

Howick Local Board Progress and Achievements Report

October 2019 – October 2022



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Howick Local Board members

Auckland Council has a unique model of local government in New Zealand, made up of the governing body (that includes the mayor and 20 ward councillors) and 21 local boards. The governing body focuses on Auckland-wide issues while local boards represent the communities in their area and make decisions on local issues, activities, and facilities.

The local boards' role includes:

- supporting local arts, cultural events, and organisations involved in sport and recreation
- providing grants and partnering with local organisations to deliver community services
- representing the views of their communities on issues of local importance
- maintaining and upgrading town centres and facilities including parks, libraries, and halls
- caring for the environment and preserving heritage.



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Local Board Outcomes

The Howick Local Board consulted with the wider community on the fourth Local Board Plan in 2020. The Achievements Report reflects the outcomes of work undertaken by the Howick Local Board for the entire electoral term from October 2019 to October 2022 and highlights the key accomplishments achieved against the visions set out in the Local Board Plan.



Open Air Orchestra at Lloyd Elsmore Park.

Outcome 1: People in our communities feel safe, engaged and connected

People are proud to live in the area and actively participate to make it a wonderful, safe place to live, work and play.



Traps display at Festival 2019.

Outcome 4: Our natural environment is protected, restored and enhanced

Our wonderful environment and admired coastline is clean, safe and protected for all to use in the future.



Lloyd Elsmore Park Pool and Leisure Centre.

Outcome 2: Well-planned public spaces that support active, healthy and sustainable lifestyles

Our extensive network of public places and sport, recreation and leisure facilities are looked after so people of all ages and abilities can use them to remain healthy, active and connected.



Local cafe on Picton Street, Howick.

Outcome 5: A prosperous local economy supporting business growth and opportunity

New businesses in our area provide opportunities for local employment. Visitor numbers increase, attracted by our vibrant town centres, recreational opportunities, heritage and events.



Howick Chinese New Year 2020.

Outcome 3: Heritage, local arts and cultural diversity are valued

We are culturally diverse and have great facilities for creative activities and events, including music and dance, theatre and visual arts.



Cascades Road bridge showing the walkway connection down to the Cascades Walkway.

Outcome 6: Effective and accessible transport choices

A safe, convenient, accessible and affordable transport network that plays an important role in wellbeing of communities and health of local economies, by connecting people to each other, the goods and services they need (such as shopping outlets and health services), and their places of recreation, education and work.

Achievements

The Howick Local Board has continued to set the direction and priorities for the local board as identified in the 2020 Howick Local Board Plan.

The board's six outcomes reflect its aspiration to make Howick a better community for all. Transforming these plans into reality takes collaboration amongst the community, the local board, council departments and council-controlled organisations such as Auckland Transport and Auckland Unlimited.

To deliver against the outcomes of the local board plan, the local board is required to:

- prioritise budget to focus on the initiatives in the plans.
- make the best use of local assets such as community centres and parks.
- set direction for the council staff who deliver the projects and services.
- work with various community groups and partners to deliver projects and services.

Howick has an extensive network of dedicated, passionate volunteers involved in almost every aspect of community life – environmental, heritage, cultural, sports and many more.

This Achievements Report reflects the outcomes of work undertaken by the Howick Local Board from the beginning of the electoral term in October 2019 to the end of the term in October 2022.



Outcome 1: People in our community feel safe, engaged and connected

People are proud to live in the area and actively participate to make it a wonderful, safe place to live, work and play.

The Howick Local Board area is home to a truly diverse population of around 141,000 people. This diversity is both a strength and a challenge, but we are committed to building strong, resilient, inclusive communities that support and enrich us all.

The health and well-being of all our diverse communities has been a key priority for the local board. The board has been committed to implementing programmes and initiatives that support healthy Howick outcomes for an involved, connected, active and healthy community.

The board has focused on building capacity and capability within key groups and organisations in the local board area, representing the full range of diversity, to promote wellbeing in an inclusive society where everyone feels valued, respected, supported and safe.

