

Waitākere Ranges Local Board Workshop Record

Workshop record of the Waitākere Ranges Local Board held at the Waitākere Ranges Local Board office, 39 Glenmall Place, Glen Eden, Auckland on Thursday, 4 May 2023, commencing at 9.30am.

PRESENT

Chairperson: Greg Presland
Members: Michelle Clayton
Mark Allen
Sandra Coney
Linda Potauaine
Liz Manley (*Absent from 10.50am to 12.28pm*)

Apologies:
Also present: Adam Milina, Darshita Shah, Brett Lane, Natasha Yapp and Nataly Anchicoque

Workshop Item	Summary of Discussions
Review of the Strategic Weed Management Plan Rowena Gilcrist, Senior Conservation Advisor Tracey Parsons, Team Manager Mainland Hana Perry, Relationship Advisor I&ES 9.30am-10.30am	Board members were updated on the progress and actions of the Strategic Weed Management Plan 2015.
Waitākere Ranges regional park and track network update Reg Phillips, Western Principal Ranger David Markham, Senior Ranger Programmes 10.50am – 11.55am	Board members were updated on the Waitākere Ranges regional park's state and track network.
Local board plan development Confidential item Brett Lane, Local Board Senior Advisor 11.57am – 12.30pm	Staff facilitated the discussion to obtain guidance on the development of the local board plan and assist the Board in that process.

Workshop Item	Summary of Discussions
<p>Local Board Annual Planning workshop 4 - Annual Budget consultation feedback and input on regional topics</p> <p>Brett Lane, Local Board Senior Advisor Natasha Yapp, Local Board Advisor Zenovia Pappapetros, Local Board Engagement Advisor David Rose, Lead Financial Advisor</p> <p>1.25pm – 3.30pm</p>	<p>Staff led the discussion on the consultation feedback to assist the Board in formulating input on regional topics to be formalised at the May 2023 business meeting.</p>
<p>Auckland Recovery Office - update on Piha and Karekare Recovery</p> <p>Simon Fraser, Community Liaison Lead – Piha</p> <p>Mace Ward, Deputy Recovery Manager</p> <p>3.39pm – 4.44pm</p>	<p>Board members informed on the recovery operations in Piha and Karekare from the January/February 2023 weather events.</p>

The workshop concluded at 4.44pm.

Strategic Weed Management Plan 2015 - Review

Rowena Gilchrist – Senior Conservation Advisor,
Tracey Parsons – Team Leader,
Environmental Services

May 2023



Content

1. Background and purpose
2. Comment and discussion on the plan recommendations
3. Where to from here / what's next?



Background



The Strategic Weed Management Plan was commissioned by the local board in 2015 to address weed issues in the Waitākere Ranges.

The plan contains 38 recommendations, including advocacy the board can undertake to strengthen the approach of Auckland Council in its various roles.

The plan was written 8 years ago, some recommendations & actions have been implemented, through increased budgets & funding (NETR, LDI), or through the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP).



Review of the recommendations

- In the next slides we will look at the 38 recommendations with opportunity for discussion
- Recommendations are grouped by common topic
 - Biocontrol
 - Funded via the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)
 - Local Board funded projects
 - Other
 - Monitoring
 - Regional & Local Parks
 - Regional Parks - Rāhui
 - Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)
 - Watercare



Biocontrol Programme

Action	Comments 2023
Submit to the National Biocontrol Collective that Mexican daisy <i>Erigeron karvinskianus</i> be included as a national priority for biological control research.	Auckland Council funded a feasibility study on Mexican daisy and it is currently on the list being considered by the National Biocontrol Collective
Request Auckland Council to maintain its current level of commitment to national biological control research programmes	The current level of commitment is being maintained with additional investment.



Funded through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)

Action: The Waitākere Ranges Local Board...	Comment (2023)
Request Auckland Council to increase the Biosecurity Strategic Weeds Initiative budget.	<p>The buffer programme has replaced Strategic Weeds budget. Strategic Weeds budget was \$103,756k (whole of Auckland Region) versus Buffer programme for 2022/23 at 185K NETR + 150k (Local Board).</p>
Prioritise allocating resources to pest plant control on private land adjoining the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park	<p>Buffer programme targets weeds on private land in the Heritage Area as a priority. For the FY 22/23 335k (total) 185k NETR, Local Board funded projects Our Backyard 100k and Bufferzone \$50k. Additional budget is also allocated toward community groups working on private land through the Tools & Resources budget (NETR funded).</p>
Support the adoption of a nursery hygiene standard for all nurseries within the WRHA or supplying plants for planting in natural areas in the WRHA.	<p>Auckland Council is a signatory to the Plant Buyers Accord and is supporting nurseries across the region to get accredited, specifically supporting community, Kaupapa Māori nurseries to improve biosecurity practices. Trade Regulation Programme (NETR funded) regularly visit/inspect/educate nurseries and plant outlets for weeds & hygiene standards.</p>
Submit to Auckland Council to ensure that the Council's Ecoweeds budget is increased by at least 20% in the Long-term Plan to prevent further environmental damage to the Regional Park.	<p>The Regional Parks budget has increased from 500k regionwide to ~2.5m with a significant proportion invested in the Waitākere Ranges through NETR.</p>
Request Auckland Council to increase the Community Pest Control budget by \$30,000 pa to ensure that assistance can be provided to community care groups to undertake weed control in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.	<p>Yes. Community pest control budget - tools and resources funded by NETR (~50k allocated to western boards including Whau, Henderson Massey and Waitākere Ranges).</p>
Request Auckland Council to improve its online weed management advisory resources so communities can easily access information	<p>There are a number of resources now available online. Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau (Conservation Auckland) https://www.tiakitamakimakaurau.nz has been active since ~2020, including a new "Pest Search" feature on the website which was fully funded by NETR to provide guidance to the community around pest plants, ID and control options. Also the Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance website https://pfwra.org.nz/</p>

Local Board Funded Projects (currently)



Action: The Waitākere Ranges Local Board...	Comments (2023)
Request Auckland Council to implement a campaign to minimise vegetation dumping, and should consider co-funding and or championing this campaign.	Community weed bin programme implemented for several years now and funded via Heritage Area Act 22/23 budget \$96,056
Investigate funding and administrative options for creation of weed free community programmes	Local Board (Heritage Area Act) funding a range of community programmes in 22/23 e.g. South Titirangi Neighbourhood Network (STNN) \$15K, weed bins \$96K, Bufferzone & Our Backyard \$150K, Pest Free Alliance coordinator \$75K
Investigate which body could best act as the hub for information exchange between Auckland Council and community groups regarding weed management in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.	Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance (PFWRA) - coordinator role created & funded by the local board
Investigate partnership relationships with local environmental and community groups to improve coordination and ensure efforts are targeted to areas where the greatest ecological gain can be made.	Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance (PFWRA) - coordinator role created & funded by the local board
Investigate the provision of a paid coordinator to assist and support volunteer pest plant control efforts in the WRHA.	Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance (PFWRA) - coordinator role created & funded by the local board
It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to continue to materially support the Auckland Weedspotter Network and Auckland Museum Herbarium, and to encourage people and groups in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area to join the Network.	Weedspotter Network no longer active. Other opportunities to encourage people to join groups including Pest Liaison Group that meet quarterly (NETR funded). Tiaki Tāmaki Makaurau (Conservation Auckland) website also developed by Auckland Council and is used to promote conservation activity. Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance + coordinator role has also been established and funded by the local board, as well as the New Resident Welcome Packs (Heritage Area Act funded)

Miscellaneous / other

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Monitoring

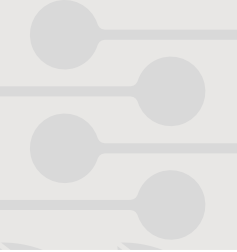


Action:	Comments (2023)
It is recommended that Auckland Council ensures that all Significant Ecological Areas within the WRHA be monitored for weed ingress, ideally every two years but at least every five years.	The Research and Evaluation unit (RIMU) at Auckland Council has a tiered selection of monitoring plots in terms of understanding trends. In addition, monitoring will be carried out where applicable / as required to inform operational management / part of control works. All roadsides have been surveyed previously by botanists and will likely be done so again although not sure when
It is recommended that Auckland Council investigates the creation of partnerships with external groups with botanical expertise, or the use of suitably trained summer students, to ensure that all Significant Ecological Areas in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area are monitored for weed status.	Monitoring plots are being managed by the Research and Evaluation unit (RIMU) at Auckland Council OR as required / where applicable to inform operational management.
That the Waitākere Ranges Local Board request Auckland Council to ensure that regular water quality monitoring is undertaken in the Waitākere River and other streams in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, and that steps be taken Waitākere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan 35 to ensure reinstatement of high quality water values where these have been compromised.	The Research and Evaluation unit in Council (RIMU) undertake ecology (freshwater macroinvertebrates) and water quality (for contaminants and nutrients at a trace level) monitoring at multiple sites in the Heritage Area and these are long-term monitoring sites (Cascades Stream & Opanuku Stream). There are additional sites in the freshwater ecology programme as well. (Healthy Waters & RIMU for more info).

