rejected any proposal for commercial concessionaires on the trail except for mana whenua providing cultural walking and those allowed in the RPMP 2010. It was also suggested commercial concessions are inconsistent with the legal requirements of the Whatipū Scientific Reserve that the trail passes through.

Wai o Kahu / Piha Valley

Submitters requested that Wai o Kahu / Piha Valley be maintained as a class 1 park instead of park category 1b.

Some submitters were concerned the development of a bridge at the Kitekite Falls area would negatively detract from the natural landscapes.

Submitters were opposed to increasing car park capacity or the development of further bridges across the Kitekite Stream.

Other suggestions included removing the wooden fence at the Piha Mill Camp as it excludes visitors from accessing parkland and investigating and protecting the heritage values of the Mill campsite.

Submitters were also concerned about protecting and providing interpretation on the large eels in Piha Stream and investigating the future of the Nigel Hanlon Hut, in particular whether it was suitable for local community use.

Pest plant control and restoration, including riparian planting at Sir Algernon Thomas Green and the start of Glen Esk Road, were also actions identified.

Water Catchment Area

Watercare suggested an amendment to the cultural heritage section, referring to the Nihotupu Dam and water catchment area. They would like to see recognition of the engineering significance of the Waitākere Ranges Water Supply System.

Other submitters supported the management intentions for this SMZ, in particular for the council to work more closely with Watercare to improve biodiversity, implement pest control, facilitate public access, manage the decommissioned dam site, ensure the ongoing provision of public toilets, and interpretation and recreational facilities in the water catchment area.

One submitter noted that the water catchment area ownership should remain with the council.

FOR Parks said the catchment area must remain in Auckland Council ownership because of its strategic relationship to, and location within, the parkland.

Whatipū

Submitter comments included:

- Park category - maintain Whatipū as a Class 1 park and delete reference to 1b.
- Manage Whatipū as a special management zone.
- Retain open landscapes
- Shuttle bus service
- Pest plant and animal control

FOR Parks supported maintaining open landscapes for their values, to reflect our heritage and allow for a variety of experiences. They suggested a change to policy 67 (Book1 – Protecting landscapes) related to maintaining viewshafts and vegetation – specify that areas that are overgrown be restored where they have been lost (it is assumed this relates to restoring views).

FOR Parks suggested the council pursue providing a shuttle bus service on weekends and holidays during peak season to reduce the impact on vehicles on the entire valley and Whatipū. They also suggested the Kura track should be opened to re-establish the loop with Ōmanawanui.

Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance advised work was required to eliminate the feral ginger cat colony. They requested the council continue supporting Friends of Whatipū with their annual planting day and other activities.

One submitter asked why the Whatipū caves campground is to remain closed.

Whatipū Scientific Reserve

Submitter comments included:

- Opposition to the proposed walking trail along the tramway alignment between Karekare and Whatipū.
- Park category.
- Urgent plant pest control required.
- Enforcement of dog bylaws.
- Re-route the Hillary Trail.

There was general support for most of the management intentions in the draft Plan, with submitters agreeing the location should be a SMZ.

Numerous submitters were strongly opposed to developing an interpreted walking trail along the tramway alignment. There were concerned this would facilitate people entering the very sensitive environment and considered it inconsistent with the designation under the Reserves Act. Submitters also wanted the Hillary Trail re-routed out of the scientific reserve.

Submitters wanted the park category to remain as 1a due to the remote wilderness, wetlands, native flora / fauna, and birdlife. A change in classification would significantly and irreversibly affect the area adversely.

One suggested that any upgrading of the Whatipū to Karekare Track that included provision for commercial concessions or placement of a hut would contradict the intent of the Whatipū Scientific Reserve category of 1a.

Submitters suggested park rangers should have a greater presence in the area to police dog restrictions and manage visitor behaviour.

Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust requested an amendment to the description of the scientific reserve, noting it was also subject to a statutory acknowledgement under their Treaty settlement.

Submitters wanted restrictions on the use of bicycles and e-bikes within the scientific reserve and for the council to continue prohibiting organised recreational activities as required by the Reserves Act.

Submitters also requested the council urgently conduct pest plant control to protect the wetland systems at the reserve, with particular emphasis on implementing the Regional Pest Management Plan.

South of the region

Waharau

Five submitters commented on this park.

The comments related to:

- Upgrading camping facilities and offering camping for both vehicle and tent-based camping
- Farming on the park
- Closure of the track network into the wider Hūnua Ranges
- Inclusion on of the park into the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park
- Opportunity to mitigate drowning risks is access to the coast is opened.