Community Grants

The local board allocates grants to groups and organisations delivering projects, activities and services that benefit Aucklanders and contribute to the vision of becoming a world class city. Over the electoral term, the board approved over 200 grant applications totaling \$1,388,432. Howick Local Board grants enable the community to deliver projects and events such as the East Auckland art trail, the Howick 175th Anniversary celebrations, Dance Therapy NZ and the Howick Santa Parade.

Working with Māori

The local board recognises the importance of working with Māori to respond to issues of significance to Māori.

This term the local board funded the Te Tahawai Marae Pataka Kai project, which aimed to identify and build a network of food providers (in cases of emergency and need) in the East Auckland area and understand the needs of our communities as well. As part of this project, 8 community organisations have come together to support those in need in the community. The group consists of the Marae, Independent Living Services, Korean Positive Ageing Trust, Baptist Church, Pakuranga Counselling, East Health, GenNow. This was set up in response to the stories that were being heard in the community during the first covid lockdown. The groups collaborate with other churches and organisations to get the meals out to the ones who need them. The next step is to look at mapping all the food providers whether they are food banks or free meal providers in the area and make that information available to these families as well.



Rangatahi/Youth



The East Auckland Youth Space was set up as a trial for three months at the Botany Town centre and has been a great success, providing youth in the local board area with a safe space to hang out. The space is for youth by the youth run by the Howick youth Council and Te Tuhi. In 2 months, it has seen over 2000 young people engage with the youth space.

The Howick Youth Council celebrated its 10-year anniversary in 2021. This programme has empowered youth, providing them with opportunities to develop their leadership skills. The youth council have delivered some great activities for youth, such as the youth forum, the performing arts show case and clothes swap.



Local Events

This term saw major disruption to the planned events schedule, due to the impact of COVID-19. Nevertheless, the board worked to deliver what events they could under such conditions, including events such as:

- The Kiwi Anthems event
- Howick Anzac services
- Howick Volunteer Recognition Awards
- The Moon Festival
- Celebrating Cultures



Safety in the community

The local board has continued to promote safety in the community this term. The Howick Village Association was provided with funding through community grants to maintain and upgrade CCTV cameras in the village.

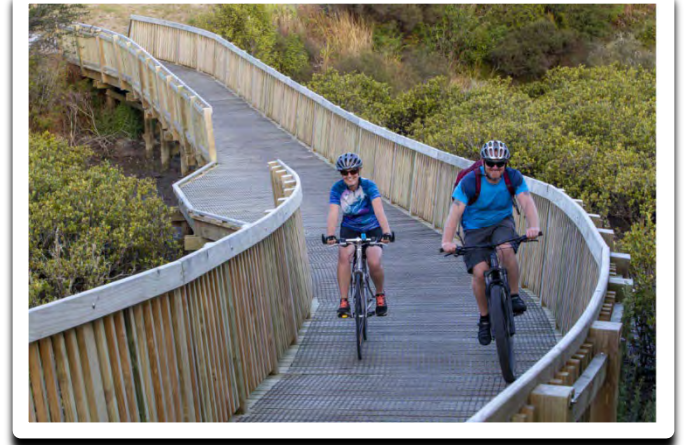
In addition, the board has continued to work with Auckland Transport to promote traffic safety measures around the community. This includes allocation of the Local Board Transport Capital Fund, under which the board has approved funding for improving pedestrian safety at Bucklands Beach which is about to commence, improvements to the Howick walking and cycling network, installing crossing facilities at Chapel Road, installing electronic speed warning signs on Point View Drive and successfully advocated to Auckland Transport for the installation of a new pedestrian bridge outside Te Uho o te Nikau Primary School, ensuring the safety of school children crossing an oftentimes busy road.

Outcome 2: Well planned spaces that support active, healthy, and sustainable lifestyles.

Our extensive network of public spaces and sport, recreation and leisure facilities are looked after so people of all ages and abilities can use them to remain healthy, active and connected.