Regional & Local Parks

Action: The Waitākere Ranges Local Board...	Comments 2023
<p>Seek information from Auckland Council’s Rural Fire and Regional Parks team that fire prevention and response provisions are adequate in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area</p>	<p>Checked with Regional Parks, not aware of anything specific (Regional Parks for more info)</p>
<p>Request Auckland Council to ensure that Best Practice control methods are used on all council-owned land, including Method Of Least Disturbance principles</p>	<p>Contractors are required to use best practice control methods, through contract specifications and are audited. Best practice advice regarding control methodology for community is online at Tiaki Tamaki Makaurau (Conservation Auckland website). Auckland Council has a Weed Management Policy. A weed management best practice advice group established some years ago, but is not currently active.</p>
<p>Request Auckland Council ensure that restoration plan templates have been created and that restoration plans are put in place after all significant habitat disturbance instances.</p>	<p>Don’t use a template but have pest plant control and revegetation operational programmes, undertaken over short and long time scales. Restoration plans can be considered in high value ecological areas, but are not a given for all sites/scales of disturbance. Also, for many works that include disturbance there are often consent-related actions required relating to weed control or revegetation, recognising these matter, and these are being delivered by RPs.</p>
<p>Request Auckland Council’s Local and Sports Parks to adopt the site and species prioritisation model and Best Practice guidelines for weed control that are currently used on Regional Parks.</p>	<p>Parks and not aware of this. Regarding methodologies and species prioritisation, Local Parks/Community Facilities prescribe their own best practice and species prioritisation included contract specifications which includes prioritising weeds and sites based on what will cause the most damage / future liability etc. Note that performance audits are carried out on all contracts and contractors.</p>
<p>Request the Auckland Council Regional Parks Department and Local and Sports Parks Department to develop resources to assist the formation of local support groups for Regional and Local Parks in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.</p>	<p>Community Park Ranger role (Kim Morris) help local groups in local parks and conservation ranger in regional parks.</p>

Regional Parks – Rāhui



Action	Comments (2023)
Advocate to Auckland Council that all tracks in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park be temporarily closed when they are in a muddy condition, to prevent spread of weeds, kauri dieback and other pathogens.	Rahui implemented and still in place. See 2021 kauri population health monitoring survey for more info https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2021-wait%C4%81kere-ranges-kauri-population-health-monitoring-survey/
Request Auckland Council to ensure that: · all tracks in the Regional Park be maintained to prevent weed and pathogen vectoring, and · sufficient funding is provided to ensure all-weather condition track access to all major areas of the Park.	Rahui implemented and still in place. Track upgrades ongoing. See 2021 kauri population health monitoring survey for more info https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/2021-wait%C4%81kere-ranges-kauri-population-health-monitoring-survey/

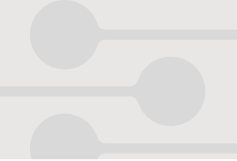
Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)

Action	Comments (2023)
It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and other interested parties submit to Auckland Council to consider the plant taxa included in Appendix C for categorisation as total control plants in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan	Three species listed in Appendix C of the report are actively managed under the Low Incidence Programme regionally (previously known as Total Control) under the rules in the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), (<i>Phragmites karka</i> , <i>Passiflora apetala</i> - batwing, <i>Actinidia deliciosa</i> - wild kiwifruit). All others on the list are considered too widespread to warrant eradication OR are currently not legally declared pest plants in Auckland OR already managed at priority places or high value areas. See sheet 2 for more detailed information on each species and the current status in the RPMP. Suggestions are welcomed for changes or for new species to be considered for cost benefit analysis and potential inclusion in the next RPMP or at a partial plan review.
It is recommended that Auckland Council Biosecurity formally commits to permanent suppression of pampas on the coastline from Whatipu to Muriwai, and also ensures the control of the pampas infestation on the northern end of the Awhitu Peninsula to prevent reinfestation of the WRHA.	Some pampas control is happening at Whatipu on the dunes. Managed through integrated site management and prioritising areas of highest ecological value. Budget constraints and a lack of both staff and contractor resource as well as logistical barriers around resource consent and aerial works, but agree that more needs to be done here and anticipate this will increase in future years.
It is recommended that Auckland Council formally commit to permanent suppression of <i>Agapanthus praecox</i> from the WRHA coastline through the Regional Pest Management Plan.	Same as above - prioritising in highest ecological places. Note also that transport corridor rules now exist in the Regional Pest Management Plan for <i>Agapanthus</i> (and pampas) in the Heritage Area (All occupiers of any transport corridor land located within the buffer area of any park which is managed for agapanthus must destroy all <i>Agapanthus</i> ...)

RPMP Continued...

Action It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board...	Comments (2023)
<p>Continue advocacy to Auckland Transport regarding weed management in the road corridor of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.</p>	<p>Buffer rules in place for roadside corridors. Section 7.5.2 of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) requires control of 10 species of pest plants in road corridors in the WRHA (Woolly nightshade, ginger, rhamnus, moth plant, gorse, pampas, formosa lily, agapanthus, climbing asparagus, bushy asparagus). Road corridors now managed by Community Facilities and these are being systematically worked through starting early 2023 from Anawhata and working east, at a cost of ~500k. Expensive due to working at heights, use of ropes, drones and the need for traffic management</p>
<p>Submit to Auckland Council to amend Section 18 of the new RPMP to include the legal responsibility for land occupiers to be bound by the same pest Waitākere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan 21 plant provisions that are imposed upon Auckland Transport for road reserves, to a minimum of 10 metres back from their common boundary.</p>	<p>The new proposal for the Regional Pest Management Plan didn't match like for like so couldn't submit on that particular section, but new buffer rules have been implemented in the Regional Pest Management Plan under Section 7.5.2 requiring legal responsibility for land occupiers to control selected weeds.</p>
<p>Request Auckland Council to maintain possum indices in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area at two per cent Residual Trap Catch or below in perpetuity.</p>	<p>Yes this was included in the Regional Pest Management Plan with the wording "Aiming for below 2%" RTC</p>
<p>Request Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks to ensure that the Piha Domain is maintained free of climbing asparagus, and Biosecurity commits to maintaining a programme to control this weed over the rest of Piha.</p>	<p>Yes, climbing asparagus control is happening at Piha Domain plus the buffer is activated under the section 7.5.2 in the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) - in 2022/23 the buffer programme for Waitākere includes 185k provided from the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and 150k from the Our Backyard / Waitākere Weed Action project funded by Local Board</p>

Watercare



Action: : It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board	Comments (2023)
Request that Auckland Council implements pest plant control programmes in Watercare catchments, according to its Best Practice guidelines. Such programmes particularly need to focus on ex-house sites, tracks, roads, infrastructure sites and willows in dams and streams	Not aware if this has been done. Watercare decision, requires advocacy to Watercare, Local Board to talk to Watercare.
Request that Watercare Services funds the removal of all exotic carnivorous plants from land it administers.	Not aware if this has been done. Watercare decision, requires advocacy to Watercare. Note however that control is happening at Whatipu. Control of carnivorous plants like all other pest weed species is prioritised at high value places where they are transforming.
Request Auckland Council to prepare a business case to demonstrate to Watercare Services the value of strategic investment in weed control in the Waitākere catchment to ensure protection of catchment integrity and water quality.	Not aware if this has been done.

Where to from here / What's next?



An updated plan is not a priority

Local Board can help best by funding community action and education or direct weed control.

Continue advocating agencies/Council Departments continue to target weeds in the Waitākere Ranges.

Continue submitting on RPMP updates and Long Term planning and advocating for increased budgets and direction



Where to from here / what's next?

- **The AC Buffer Programme – you can help!**
- Funded by NETR and has rules in the RPMP
- Currently the board put money toward this – thank you!
(Bufferzone & Our Backyard)
- Potential issues with funding private property weed control and legal landowner statutory obligations under the RPMP
- We are re-thinking how we are doing things – not delivering long-term outcomes
- Bryony would like to workshop with you to plan for 2024-2025
- Would like to work together to become more effective in delivering a coordinated buffer programme



Thank you for your support



Local Board Workshop 4th May 2023
Review of the Strategic Weed Management Plan 2015
Rowena Gilchrist (Senior Conservation Advisor); Tracey Parsons (Team Manager Central/West)
Natural Environment Delivery, Environmental Services

Background

The Strategic Weed Management Plan was commissioned by the local board in 2015 to address weed issues in the Waitākere Ranges. The plan was written by Jack Crow, ex biosecurity manager at the time of writing. The plan contains 38 recommended actions, including advocacy the local board can undertake to strengthen the approach of Auckland Council in its various roles. Since the plan was written eight years ago some of the recommendations have been implemented, in some cases naturally progressing because of increased budgets and funding e.g., projects funded through local board LDI budget, or through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) or included in the revised Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) 2020-2030.