NZMCA supported development proposals in the draft Plan, particularly plans to upgrade facilities at the Blackberry Flats Campground. They encourage Auckland Council to continue offering this facility for both vehicle and tent camping.

FOR Parks support the Management Focus and Intentions, especially those addressing reopening track access to the Hūnua Ranges Park tracks, promoting its access via the Te Ara Moana Kayak / Waka Trail, and expanding camping.

Drowning Prevention Auckland noted Waharau is the starting / finishing point of Te Ara Moana, the waka / sea kayak trail, and supported this as a suitable location to allow for commercial kayak hire.

Two submitters suggested that farming on this park is likely to be uneconomic.

Two other submitters agreed that closure of the track network into the Hūnua Ranges has reduced the numbers of trampers using the tracks and staying on the park. They noted Auckland tramping clubs were regular visitors to the park because it contained a more accessible loop to Adams Lookout and Kohukohunui and was an extension to tracks through the Hūnua Ranges.

One submitter opposed inclusion of the park into the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park.

Drowning Prevention Auckland recognised that improving the connection between the foreshore and main area of the park and allowing for commercial kayak hire may increase drowning risk. They requested that Auckland Council works with sector experts to mitigate the drowning risk.

Whakatīwai

Nine submitters commented on this park.

The comments included:

- Provision of more self-contained camping sites, including sites with disability access
- Promotion of the park when the access track to the Hūnua Ranges is closed
- Need for a Hūnua Ranges recreation/track plan for all three parks
- Opportunity to mitigate drowning risks is access to the coast is opened.

NZMCA recognises the attractions of the park and its links to Tīkapa Moana/the Firth of Thames and the Hūnua Ranges and its proximity to the Hauraki Rail Trail and the Seabird Coast and supported the proposal to provide SCC camping sites in the carpark, suggesting five sites should be made available.

They also supported the development of a vehicle-based/vehicle accessible camping ground for up to 40 people and suggested this could be made available on a seasonal basis. Proposed locations could be either close to East Coast Rd frontage on existing pastures or 300 to 400 metres further into the park.

Another submitter requested that when improving the overnight camping options that disability access is also improved, by making the track wheelchair accessible. This submitter also suggests including a disability organisation such as Spinal Support NZ into the park chapter stakeholder list.

One submitter questioned why the public access gate has a sign “closed due to kauri dieback” when there is no kauri dieback in the Hūnua Ranges. Another questioned promoting the use of the park while the track accessing the Hūnua Ranges is closed.

Regarding the closed track, one submitter suggested that perhaps the focus should be determining a way to upgrade the track to ensure the health of kauri is protected and access reinstated. Another suggested changing wording on the closed track sign to clarify that the track connecting into the Hūnua Ranges was closed to protect the healthy kauri trees.

Others noted that there has never been a track reopening plan for the three Hūnua regional parks despite the majority of tramping tracks being closed at the same time as the Waitākere Ranges tracks.

One submitter requested the visitor numbers for this park, as it was uncertain why this is a separate park, since its primary purpose is as a pathway to / from the Hūnua Ranges when using either the Workman Track as a through route to / from Mangatangi OR the Waharau Ridge Track as a semi-loop starting or finishing at Waharau Regional Park.

Two submitters sought a correction to references related to Marutūāhu being an iwi in the park chapter as this was incorrect.

Drowning Prevention Auckland noted that the park area is suited to fishing, sea kayaking and bird watching. If access to the coast were to be developed, it requested that Auckland Council works with sector experts to mitigate drowning risk.

Appendix: Submitter organisations

Mana whenua

Environs Te Uri o Hau	Mana whenua
Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust	Mana whenua
Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust	Mana whenua
Ngāti Maraeariki	Mana whenua
Ngāti Wai	Mana whenua
Tāmaki Makaurau Mana Whenua Forum	Mana whenua
Taumata B Whanau	Mana whenua
Te Kawerau Iwi Tiaki Trust	Mana whenua
Te Motu a Hiaroa Charitable Trust	Mana whenua