The local board has aimed to provide well-planned public spaces that contribute to safe, engaged and connected communities. Providing places for people to come together to enjoy healthy, active lifestyles where they can participate in a variety of social, cultural and learning opportunities has been a priority.

The Howick Local Board area has a large number of parks and reserves, along with community, sports and leisure facilities, art galleries and libraries. The local board has ensured the ongoing maintenance of these existing facilities, along with the addition of more facilities to meet the community's needs.



Activation of parks, places and open spaces

Throughout the electoral term, the local board has delivered 1247 activation events in Howick parks and green spaces attracting 12,000 attendees. These free to attend activities support the local community to be physically active, including activities such as Gymnastics in the park, Doggy day out and the Amazing obstacle race.



Park upgrades and ongoing maintenance



Cockle Bay Playground

As a result of the Emergency Budget 2020/2021, there was a reduction in the board's budget, the Howick Local Board prioritised keeping our community buildings dry and warm and our parks safe and functional. An example of this was at the beginning of the term, there were 20 playgrounds with modules or items that had reached the end of their lives resulting in portions of the playground unavailable for use for our community. Instead of doing wholesale renewals of the play space, it was decided where practical only to replace modules such as slides, swings and spinners where the balance of the playground had a reasonable life left. Playgrounds such as Kilimanjaro, Cockle Bay and Earnslaw Park required a whole renewal.

The refurbishment of the Cockle Bay and Earnslaw Park playgrounds has been completed. The renewals included new playground equipment, cushion/fall surfaces and seating. The opening ceremony of the Cockle Bay playground was celebrated in June.

Smaller amounts of Local discretionary funding became available in the years 2021/2022 which allowed the board to deliver a few projects which formed part of the local board plan. Some of these projects included; the off-leash dog exercise area at Lloyd Elsmore Park, a half-pipe connected to the Lloyd Elsmore Skatepark, an additional outdoor shelter and meeting place at Barry Curtis Park on the corners of Flat Bush School Road and Chapel Road. The board also provided shade and drainage to allow additional recreation value on the turfed areas at Earnslaw Park as part of the play space renewal additional play provision, shade at the Cockle Bay play space renewal and the Dick Quax Memorial Run along the Rotary Walkway.

The toilet blocks at Grangers Point, Roger Park and Ara Tai Esplanade were also refurbished



Earnslaw Park Playground



Wheeled Sports Facilities

The local board has aimed to provide the community with more wheeled play facilities to support the community to remain active.

- **Lloyd Elsmore Park Halfpipe** - Working with the East Skate Club, the local board funded the construction of a new halfpipe at Lloyd Elsmore Park.



- **Pump track installation at Nixon Centennial park** - The installation of a pump track at Nixon Centennial park encourages more people in the community to get out and be active.

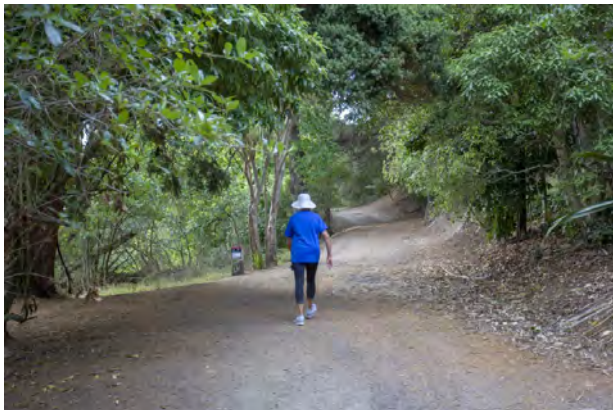


- **Barry Curtis Park Renewal** – The renewal of Barry Curtis Park is well underway and will be fully completed in November. The Park has had its surfaces renewed, minor improvements to structures and the existing pergola has been refurbished with shading renewed.