The purpose of the workshop on 4th May is for Conservation Advisors from the Central/West Delivery Team in Environmental Services to inform board members that we have reviewed the plan and recommendations. We intend to provide an overview addressing some of the actions and progress since this report was written and provide opportunity for open discussion. We will also provide some suggestions on next steps.

Supplementary reading Material

1. Strategic Weed Management Plan 2015
2. Weed Management Plan Review (Excel spreadsheet). This spreadsheet provides a summary of each of the 38 recommendations with comments on any actions taken.

Waitākere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan

June 2015



C Jack Crow

Principal, Koru Biosecurity Management

**Waitākere Ranges
Local Board**
Auckland Council



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1. Chair's foreword

The Waitākere Ranges Local Board commissioned Jack Crow, former Manager of Biosecurity in Auckland Council, to draw up a strategic weed plan for the board. The impetus for this was the huge growth of ecological weeds in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, which stretches from the West Coast and Manukau Harbour coastline to the bush living areas of Titirangi and the rural foothills of Oratia, Henderson Valley and Swanson.

Eighty-two percent of our board area is covered in native vegetation and it provides 40 percent of the native vegetation in the whole Auckland region. The Heritage Area contains the entire 17,000 hectare Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, and the board takes pride in its nationally important natural areas. The Heritage Area faces unique challenges because of its closeness to a large metropolitan area and because it has settlements scattered through and around the natural areas. A particular focus of the plan is to ensure that activities in the coastal and rural settlements do not put at risk the forests of the Waitākere Ranges.

Jack Crow's plan gives the board strong guidance on what its priorities should be. It confirms that the board's focus should be on pest plants rather than pest animals, which he advises are generally well controlled. On the other hand, pest plants have undergone somewhat of an explosion. The plan identifies the places and weeds that should be the primary focus, and he advises us to prioritise work with private land owners, as pest plant control on public land is under the control of other parts of Auckland Council.

Nevertheless, there are recommendations on advocacy the local board can undertake to strengthen the approach of Auckland Council in its various roles as provider of parks, biosecurity services, water supply and manager of transport corridors.

The plan makes clear that while many parts of Council have responsibilities for the health of the Heritage Area, we must join with our communities as stewards of the area. The local board is very comfortable with this approach as it values the efforts already made by groups and individuals, and it gives us the best chance of creating sustainable environmental action.

The challenge before the board now is to implement the plan, along with other parts of Council, in partnership with our communities. This is not a choice but a necessity. The future wellbeing of the Waitākere Ranges, and its people, depend on it.

Sandra Coney
Chair, Waitākere Ranges Local Board

2. Executive Summary

This Strategic Plan was commissioned by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board to address the weed issues in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA). The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act assigns specific responsibilities to Auckland Council to protect a range of values in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA), which contains some of New Zealand's finest and best-protected native habitats and recreational areas, of national significance due to their size, condition and species composition. These values are of significant economic benefit to the Auckland region. All of these values are threatened by weed incursion.

Pest animals and kauri dieback disease in the WRHA are generally being managed to a very high level, however pest plant management is not well coordinated across all jurisdictions and is under-resourced. The Waitākere Ranges have very high weed indices, relative to most other habitats of similar size, because the Ranges have a large number of private properties within their borders and a lot of roads and tracks, which all act as weed sources and vectors.

Recent advances in animal pest control technologies are extremely likely to result in a step change in affordable, sustainable and effective pest animal control. There have been no new developments in weed control technologies globally in over 20 years, nor is there any likelihood of any appearing in the next 5-10 years.

These factors point to weeds being more of a problem, absolutely and relative to other threats to WRHA values. It is unlikely that budgets for weed management will be significantly increased over the next 5-10 years, so it is timely that weed issues be looked at strategically to determine where current and emerging threats lie, where best value for existing investment exists, what additional actions could or should be undertaken, and what the roles of the various community players could usefully be.

The rate of establishment of new weeds in the WRHA has slowed dramatically, mainly due to imposition of legislative bans on sale and propagation of weedy species, but also because of greater community awareness that garden plants can become ecological weeds. Most weeds appear first in gardens and spread outwards via roads, tracks, dump sites and areas of disturbance.

There is cascading series of actions that need to be implemented to successfully manage weeds long-term. Keeping weeds out and eradicating new high-threat weeds is being successfully managed by Council. Keeping specific high value areas weed free requires a lot of surveillance and this requirement is currently not being addressed.

Council currently manages weed vectors as much as is possible, by taking wind, water and human vectoring into account when designing programmes. However Auckland Transport needs to implement an ecological weed programme on road

reserves, and a draft programme is included for consideration. Also the Te Henga weed issues will become critical if not addressed with greater vigour. It is also important that Watercare Services allows best-practice weed control programmes to be implemented in catchment areas.

The most important sites requiring weed management in the WRHA are prioritised, including Council owned land and private land. The most important weeds are also similarly prioritised, and a range of management techniques outlined.

The key to achieving successful weed control is adoption of best practice prioritisation and control methods, which have been developed by Auckland Council Biosecurity over many years and are risk-aversion based and cost-effective. The Ecoweeds programme in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park has been very successful in using this approach in the Park. This methodology needs to be applied to other areas, especially Local Parks and road reserves. It uses site-based and species-based approaches.

The Board should expend its resources on weed management on private land in the WRHA, mainly in assisting community-based projects as these can bring greater return on investment if properly managed. The Pest Free Warrant scheme offers much promise in using peer pressure and awareness of asset values in achieving weed management goals in the WRHA.

It is clear that Council needs to direct more resources to weed management in the WRHA, particularly in coordination of volunteer efforts on private land. This should be accompanied by better on-line advisory resources.

A total of 38 specific recommendations are included to address these issues.

3. Introduction

This plan was commissioned by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and is a strategic report to enable managers, local elected members and the community to make the most practical and cost-effective choices with regard to policy, programmes and budgetary decisions for weed management in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA).

The plan is not a weed inventory, as accurate lists of taxa in the Waitākere Ranges Ecological Area have already been compiled by the Auckland Herbarium and Auckland Council and are readily available.

It does not include maps of weed infestations, as accurate weed maps for most species do not exist and the creation of maps is a very expensive exercise that would not well serve a strategic context. Rather the purposes of this plan are to

- establish priority species and areas for protection
- identify key vectors for weed spread and recommend means by which these can be managed
- describe the legal and operational responsibilities for pest plant management in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and recommend priorities for these responsible bodies; and
- set out areas for Waitākere Local Board advocacy and actions, and suggest priorities and timelines.

3.1 Why have a Strategic Weed Management Plan?

The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act assigns specific responsibilities to Auckland Council to protect a range of values in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (WRHA), refer Appendix A. The WRHA contains some of New Zealand's finest and best-protected native habitats and recreational areas, which are of national significance due to their size, condition and species composition. The WRHA also has a multitude of unique intrinsic values, due to proximity to the Auckland urban area, including historic, cultural/ tangata whenua, landscape/scenic, water supply, tourism and recreational values. The WRHA is also a place of learning for the community, a vast field site used frequently for scientific research.

All of these values contribute to the regional economy in vital ways. Most of these values are at considerable or severe risk of degradation or loss due to the incursion of pest animals, pathogens and plants (“weeds”¹ generally).

In the Waitākere Ranges, pest animal indices are comparatively low and in some cases pest species are absent altogether (e.g. feral goat, deer, wallaby species). Some other pests are probably absent (e.g. Argentine ant, rook, most pest fish and exotic reptile species). The pest animals that do exist in the Ranges are under some measure of control, ranging from excellent (feral pig) to good (possum, mustelids, feral cat, rodents, rabbit). There are very few pest animals that are not controlled in some way, with perhaps only some wasp spp. and mouse not being managed.

In addition, recent advances in animal pest control technologies, soon to be made available to pest managers and the community, are extremely likely to result in a step change in affordable, sustainable and effective pest animal control. Managers will be able to maintain extremely low pest indices for most pests, much of it by remote control. These advances are extremely likely to reduce pest animals generally to a lesser rank (than weeds) of risk to biodiversity and other values.