Other

Organisation	Type
Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game	Advocacy
Blind Citizens NZ Auckland Branch	Advocacy
Disability Connect trading name of Parent and Family Resource Centre	Advocacy
Disabled Persons Assembly	Advocacy
Drowning Prevention Auckland	Advocacy
Equal Justice Project	Advocacy
Federated Farmers	Advocacy
NZ Walking Access Commission	Advocacy
Castor Bay Residents and Ratepayers Association	Community / neighbour
Henderson Valley / Spragg Bush neighbours	Community / neighbour
Henderson Valley Residents Association	Community / neighbour
Karekare Residents & Ratepayers Trust	Community / neighbour
Lone Kauri Retreat Trust	Community / neighbour
Mahurangi East Residents & Ratepayers Association (MERRA)	Community / neighbour
Muriwai Community Association	Community / neighbour
Pakiri community	Community / neighbour
Piha Residents and Ratepayers Association Inc	Community / neighbour
Te Ārai North Limited, Te Ārai Residents Association, Te Ārai South Holdings Limited, Te Ārai South Owners Society	Community / neighbour
Titirangi Residents & Ratepayers Association	Community / neighbour
Todd Property	Community / neighbour
United North Piha Lifeguard Service	Community / neighbour

Organisation	Type
Waiatarua Residents & Ratepayers	Community / neighbour
Birdsong Opanuku	Conservation
Muriwai Environmental Action Community Trust	Conservation
NZ Fairy Tern Charitable Trust	Conservation
Pest Free Kaipātiki	Conservation
Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance	Conservation
Save Te Ārai	Conservation
Shakespear Open Sanctuary Society (SOSSI)	Conservation
The Tree Council	Conservation
Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society (TOSSI)	Conservation
Forest and Bird	Conservation
Pakiri Preservation Society	Conservation / heritage
Protect Piha Heritage Society and Project Pest Free Piha	Conservation / heritage
Waitākere Ranges Protection Society	Conservation / heritage
Te Ārai Beach Preservation Society	Conservation / recreation
Greenfleet	Corporate
Friends of Motukorea	Friends of park
Friends of Regional Parks	Friends of park
Friends of Whatipū	Friends of park
Long Bay Okura Great Park Society	Friends of park
Auckland Conservation Board	Government / institution
Department of Conservation	Government / institution
Fire and Emergency New Zealand Fire and Emergency NZ	Government / institutional
Foundation North	Governmental / institution
QEII National Trust	Government / institution
Watercare	Government / institution
Alpine Sports Club	Recreation
Auckland 4WD Club	Recreation
Auckland Baptist Tramping Club	Recreation
Auckland Catholic Tramping Club	Recreation
Auckland Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club	Recreation
Auckland Tramping Club	Recreation
Auckland University Tramping Club	Recreation
awol adventures ltd	Recreation
Dog Friends Auckland Region & Rodney	Recreation
Federated Mountain Clubs	Recreation
Hibiscus Coast Dog Training Club	Recreation
Love My New Zealand	Recreation

Organisation	Type
Mahurangi Trail Society	Recreation
Matakana Coast Trail Trust	Recreation
New Zealand Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association	Recreation
North West Orienteering Club	Recreation
NZ Motor Caravan Association (NZMCA)	Recreation
NZFWDA (national)	Recreation
NZFWDA (northern)	Recreation
SkyWings Paragliding	Recreation
Te Araroa Auckland Trust	Recreation
The Trusts Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club	Recreation
Waikato Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club	Recreation
Women's Outdoor Pursuits	Recreation
Mahurangi Coastal Trail Trust, Mahurangi Action, Mahurangi Magazine	Recreation / community
Geoscience Society of New Zealand	Science

Local Board Performance Measures target refresh & Fees and Charges

2022/2023 Annual Budget

Mark Purdie

Manager – Local Board Financial Advisors



Purpose of today's session

Local performance measures

- Provide a recap and update on local performance measures
- Seek local board feedback on proposed targets for performance measures to be included in the Local Board Agreement 2022/2023

Fees and Charges

- Inform the local boards on the 3 yearly Fees and Charges process



Performance Measures target refresh



Priorities in 2021/2022

- Review of current state performance measures (post Customer & Community Services restructure)
- Identifying linkage between Long-term Plan (LTP) performance measures and Local Board Work Programmes (LBWP)



Key priorities for 2022/2023

Focus for 2022/2023

Continue improving links between performance measures and LBWP

Develop process and baseline for Amalgamated Community measures

Begin investigation and discussions for measure review and new measures for LTP 2024-2034



Background information

Economic
uncertainty

Changing
customer
behaviour

Projected
Scenarios

Local Board
draft work
programmes

Local Performance Measures – proposed targets for 2022/2023



LTP performance measures – local community services

Performance measure	Actual 2020/2021	LTP target 2021/2022	Annual Plan target 2022/23
Provide safe, reliable, and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities			
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - day time	85%	87%	87%
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - night time	41%	52%	52%
Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities			
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that are community led	90%	65%	65%
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goals	60%	70%	70%
We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, beaches, recreation programmes, opportunities and facilitates to get Aucklanders more active, more often			
The percentage of park visitors who are satisfied with the overall quality of sportsfields	72%	75%	75%
The customers' Net Promoter Score for Pools and Leisure Centres	63	52	52
The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks	72%	75%	75%
The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months	80%	88%	88%
We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture			
The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations	17%	14%	14%