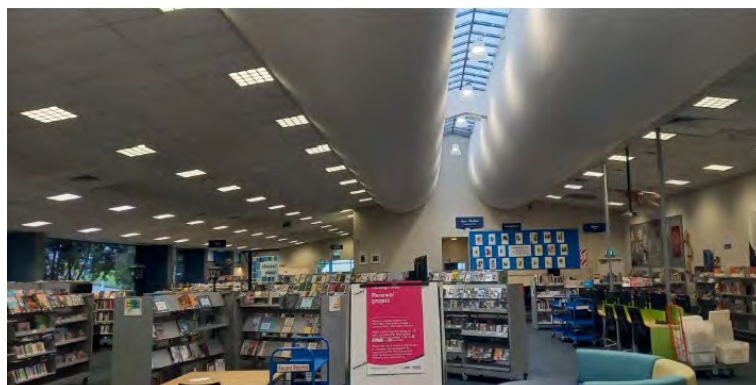
Howick walking and cycling network plan

The local board continued to progress the Howick walking and cycling network plan, including funding the completion of the Cascades walkway. This term the local board has prioritised renewing paths and walkways to encourage people to get outdoors and be active. Some of the renewed walkways are Macleans Park, Clovelly Road Walkway, Lloyd Elsmore Park and Whaka Maumahara Reserve.



Pakuranga Library – Comprehensive renewal

The Pakuranga Library underwent a comprehensive renewal, including lighting upgrades, the replacement of ceiling tiles, a new viewing window installed in the reception and the replacement of the HVAC system.



Outcome 3: Heritage, local arts and cultural diversity are valued

We are culturally diverse and have great facilities for creative activities and events, including music and dance, theatre and visual arts.

The Howick Local Board area has vibrant and active arts, culture and heritage communities. The local board has aimed to support these groups through facilities, events and the provision of grants.

Arts and Culture

This term saw the Arts Out East programme transitioned from a weekend festival to a year-round arts brokering service. The programme, led by Te Tuhi, is supporting the local arts community to build their capacity, connect with each other and present an array of creative, interactive, local activities outside traditional arts spaces all year round.

The Moon festival was held in September, featuring Chinese folk music and traditional dance and other multicultural performances.

The local board funded the Celebrating Cultures event, which recognises and celebrates the multicultural communities of Howick through performances, exhibitions and a diverse range of food.

The local board has supported many arts and cultural groups to hold events through the approval of community grants, including the Harlequin Musical Theatre, Diwali Celebrations, Sri Lankan New Year's Celebrations.

Funding was provided to multiple local theatres, such as the Howick Children and Youth Theatre which provides a programme of rehearsals, classes, workshops, school holiday programmes and productions for local youth. The local board has also supported a number of local brass bands, such as the Manukau Concert Band.

The local board provided funding for the operation of Uxbridge Arts and Culture, providing art classes, workshops, performances, an exhibition programme and a piece of public art in the community.



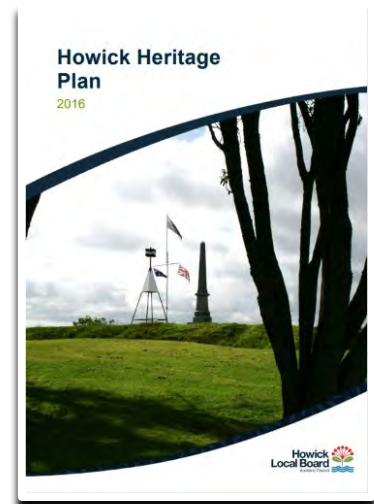
The local board also funded the installation of an outdoor shelter for children attending education at Te Whare Wananga o Wairoa.



Heritage

The local board continues to support the implementation of the Howick Heritage Plan that was adopted in 2017. Work to date includes the installation of heritage panels at Stockade Hill and Howick Beach and a new interactive mobile tour app.

Furthermore, physical works are well underway at Emilia Nixon Homestead, Te Whare Ora. To date, roof works, cladding repairs, asbestos treatment and removal, as well as external painting have all been completed. The next steps are internal flooring works, heat pump installation, kitchen works and fire staircase foundations.