The discovery of kauri dieback disease in the Ranges led to a considerable investment in research, vector control, public education and engagement, track upgrades, area closures and other actions. Although the disease is perhaps the greatest single-species risk to the Ranges, current actions by Auckland Council appear to have greatly slowed or halted the further spread of infestation and it is likely that the disease is now contained. This cannot be claimed for weed spread for most weed species. In any event, it would be desirable to implement the same approach to weeds as to kauri dieback, i.e. to contain spread and protect identified high value areas and key native species in the Waitākere Ranges. For the purposes of this Plan, these high value areas and species are deemed to be the Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) as defined by Auckland Council and the Department of Conservation.² Weed control is much more expensive to undertake than pest animal control, and possibly more than kauri dieback control, on a per-area basis. Weed control is also less likely to be selective than animal pest control, i.e. risks of collateral damage are high. Current budgets have not been sufficient to provide for significant improvement in habitat condition across the whole WRHA. There have been gains. Many small and medium-sized areas have been improved through the removal of pest plants, some high-risk pest plant species have been eradicated

¹ The terms “pest plant” and “weed” have overlapping meanings in this context, refer Glossary

² Work on defining and assessing high value areas and key native species is currently being undertaken by the Auckland Council Biodiversity team. Until this work is completed, the Plan will use the Significant Ecological Area (SEA) assessments as the most relevant and up-to-date in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area. The SEAs also include species identified by Council's Biodiversity team as priorities for management.

Significant Ecological Areas have been protected by preventing weed ingress, however, it is likely that these improvements have been equalled by incursion of existing weeds into new areas. There has never been sufficient budget to address these weed issues in a manner that will improve habitats to the stage where maintenance-only costs remain, nor is there any likelihood of this budget being made available in the next 10 years. In many respects, weed management in the WRHA has been treading water rather than making major advances.

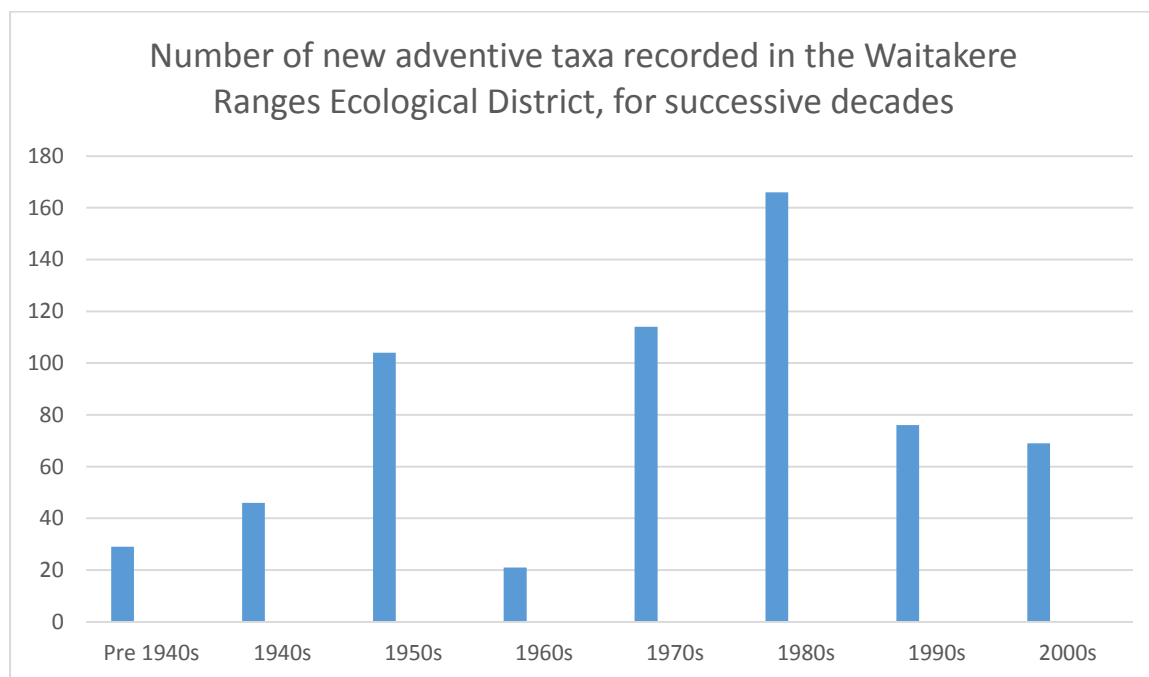
The Waitākere Ranges have very high weed indices, relative to most other habitats of similar size, mainly because the Ranges have a large number of dwellings and gardens within their borders, and a lot of roads and tracks. These gardens are weed factories, continuously adding to weed infestations in adjacent public land. Weeds are also significant threats in other WRHA habitats, e.g. Te Henga wetland, where weeds constitute the greatest threat to biodiversity, water quality, public safety and infrastructure. At Whatipu, weeds pose the biggest threat to dune structure and the survival of rare native plants. At Lake Wainamu, weeds are now the greatest threat to water quality and recreational values. The high total length of roads and vehicle accessways in the Ranges also contributes to weed problems because roads are essentially wounds in the canopy that allow and assist weed ingress.

There have been no new developments in weed control technologies globally in over 20 years, nor is there any likelihood of any appearing in the next 5-10 years, as there has been no research on relevant herbicide chemistry occurring worldwide. Research for over 20 years has focussed on better ways of applying existing herbicides and mechanical control methods and there is little scope for improvement in these areas.

All of these factors point to weeds being more of a problem, absolutely and relative to other threats to WRHA values. It is unlikely that budgets for weed management will be significantly increased over the next 5-10 years, so it is timely that weed issues be looked at strategically to determine where current and emerging threats lie, where best value for existing investment exists, what additional actions could or should be undertaken, and what the roles of the various community players could usefully be.

There is one encouraging trend in the broader weed management area. National and Auckland regional government programmes over the past 20 years to permanently ban the propagation, sale and distribution of the most adventive taxa, has greatly slowed the rate of introduction of new weed taxa. The seemingly endless succession of new recorded weeds, prevalent until the 1990s, has slowed.

Fig 1: Establishment of new adventive taxa in the Waitākere Ranges Ecological District, as recorded in the Auckland Museum Herbarium weeds database



** Note very little surveying was done in the WRHA in the 1960s.*

This is a very pleasing trend, as new subdivision and increases in the number of new gardens, the availability and marketing of new garden plants, and the unassisted spread of weeds from other areas, would all be expected to contribute to a continuing increase in adventive plants. Given the considerable lag phase between introduction into gardens and establishment in the wild (typically 5-60 years), the trend is predicted to continue downwards. This levelling off gives hope that programmes for existing weeds can bring habitat improvement rather than mere replacement of one weed with another.

Despite the downward trend of new adventive taxa establishment in the WRHA, there are more than enough currently existing taxa to compromise or destroy most or all habitats. Perhaps 300 of the 625 taxa are significant-to-serious environmental weeds, with more of them likely to become so. It is therefore vital that immediate and ongoing measures be increased. Given the size of the problem, it is appropriate that a strategic approach be taken, to maximise value for investment, protect the most important habitats and prevent the worst species further compromising natural areas.

At present, there is no overarching strategic weed management plan for the Ranges or the WRHA, however there is a plethora of other planning documents covering

parts of the WRHA or aspects of the problem. The Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008 requires a management plan for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and this was completed by the former Auckland Regional Council in 2010. This plan must be reviewed every ten years and must include ecological protection measures. The Regional Parks Management Plan also identifies many of the areas that need to be protected from weed impacts, and links to specific site-based management plans.

Local Area Plans produced under this Act have included a strong focus on weeds. These plans would benefit from a high level strategic plan from which to draw and reference. All plans (including this plan) must comply with the Act.

The review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy 2007-2014 is currently being undertaken. The WRHA Strategic Weed Management Plan can and should influence the direction and scope of the new 10-year Regional Pest Management Plan.

4. The Weed Problem in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area

As stated above, the Waitākere Ranges is heavily infested with pest plants and nuisance weeds. The Auckland Museum/Auckland Council index of adventive taxa for the Waitākere Ecological District (broadly the same as the WRHA), based only on herbarium specimens, in February 2012 contained 421 dicots, 190 monocots, 8 ferns and 6 gymnosperms, a total of 625 adventive taxa³. There will be a small but not insignificant number of unrecorded adventive plants, mostly from peri-urban areas, gardens, ponds, lifestyle blocks, farms, horticultural blocks and commercial areas, some of which are capable of moving into natural areas.

The list of adventive taxa in the adjoining Tamaki Ecological District, which adjoins the Waitākere Ecological District, is over twice as large as that in Waitākere, so further weed movement into the WRHA is inevitable.

There is much land in the WRHA that is not in native habitats and this land serves as an internal source of weeds. Most of this land is in lifestyle and light farming tenure and in fact is not heavily weed-infested. A survey by Auckland Regional Council Biosecurity staff in 2006 found 17 adventive species in several thousand hectares of farmland and lifestyle blocks around Swanson but 50 adventive species on the roadside of Swanson Rd in Swanson Village alone. This demonstrates that most of the environmental weeds originate and radiate from private gardens and roads.