LTP performance measures – local community services

Performance measure	Actual 2020/2021	LTP target 2021/2022	Annual Plan target 2022/2023
We fund, enable, and deliver services, programmes, and facilities (art facilities, community centres, hire venues, and libraries) that enhance identity, connect people, and support Aucklanders to participate in community and civic life			
The percentage of local community services, programmes and facilities that are community led	New measure	New measure	New measure
a) The percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	100%	90%	90%
b) The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led	89%	89%	89%
The number of participants for local community services, programmes, and facilities	New measure	New measure	New measure
a) The number of attendees at council-led community events	281	2,500	0
b) The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues	185,597	234,000	234,000
c) The number of visits to library facilities	513,514	660,000	660,000
The percentage of customers satisfied with quality of local community services, programmes, and facilities	New measure	New measure	New measure
a) The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event	Not measured	75%	75%
b) Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery	96%	85%	85%
The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks)	148,677	150,000	150,000



LTP performance measures – local environmental management

Performance measure	Actual 2020/2021	LTP target 2021/2022	Annual Plan target 2022/2023
We work with Aucklanders to manage the natural environment and enable low carbon lifestyles to build resilience to the effects of climate change			
The percentage of local low carbon or sustainability projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes	New measure	70%	75%
The percentage of local water quality or natural environment improvement projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes	New measure	80%	85%
The percentage of local waste minimisation projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes	New measure	70%	75%



LTP performance measures – local planning and development

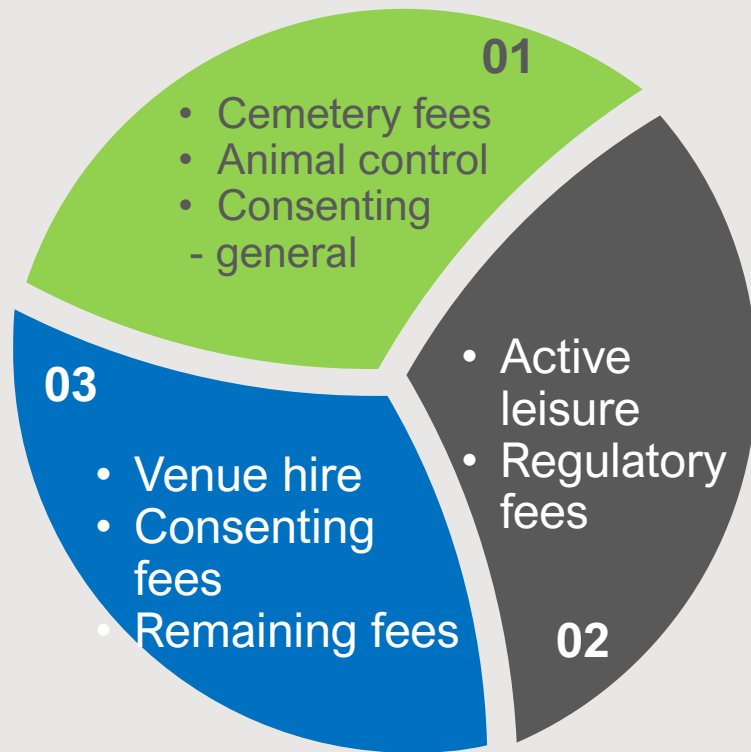
Performance measure	Actual 2020/2021	LTP target 2021/2022	Annual Plan target 2022/2023
We help attract investment, businesses and a skilled workforce to Auckland			
The percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) Partnership Programme obligations	100%	100%	100%



Fees and Charges



Fees and Charges – Three-year review cycle



Year 1 update:

- **Cemetery fees:** First stage is complete - the proposal of a new Cemetery Fees Framework. The work for second stage has started.
- **Animal Management** Proposal to decrease fees for responsible dog owners and some increased charges for other services.
- **Consent (general)** proposed some fee increases.



Fees and Charges – Local board annual refresh

Service area	Proposed change
Active Recreation	Proposing a range of fee increases of up to 6.7%. These adjustments include inflation and on-going standardisation of fees across the active-recreation network.
Venue for hire	Proposing a 2% increase
Community & Arts Centres	Proposing a 2% increase

Fees and Charges will be reviewed after public consultation and adopted as part of the Annual Budget process in June 2022 upon Governing Body approval.



Pātai?