Outcome 4: Our natural environment is protected, restored and enhanced.

Our wonderful environment and admired coastline is clean, safe and protected for all to use in the future.

The impacts of climate change are becoming more apparent on the environment and on our lives, so the local board has encouraged an eco-friendly and environmental approach to lifestyle and development at a local level to help mitigate these.

On our land

Pest Free Howick

The local board has funded the Pest Free Howick programme, which involves working with schools, iwi and community groups to reduce the number of pest animals and plants in the Howick Local Board area. This programme has led a lot of great initiatives, such as:

- The annual Moth Plant competition, in which schools compete to remove the pest Moth plant, saw 89,738 pods & small vines collected in 2022. By conservative estimates, this has prevented 62,816,600 seeds from germinating.
- Festival events, which educate members of the community on how to effectively trap pest animals.
- The Pestfree Cadetship programme, which aims to educate and encourage young people to get involved and create pathways within Pest Free Howick Ward (PFHW) for learning, work experience and leadership opportunities.
- Native planting and restoration projects, which have led to the planting of thousands of native plants and trees within the local board area. Working with local school students, staff and community members, the programme saw 19,000 plants in the ground at Mission Heights Junior College and Te Naupata Reserve.
- The programme coordinators have led multiple rubbish/litter clean ups around the local board area.



Moth plant winners and whanau at Zoo Wow experience



Volunteers at of the Te Naupata Reserve planting days

The Industrial Pollution Prevention Programme

The Industrial Pollution Prevention Programme has educated and informed businesses about the impacts that their activities may be having on local waterways through site inspections and discussions with business owners, as well as providing pollution risk management support and spill training. A total of 121 sites have been

visited and 34 pollution issues have been resolved to date.

Howick Schools Waste Minimisation Programme

The local board has funded the Howick Schools Waste Minimisation programme, which supports 29 local schools to reduce their waste. All schools registered to the programme reduced their waste production ranging from 7 – 87%.

Along our streams

Howick Stream Improvement Programme

The Howick Stream Improvement Programme provides funding to the Otara Waterways and Lake Trust to carry out stream restoration and community engagement work in the Flatbush area of the Howick local board. Under the programme activities such as community clean up days, planting events and educational programmes are undertaken in an effort to engage the local community, whilst intensive weed control and replanting of riparian areas with native species contributes to the overall aim to improve the water quality of streams in the Flatbush area. In total this term, with funding from the Howick Local Board, the Trust has completed critical weed control and planted 8,000 native species along four main stream reaches in the Flatbush area.

During this term, the Howick Local Board has also funded the Neat Streets programme, resulting in two major Neat Streets events and other smaller community clean up events to be held. The Neat Streets initiative engages a whole street or neighbourhood to be proactive against illegal dumping through providing a means for households to responsibly dispose their unwanted household items and engaging the community to come together to respond to litter in the streets.

Along our coast

Bramley Drive Reserve Seawall renewal project

The renewal of the seawall and boat ramp at Bramley Drive Reserve has now been completed. Design work has now commenced for the Howick Beach seawall.



Bramley Drive Seawall

Outcome 5: A prosperous local economy supporting business growth and opportunity

New businesses in our area provide opportunities for local employment. Visitor numbers increase, attracted by our vibrant town centres, recreational opportunities, heritage and events.

The local economy has been seriously impacted by COVID-19. For this reason, the Howick Local Board has prioritised its efforts to support local businesses to get back on their feet.

Howick Tourism Development

The local board has supported the development of tourism in the Howick Local Board area by funding East Auckland Tourism over the last three years and in this financial year increasing this funding.

Young Enterprise Scheme

The local board has also funded the Young Enterprise Scheme, which supports high school students to turn creative ideas into businesses.

Outcome 6: Effective and accessible transport choices

A safe, convenient, accessible and affordable transport and travel network that plays an important role in the well-being of communities and the health of local economies, by connecting people to each other, the goods and services they need (such as shopping outlets and health services), and their places of recreation, education and work.