The pattern of weed distribution is very closely aligned with human habitation and activity⁴. Weeds radiate outwards from gardens, roads⁵, tracks, dump sites and other areas where soils or habitats have been disturbed. Even weeds with wind-blown seeds that travel very long distances (e.g. pampas, moth plant) are initially and often generally confined to sites of human disturbance. This means that most remote and undisturbed sites have far fewer weeds and some remote sites are pristine.

This pattern brings special challenges for the Waitākere Ranges and other sites in the WRHA. The abundance of houses in the Ranges, the large number of walking tracks, and the very high numbers of visitors, all mean that weeds are more likely to be introduced and spread. These factors cannot be eliminated, but measures can be put in place to minimise risks of weed introduction, lower impacts and control infestations.

³ Auckland Museum; List of Adventive and Native taxa; 21 February 2012

⁴ JON J. SULLIVAN, PETER A. WILLIAMS, EWEN K. CAMERON, and SUSAN M. TIMMINS (2004) People and Time Explain the Distribution of Naturalized Plants in New Zealand. *Weed Technology*: December 2004, Vol. 18, No. sp1, pp. 1330-1333. doi: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1614/0890-037X\(2004\)018\[1330:PATETD\]2.0.CO;2](http://dx.doi.org/10.1614/0890-037X(2004)018[1330:PATETD]2.0.CO;2)

⁵ Sullivan, J. J., Williams, P. A., Timmins, S. M., & Smale, M. C. (2009). Distribution and spread of environmental weeds along New Zealand roadsides. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology*, 33(2), 190-204.

The scale of the weed problem can be understood by looking at current Auckland Council Biosecurity and Parks investment levels. Over \$350,000 pa is expended on weed management in the WRHA, which is considerably more than for possum control and is approximately equal to the combined annual expenditure for all pest animals. In the last ten years, pest animal indices have been lowered but the same cannot be claimed for weeds. The overall lack of success in weed management, indicates that a much greater allocation of resources needs to be made by all parties with responsibilities for weed management.

5. Strategic approach to weed management

The wide range of contributing factors described above all demand that a strategic approach be taken to weed management in the WRHA. Weed management typically follows a cascading series of actions:

1. Keep new weeds out of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area altogether
2. Eradicate newly arrived, high-threat weeds
3. Maintain specific weed-free areas as weed-free
4. Manage weed vectors
5. Control most important weeds at key locations
6. Roll back key weed infestations
7. Make weeds less competitive
8. Contain current infestations of most common weeds
9. Clean up, replant and restore other weedy areas; acting on regional, area or local priorities.

These actions are addressed in turn, below.

Weed control programmes need to be designed on either a species-based approach or area-based approach. The former seeks to eradicate or permanently suppress nominated high-threat taxa, whilst the latter seeks to protect pristine areas from all weed ingress. Decisions constantly need to be made as to which approach is to be used, and are based on level of threat, weed incidence and range, and value of each habitat under control (particularly values of threatened native flora and fauna and/or key ecological processes).

The Auckland Council Ecoweeds programme is designed each year, by Auckland Council's Biosecurity, Regional Parks and Biodiversity staff, who all follow Council's established Best Practice principles. Programme design takes into consideration the Auckland Council Regional Pest Management Strategy / Plan, Regional Parks Management Plan and the Biodiversity Strategy. It can therefore be seen that the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park already has a strategic annual programme for pest plant management. Department of Conservation land is similarly managed in a strategic fashion, although budgets are inadequate.

Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks are not subjected to the same planning processes: rather weed control is generally undertaken on a complaints basis or to priorities set by the contractors employed to undertake control work. This does not pose any problems for local parks without native habitats. However the lack of priority setting has resulted in significant weed infestations in local parks being overlooked. Weed management on natural areas in Local Parks would be better prioritised using the Ecoweeds process and Best Practice methodologies utilised in Regional Parks (refer Recommendation 29).

Private land in the WRHA is not subject to any overall strategic weed management plan, other than the provisions of the Regional Pest Management Plan. This plan can serve as the strategic overview for weed management on private land, under which operational plans can be developed.

1. Keep new weeds out of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area altogether

Keeping weeds out of the WRHA is easily the most cost-effective means of weed management. New weeds almost always first appear in gardens. Auckland Council Biosecurity maintains an advisory and identification service for ratepayers, which is reasonably effective in picking up new weeds. The Auckland Weedspotter Network is an informal grouping of people interested in weed matters, who look for new plants on a casual basis and via botanical surveys. It is closely aligned with the Auckland Botanical Society and Auckland Museum, whose members and staff maintain very high standards of accuracy in plant identification and recording. The Network, Society and Museum are assisted by Auckland Council and are very effective in finding and recording new weeds.

The search and discovery of new weeds, and their management, often attract little media or public attention but are extremely cost-effective activities. There are often calls by politicians and senior managers for these activities to cease due to funding pressures, however these calls should always be resisted or other means found to fund these necessary activities.

Recommendation 1 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to continue to materially support the Auckland Weedspotter Network and Auckland Museum Herbarium, and to encourage people and groups in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area to join the Network.

2. Eradicate newly-arrived, high-threat weeds

Auckland Council Biosecurity currently classifies 36 pest plants as 'Total Control'. These plants are extremely high-threat, low-incidence taxa that Auckland Council eradicates at its own cost. There are nine of these taxa in the WRHA, at approximately 90 sites, most of these now historic or under surveillance, that is, no live plants remain but the sites are inspected regularly and all propagules removed when found.

Auckland Council Biosecurity has also eradicated several new species⁶, regardless of their legal status, where the species has shown significant weedy characteristics elsewhere, and where the land occupier agrees. These programmes are extremely cost-effective and successful, mainly because action is taken when infestation levels are very low but also because programme administration costs and time are negligible. Most of these eradicated species were then added to the declared pest plant list in a subsequent review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy.

The Regional Pest Management Strategy will be reviewed by Auckland Council over 2015 through a process that will involve public consultation. A new Regional Pest Management Plan will be adopted in 2016. There are a number of additional taxa recorded from the WRHA that could be added to the 'Total Control' category or eradicated with the agreement of the affected land occupiers. These plants are included in Appendix C.

Recommendation 2 – Advocacy and input into Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and other interested parties submit to Auckland Council to consider the plant taxa included in Appendix C for categorisation as Total Control Plants in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.

3. Maintain Specific Weed-Free Areas as Weed-Free

This is in many ways the most difficult objective to fund, implement and monitor. Pristine areas are almost always remote and difficult to traverse. Staff need to be highly trained to spot a wide range of weed species in fairly dense native plant habitats, and monitoring needs to be reasonably intense and frequent - ideally once every two years but at least once every five years. The work is very unspectacular and arduous. If contractors are used, the expense is considerable (\$20/ha - \$100/ha).

Currently, inspection of Significant Ecological Areas (SEAs) is undertaken by Auckland Council Biosecurity and Regional Parks staff, the Auckland Botanical Society and other volunteers on an ad-hoc basis, with occasional and limited monitoring undertaken by contractors when budget allows. Coverage is not comprehensive or systematic, however new weeds in most SEAs tend to be discovered reasonably quickly and dealt with where the species and/or habitats are high priority. It would be very useful if regular weed surveys were undertaken in all SEAs. The Auckland Botanical Society does vital voluntary work in this regard but the frequency and coverage are not ideal. Auckland Council Biosecurity, Regional Parks and other parties should consider

⁶ Council has eradicated at least 4 taxa in the WRHA since 2003, before these taxa were declared pests

contracting the Botanical Society or its members to undertake monitoring weed incidence in the highest value habitats, as this would likely be more cost-effective than using contractors alone. Alternatively Auckland Council Biosecurity should consider using summer students to do this work. This monitoring could also include simultaneous weed control if very few plants are found. This is extremely cost-effective.

It is expected that the great bulk of the cost of this programme would be in monitoring rather than in weed control per se. However where additional control needs to be funded then this cost should come from reprioritising the existing Auckland Council Regional Parks Ecoweeds budget, as is currently the case.

There are also a small number of areas in private ownership within the WRHA. These lands should be considered as high priority for contract monitoring as, unlike regional or local parks, they do not have any form of systematic weed control in place. Auckland Council delivers a Strategic Weed Initiative (SWI) which funds weed control on private land adjoining Auckland Council parkland. It is designed to protect parkland from external weed threats and where serious weed taxa are found, the SWI budget should be used to fund weed control in these areas. These areas of private land should rank in the highest priority sites for control under this programme.

The SWI programme has been extremely successful in protecting high value WRHA areas. However, Council has had many demands on its biosecurity budgets in recent years (for example, the threat of kauri dieback) and so the SWI budget has been reduced by almost 60% in recent years due to demands in other areas. It is vital that the budget be restored.

It is these areas where the Waitākere Ranges Local Board should expend most of its resources. Priority should be given to augmenting the SWI programme to protect high ecological value sites on private land adjoining the Regional Park (refer also to Section 9).

Recommendation 3 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that Auckland Council ensures that all Significant Ecological Areas within the WRHA be monitored for weed ingress, ideally every two years but at least every five years.

Recommendation 4 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that Auckland Council investigates the creation of partnerships with external groups with botanical expertise, or the use of suitably trained summer students, to ensure that all Significant Ecological Areas in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area are monitored for weed status.

Recommendation 5 – Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to increase the Biosecurity Strategic Weeds Initiative budget.

Recommendation 6 – Action for the Local Board: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board makes a priority of allocating resources to pest plant control on private land adjoining the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park

4. Manage weed vectors

Wind

Wind is the primary vector for spread of many significant weeds in the WRHA, especially pampas, moth plant, agapanthus and Mexican daisy. These four taxa are assessed individually below. Although there is nothing that can be done to ameliorate wind forces, the impacts of wind-blown weed spread can be minimised by commencing weed control programmes to windward (almost always the west), moving to leeward (the east). For this reason it is imperative that the pampas infestations on the WRHA coastline continue to be prioritised for eradication. It is vital that Auckland Council Biosecurity's current programme of progressively controlling pampas at Whatipu, Pararaha, Piha South and Te Henga continues, and that it extends to include North Piha, Anawhata and Muriwai south. The programme should aim at permanent suppression of pampas, so that not only the high ecological values at Whatipu/Pararaha are protected but re-infestation of high value sites to the east does not occur after they have been treated.

There is a significant pampas infestation on the northern coastal tip of the Awhitu Peninsula and this poses a threat to the WRHA. This infestation should be controlled to prevent it infesting the WRHA.

Recommendation 7 – Advocacy via Auckland Council's Long-term Plan process and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that Auckland Council Biosecurity formally commits to permanent suppression of pampas on the coastline from Whatipu to Muriwai, and also ensures the control of the pampas infestation on the northern end of the Awhitu Peninsula to prevent reinfestation of the WRHA.

The wind-dispersed *Agapanthus praecox* has recently colonised some of the coastal cliffs of the WRHA. This species can quickly form dense permanent monocultures, replacing all native habitats and rare native plant species. These small infestations need to be removed before they become major problems that current resources could not cover.

Recommendation 8 – Advocacy via input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that Auckland Council formally commit to permanent suppression of *Agapanthus praecox* from the WRHA coastline through the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Also wind-dispersed, Mexican daisy (*Erigeron karvinskianus*) is a significant pest plant in the WRHA, invading a very wide range of habitats and spreading quickly by wind over long distances and into remote areas. It has already spread over much of the WRHA and there is nothing that can be done to reverse the trend. The species is a primary coloniser but in most habitats, over time, individual plants become twiggy and less dense, and other species grow through them and replace them. Mexican daisy will always be a significant pest on steep coastal areas where little competition exists, other than low-growing (often rare) native species. In these situations, Mexican daisy should be controlled. The species has previously been promoted by Auckland Council for biocontrol research but is currently not included by the National Biocontrol Collective as a priority. It is vital that Mexican daisy be included as a priority for biocontrol research.

Recommendation 9 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that Auckland Council submits to the National Biocontrol Collective that Mexican daisy *Erigeron karvinskianus* be included as a national priority for biological control research.

Lastly, moth plant (*Araujia sericifera*) is a very significant wind-dispersed pest plant that is currently not abundant in the WRHA. In the RPMS, the species is a Containment (Removal) Pest Plant in the Waitākere Weed Control Zone, which requires land occupiers to remove it. It is also currently a top priority species for biocontrol research (refer Biological Control section below) and it is recommended that the current and successful management programme continues without modification until biocontrol programmes are successful.

Roads

The WRHA is effectively dissected by roads and tracks. The roading network is extremely weedy and contributes massively to the weed problem. Surveys of roads through native habitats generally find high weed densities on road reserves, decreasing as the distance away from the road increases. Managing weeds on roadsides is initially costly but, if weeds are controlled selectively, costs fall considerably to low maintenance levels.

The responsibility for pest plant control on the public roading network lies now with Auckland Transport (AT). This is provided under Section 13.2(v) of the Regional Pest Management Strategy according to the agreement made

between the Chief Executives at the time of the formation of Auckland Council and its Council-Controlled Organisations (CCOs). Initially after amalgamation AT did not create a pest plant management plan or undertake significant weed control on its roadsides in the Auckland Region. A comprehensive list of immediate priority pest plant species, roads and responsibilities was agreed to by AT and Biosecurity, and this included the arterial roads of the WRHA (see Appendix D).

In 2014 AT commenced a control programme for gorse and woolly nightshade (and some pampas) for its roads in the Waitākere Ranges and this has signalled a new beginning in road reserve management in the Auckland region which needs to be expanded to include environmental pest plants. The AT road reserve pest plant programme, is comprehensive, staged and ongoing. If followed it has the potential to result in major improvements in the condition of roadsides in the WRHA and will also greatly reduce the threat of further weed ingress. A new timeline needs to be adopted, and a suggested timeline is included at Appendix D.

Recommendation 10 – Advocacy to Auckland Transport and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board continue advocacy to Auckland Transport regarding weed management in the road corridor of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Private roadways and driveways do contain weeds, however these are minor problems compared to the weed populations on public roadsides. Private roads can be considered as normal private land and the legal responsibilities are identical to those for private land. Adjoining land occupiers should be encouraged, and eventually required, to control the same pest plants on their land and roadways adjoining the public roads. Auckland Council is bound by the Regional Pest Management Strategy to protect the work done on public roads, by insisting that land occupiers undertake control following completion of work on adjoining road reserves. This policy is working successfully for the state highway network in collaboration with New Zealand Transport Agency and the legal position for local roads is identical. This legal responsibility could be referred to in Auckland Council's current Regional Pest Management Strategy and future Regional Pest Management Plan.

Recommendation 11 – Advocacy via input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, as part of the review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy submits to Auckland Council to amend Section 18 of the new RPMP to include the legal responsibility for land occupiers to be bound by the same pest

plant provisions that are imposed upon Auckland Transport for road reserves, to a minimum of 10 metres back from their common boundary.

Tracks

The Waitākere Ranges is dissected by over 200 km of walking tracks. Tracks act like roads in vectoring weeds, albeit normally in more minor fashion. Propagules of pest plants such as selaginella, tuber ladder fern, tradescantia, aristeia, agapanthus, plectranthus, brush wattle, montbretia, broom, periwinkle, crassula, Spanish heath and sweet pea shrub can be carried along tracks by people with muddy footwear.

Many tracks, especially lesser used routes, are in rough condition, with rutting, poor drainage and a lot of bare soil. Auckland Council's Regional Parks has done some track work, predominantly in response to kauri dieback disease, however budgets are insufficient to maintain all tracks without muddy areas in winter. More work needs to be done on keeping tracks dry (e.g. better drainage, raising track profiles, more boardwalks in key areas). This will also assist in preventing spread of kauri dieback disease so the benefits are comprehensive.

The recent creation of the Hillary Trail has increased risk of weed vectoring in several significant ways. Firstly, the increased traffic increases the likelihood of users spreading weeds. Secondly, the resultant additional maintenance burden means that other tracks have received less maintenance. Thirdly, Hillary Trail walkers traverse much greater distances than users of other tracks, increasing the risk of weed spread over long distances and into new catchments. The risk in coastal areas particularly has been increased.

Recommendation 12 – Advocacy to Auckland Council Regional Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board advocates to Auckland Council that all tracks in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park be temporarily closed when they are in a muddy condition, to prevent spread of weeds, kauri dieback and other pathogens.

Recommendation –13 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that:

- all tracks in the Regional Park be maintained to prevent weed and pathogen vectoring, and
- sufficient funding is provided to ensure all-weather condition track access to all major areas of the Park.

Waterways

The Waitākere Ranges streams are free of most significant freshwater aquatic pest plants. This has been largely due to the pristine condition of the headwaters, and sensible management by Auckland Council staff. However the weedy condition of the Waitākere Stream is of considerable concern, with crack and grey willows, alligator weed, Mexican water lily, parrot's feather and other weeds causing considerable ecological damage and posing high infrastructure and public safety risks in the Te Henga wetland. Programmes to control these weeds have been opposed by a number of residents concerned at pesticide use.