Across the term, the local board has continued to support, through advocacy to Auckland Transport, key additions and improvements to the road network in the local board area. This includes better public transport,

During this term, the local board has allocated its Local Board Transport Capital Fund, which is provided by Auckland Transport, towards a number of transport improvement and safety projects in the local board area. Many of these projects have faced a number of setbacks given the financial constraints posed by COVID-19, despite this the Local Board allocated the Local Board Transport Capital Fund towards projects such as:

- Completion of the Cascades Walkway
- Four new electronic speed warning signs at Point View Drive to improve safety by encouraging drivers to slow down.
- The installation of an information plinth at Halfmoon Bay ferry terminal.,
- Improvement of crossing facilities to Botany Downs Secondary College at Chapel Road, Botany.



Halfmoon Bay Plinth

Advocacy and local input

Local boards are charged with decision-making on local issues, activities, and services, and identifying and communicating the views of the local people on regional strategies, policies, plans and bylaws to the Governing Body. The board enables democratic decision making on behalf of communities within the local board area.

Key advocacy initiatives

A key role of the local board is to advocate for initiatives that it may not have decision-making responsibilities for but recognise the value it will add to the local community. The key advocacy initiatives are:

Coastal erosion - throughout the term the board has continued to advocate for measures to prevent and/or reduce the impacts of coastal erosion on the shoreline. The local board has successfully advocated for the Bramley Drive Reserve and Howick Beach seawalls.

Flatbush library and community centre - the local board continues to advocate to the governing body for the Flat Bush library and community centre to cater to the needs of residents of the growing community. This is one of only two local initiatives to go into the long-term plan.

Transport – the board continues to advocate for more and better bus services, the upgrade of rural roads, a rapid service from Botany to the Airport, and continued planning for an east-west connection between Onehunga, Sylvia Park and Panmure, and through to East Tāmaki.

Local board feedback on key regional strategies, policies, plans and bylaws

The board has an increasingly important role in advocacy and providing local views to regional and national strategies and direction. The key strategies and direction that the local board have provided input for over the term are:

Regional Feedback

- Freedom Camping in Vehicles Bylaw 2022
- Auckland Transport Speed limit changes
- Public Trading and Events Bylaw
- Auckland Golf Investment Plan
- Auckland Climate Grant
- Strategic direction of Auckland's Future Development Strategy
- Draft Parking Strategy
- Regional Parks Management Plan
- New signs bylaw 2022
- Thriving Communities Draft strategy
- Public Trading Events and Filming Bylaw
- Proposal to amend the Water Supply and Wastewater Network Bylaw 2015
- Auckland Transport's Parking Strategy Review
- Kerbside refuse charging mechanism policy
- Tāmaki Tauawhi Kaumātua – Age-friendly Auckland Action Plan.
- Business Improvement District Policy (2021)
- Proposal to amend Animal Management Bylaw 2015
- Alcohol Control Bylaw 2014
- The Resource Recovery Network Strategy Update
- Council-Controlled Organisations Review
- Economic Development Action Plan

- Changes to Māori ward and constituency processes

National Feedback

- Government Policy Statement on Housing and Urban Development
- National Policy Statement – Urban Development
- Transforming Aotearoa New Zealand’s resource management system: Our future resource management system
- Transport Emissions Reduction Plan
- Natural and Built Environments Bill
- Local Government Electoral Legislation Bill
- Smokefree Environments and regulated products smoked tobacco amendment bill
- Ministry of the Environments review of the effectiveness of a waste levy
- Water Services Entities Bill
- Central Government’s proposals to transform recycling in Aotearoa
- National Emissions Reduction Plan
- New national waste strategy and associated waste legislation
- Resource Management Enabling Housing Supply Amendment Bill
- Government’s Three Waters reform proposal
- Resource management system reform: Natural and Built Environment Bill
- National Policy Statement on Urban Development Capacity
- Managing our Wetlands Amendment Proposal