The willow removal programme was implemented over 20 years ago at the request of the local community, as a result of flooding caused by willow logs blocking the stream. This flooding threatened both the houses at the bottom of the estuary and the road. The clearing of willows from the main channel has been successful in reducing this threat of flooding. There are also many ecological benefits that will result if the willows are replaced by native vegetation. A fully funded programme (initially \$200,000 pa, falling to \$40,000 pa) could achieve eradication of willows, alligator weed and Mexican water lily within 10 years.

All of the pest plants of concern in the Te Henga wetland can be controlled and/or eradicated without causing any negative water quality or ecological impacts.

Unfortunately, budget cuts at Auckland Council have meant that some programmes have recently been cut, including part of the \$90,000 pa aquatic weed programme at Te Henga. This pest plant programme will need to be restored at some stage and may require external funding assistance.

Recommendation 14 – Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board seeks to secure funding for completion of the Te Henga aquatic weed programme.

Plant nurseries

There is a risk of weed spread via contaminated growing media in plant pots and use of inappropriate taxa (e.g. Australian “ngaio”, non-ecosourced and man-modified native hybrids). Weeds can be quickly introduced via planting into new habitats and catchments. This risk has recently increased with the advent of several *Phytophthora* pathogens including kauri dieback disease in the WRHA. These risks are diminished, but not obviated completely, when plants are sourced from reputable local nurseries. Nurseries themselves are at risk of contamination via their supply sources so it is imperative that nurseries

supplying plants for the WRHA are subjected to testing for weeds and pathogens.

The Ministry for Primary Industries, assisted by Auckland Council, is developing a national standard for nurseries, which includes weed and pathogen measures, nutrient management and other sustainability provisions. It would be advantageous for all nurseries operating in the WRHA, or supplying plants for planting in natural areas in the WRHA, to comply with this standard when it is developed.

Recommendation 15– Advocacy via the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board supports the adoption of a nursery hygiene standard for all nurseries within the WRHA or supplying plants for planting in natural areas in the WRHA.

Dumping of plant material

Vegetation dumping is a significant operational issue for Auckland Council. Dumped vegetation typically includes pest plants because they are characteristically serious garden weeds, which tend to grow quickly and are undesirable in gardens. This vegetation is often dumped rather than taken to facilities where charges usually apply.

Dumped vegetation is a primary source of new pest plant infestations. New weed species are frequently introduced from a considerable distance. The illegal nature of dumping means it is done covertly, which usually means in secluded areas of native vegetation. This means that dumps are frequently not detected until after weeds have become established. Dumping is often done over banks and steep slopes, making control of these infestations very difficult and expensive. Dealing with weed dumping is a significant cost to Auckland Council Parks and Biosecurity budgets.

Dumping can probably never be eliminated completely, but it can be successfully minimised via a combination of policies and programmes, which include incentives, disincentives, publicity and enforcement.

Incentives not to dump include removing charges for green waste at recycling depots, provision of transfer stations and bins, and subsidies for green waste and solarisation treatment. The Waitākere Local Board currently commits \$80,000 of funding per year to support the provision of permanent and temporary weed bins in the Board area.

Disincentives include warning signs, notification of covert filming and prosecution for offenders, and making known dumping sites unsuitable for utilisation. Regional Parks has recently created bunds at many pull-off areas on Scenic Drive to make dumping difficult and this can be extended.

Publicity should be undertaken stressing the environmental impacts of dumping, the availability of alternatives and the risk of prosecution. Local residents could be invited to report such dumping when they see it occurring. Promotion of home and community composting and weed solarisation methodologies should be included in publicity.

Recommendation 16 – Advocacy and Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to implement a campaign to minimise vegetation dumping, and should consider co-funding and or championing this campaign.

Watercare Services

Auckland Council Regional Parks Department manages all of the water catchment areas of the Ranges, and this management is subject to caveats and standards agreed with Watercare Services (WS) to ensure water quality standards are not compromised. The Ranges water catchment area is generally in good condition, with a small number of significant weed infestations, mostly associated with buildings, old building sites, depots, roads, tracks and the dams. WS had previously maintained a policy of pre-empting any risk of herbicide contamination of water supply, by use of a conservative procedures for herbicide use within water catchments and, in some cases, had opposed use of herbicides altogether including drill and fill or stump treatment. This conservative approach was aimed at managing the human health risk to the potable water supply from spray chemicals. This policy made weed control difficult, and, in some places impossible to achieve. Over time this approach could lead to the collapse of the forest canopy, blockage of waterways and lower catchment retention capacity, as shorter vegetation has much lower water retention ability than intact forest. However, recent policy changes at WS have led to a more cooperative relationship with Auckland Council Parks and Biosecurity that is focused on overall environmental health rather than looking exclusively at concerns regarding water contamination. It is hoped that this cooperation Group will lead to implementation of safe and effective weed management programmes in the land administered by WS.

There are a number of carnivorous plant species present at several WS sites (depot, dam, wetlands). Several of these species are pest plants (*Drosera capensis*, *Utricularia* spp.) and others are weedy to a limited degree. These species pose significant ecological threats, at several sites (e.g. WS Christian Road wetland). These plants should be removed, and WS should be requested to co-fund this programme.

There are a small number of infestations associated with old house and building sites within the catchment, where buildings do not now exist but pest plants remain. These infestations need to be eradicated.

There are a number of pest willow infestations in dams that need to be removed. For example, in 2003 there were very few willows in the Lower Nihotipu Dam but in 2015 there is now a sizeable infestation of large trees in the water and at the water's edge. Willows block waterways, affect water quality and infrastructure, and destroy native plant habitats. Drilling and filling would be a simple, safe, effective and cheap way to kill these willows, with no risk of water supply contamination.

There are a small number of WS access roads and tracks associated with infrastructure, which contain a few pest plant species. These also need to be treated.

Intact forest holds more water than weedy forest because it is taller, denser and wetter, and it releases water more slowly. It is an excellent buffer against temporal water fluctuations. Maintaining forest health should therefore be a long term goal of water managers. WS should invest in pest plant control to protect the integrity of the catchment. The WRLB should advocate to Auckland Council that it prepares a business case to show the economic and strategic benefits of pest plant control in water catchment areas in the Waitākere Ranges, with a view to WS contributing to pest plant eradication on this land. It is suggested that the WS investment should match that of Auckland Council (currently approximately \$250,000 pa), so that both parties have an equal stake in the outcomes and operational safeguards. This initial investment would quickly fall to a much lower maintenance level.

Recommendation 17 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests that Auckland Council implements pest plant control programmes in Watercare catchments, according to its Best Practice guidelines. Such programmes particularly need to focus on ex-house sites, tracks, roads, infrastructure sites and willows in dams and streams.

Recommendation 18 – Advocacy to Watercare Services: It is recommended that Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests that Watercare Services funds the removal of all exotic carnivorous plants from land it administers.

Recommendation 19 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to prepare a business case to demonstrate to Watercare Services the value of strategic investment in weed control in the Waitākere catchment to ensure protection of catchment integrity and water quality.

5. Control most important weeds at key locations

There are many places in the WRHA that are not pristine, but are worthy of intensive, publicly funded weed control because they have very high (often unique) values that are threatened by weed invasion and dominance. When weed vectors (above) are being controlled, it is appropriate that these areas be prioritised for weed management programmes. The most important areas in the WRHA that should be targeted for weed programmes have been defined in the Regional Parks Management Plan⁷. The sites in this Plan that are in the WRHA are listed below, with relevant comment as per the Plan. The list of sites will be refined when the assessment of priority ecological areas and species has been completed by the Biodiversity Team.

Top priority sites

Whatipu Scientific Reserve – Of highest priority for pest plant management, due to the nationally ranked ecological values and potential impacts of weeds on dune systems, wetlands and coastal habitats. Pampas, alligator weed, gorse, sundew species, Xmas lily, boxthorn, water paspalum and kikuyu should all be targeted for eradication or permanent suppression.

Mt Donald McLean Lookout – Hand weeding regularly required around the threatened *Hebe bishopiana*. Place signs on roadside to prevent weed spraying in this area.

Pararaha Valley – All significant pest plant spp. need to be controlled at this biodiversity hot spot.

Anawhata - Including its coast, also clean up weeds around Keddle House, especially the *Cotyledon orbiculata* infestation.

Mercer Bay Loop – Control weeds to protect endangered *Myosotis petiolata* var *pansa*.

High Priority sites

Lake Wainamu – Range of very high values (recreational, scenic, ecological, economic). Terrestrial and aquatic weeds being managed. Sand dune must be kept weed free. Stream and lake edges require more work, including private land. Recommend riparian fencing and planting on lake edges to minimise spread of gorse.

⁷ Auckland Regional Parks Management Plan 2010

Te Henga wetland – This has nationally significant ecological values and serious weed issues. The willow population needs to be managed for public safety and infrastructure protection reasons, as well as ecological reasons.

Karekare – Protect stream, coastline, bush edges. Nationally significant geological sites. Has significant weed control investment. Gateway to Pararaha and Whatipu. Would benefit from local weed-free property initiative in conjunction with Council programme.

Fairy Falls – High visitor traffic issue in near pristine area, a range of weed vectors to manage.

Huia Valley – Has very high infestations of climbing asparagus and wild ginger in particular. These need to be removed to minimise threat to near pristine forest above the valley. Would benefit from volunteer weed control efforts in conjunction with Council programme.

Hillary Trail – Needs extra resources for weed control, due to extra traffic.

Kakamatua – Estuary and wetland protection needed.

Piha Valley (Wai o Kahu) – The whole Piha area is very heavily infested with climbing asparagus and other pest plants, all surrounded by habitat in good condition. The risks of weed spread into Anawhata and the central Ranges are very high, therefore Piha should be a high-priority area for weed control, especially climbing asparagus but also Cape ivy and agapanthus. A local community programme should also be created to supplement the Council programme.

Cascades Kauri – Has very high ecological, scenic and tourism values. Selaginella is being transported along tracks by human traffic and needs to be managed.

Medium priority sites

Lion Rock – Replacement of kikuyu by planting.

Big Muddy Creek – Very weedy, likely to be reinfested unless local landowners implement weed control on private land. Should be a high priority for formation of a volunteer weed control group.

Arataki – The centre of visitor management, the area is always “on show”, has low weed indices but high vectoring risk.

Piha/ North Piha – Control spread of gazania, gradually replace with native spp.

Cornwallis – Has a wide range of weeds. Pine removal is a low priority, but pines constitute a weed source, fire risk and scenic eyesore. The over-mature pines are a safety issue.

Pae o te Rangi – Woolly nightshade control is a priority.

Lower Priority sites

Huia Lookout – Range of weeds.

Little Huia – Range of weeds.

Karamatura – Many weedy sites.

Bethel's Beach – Includes the beach and private land outside of Te Henga wetland and Lake Wainamu.

Eastern Foothills (Laingholm, Titirangi, Waiatarua, Oratia, Opanuku, etc.) – very wide range of weed species and infestations. Very significant weed vector risk. Typically not high priority for programme funding entirely by Council. Obvious priority for community group action, to remove weeds from private and public land in conjunction with Auckland Transport, Council, WRLB and external funding agencies. These areas are addressed in Section 9.

6. Roll back significant weed infestations

There is a host of pest plant infestations throughout the WRHA. Most of these infestations, and most of the key species, have not been mapped beyond a few localised areas. However the most high-threat species (that are not already being managed for eradication) have been identified⁸. These species, in approximately descending order of threat, are:

- climbing asparagus
- moth plant
- pampas
- wild ginger
- tradescantia
- Japanese honeysuckle
- jasmine
- agapanthus
- boneseed
- Cape ivy
- gazania
- lupin
- plectranthus
- blue morning glory.

⁸ Auckland Council pest plant and animal workshop, 6 October 2011; which included scientific assessments from databases and input from Biosecurity and Regional Parks staff and botanists.

Of all the weeds in the WRHA, climbing asparagus has become the most intractable and difficult to control. This is because it is difficult to detect when small, impossible to control absolutely selectively with herbicides, very difficult to dig out, and is spread over short-medium distances by birds. It inhabits a range of habitat types, forms monocultures on the forest floor, dominates sub-canopy niches and is shade-tolerant. Clearance by hand usually leaves tubers in the ground which quickly re-sprout.

It would also be prudent to consider the following species as significant pests (in approximately descending order of threat):

- selaginella
- grey willow
- crack willow
- English ivy
- Chinese privet
- tree privet
- phoenix palm
- giant reed
- Mexican daisy
- woolly nightshade
- monkey apple
- iceplant
- pitted crassula
- aristeia
- cotoneaster
- tuber ladder fern
- African pig's ear
- smilax (note subsequent advent of biocontrol programme, see below).

These pest plants are all common and ubiquitous in various parts of the WRHA. There will never be enough resources to treat all of these weeds over all known sites, or even most of these weeds over most high value sites. It is therefore necessary to strategise where effort is to be expended. Auckland Council's Ecoweeds budget is the primary source of funds for the necessary programmes on the Regional Park and it is important that resources be allocated to maintain and increase the investment in this area. The Ecoweeds programme establishes priorities and work programmes annually for the most important weeds, using Council's Best Practice methodologies to provide best return on investment. The programme has been successful in clearing weeds from key areas however the budget has not been increased for many years and is clearly

inadequate to ensure significant improvement in weed management across the Waitākere Ranges.

Recommendation 20: Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board submits to Auckland Council to ensure that the Council's Ecoweeds budget is increased by at least 20% in the Long-term Plan to prevent further environmental damage to the Regional Park.

7. Make weeds less competitive

Weedy species have certain characteristics that confer advantages to them over those of competing species. This usually includes a lack of predators and pathogens (of foliage, seed, roots, etc.) or a lack of competition from native plants (e.g. in waterbodies, on dunes). The former can be addressed by implementation of biological control programmes (see below). The latter cannot readily be addressed, apart from some limited planting regimes and pest animal control (see below), but the risks to these habitats can be understood and the habitats can be prioritised for weed management.

Biological control

Biological control (biocontrol) offers sustainable, selective, free (once-established) control of otherwise intractable weed species. When biocontrol is most effective the weed species essentially changes from being a major or insurmountable problem to a minor nuisance or insignificant occurrence. For example, mistflower was once one of the worst pest plants in the WRHA due to its extreme shade-tolerance, long distance windblown distribution and ability to form a dense monoculture on the forest floor. In some areas it was the only exotic plant species present. The only previous control method was to spray with a residual herbicide that causes a lot of collateral damage. It was perhaps the single greatest pest plant threat to kauri forest. After the successful use of biocontrol, mistflower is now a minor weed that does not warrant any programmes for its control.

However some biocontrol agents can fail to reach sufficient densities to impact significantly on the host species. Auckland Council is leading New Zealand in funding, assessing and monitoring research programmes for pest plants. Many of the most important weeds in the WRHA have been assessed as candidates for biocontrol, and several current programmes involve these species. Some current programmes look very promising, and it is likely that biocontrol will, in the next 10-20 years, bring significant control levels for these weeds. For this

reason, it is recommended that no additional resources (i.e. above current levels) be allocated to control of the following species.

Agents released:

- smilax (bridal creeper) – existing agent achieving excellent control levels
- ragwort – three existing agents achieving good control
- gorse – many agents released, 20-30 years required for them to reach critical mass and achieve significant control levels
- tradescantia – three agents recently released, new pathogen release imminent
- woolly nightshade – new agent showing promise in shaded habitats
- buddleia – new agent showing great promise
- boneseed – agent struggling to establish due to predation, more time required before likely success can be assessed, use of other agents likely
- Japanese honeysuckle – agent has recently been released at two New Zealand sites.

Agent release likely within one to five years:

- moth plant
- Chinese privet
- wild ginger
- brush wattle
- Sydney golden wattle
- Lantana

Other serious weeds in the WRHA are being targeted for biocontrol research, with no agents identified to date. These include selaginella and willows. Searches for likely biocontrol agents for climbing asparagus (*Asparagus scandens*) were undertaken in South Africa in 1999 and 2007. No agents were identified. Climbing asparagus is still on the priority list for biocontrol, however it is unlikely that any agents will be found and released in New Zealand in the short-medium term. For this reason it is recommended that, given the high threats posed by this plant, additional resources be found to expand current control programmes for climbing asparagus.

The status of biocontrol programmes for the pampas species are very similar to that for climbing asparagus. The taxonomic complexity of the several pampas species means that it is unlikely that entirely host-specific biocontrol agents will be found, at least in the short-medium term. Current management programmes

for pampas will need to continue for at least the next 10-15 years and perhaps indefinitely.

Biocontrol programmes are unspectacular and successes are often quickly forgotten as the targeted weed disappears from sight and complaint. The benefits to cost of biocontrol are well established and it is vital that the programmes continue because often they offer the only long term answer to intractable weed problems.

Recommendation 21 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to maintain its current level of commitment to national biological control research programmes

Pest animal control

Other means to make weeds less competitive include removing or controlling other factors that weaken habitat health and give weeds more light and room. This means keeping possum indices low, as possums damage the canopy and allow more light into the forest floor, which favours weedy exotics over native species. Conversely, killing possums keeps the forest more resilient to weed invasion. Rats consume native plant propagules at a disproportionate rate to exotics. Predators remove native birds that are the primary distributors for many key native plant species. It is vital in the battle against weeds to maintain pest animal indices as low as possible.

Volunteer groups do valuable and cost-effective work in controlling pest animals. The Ark in the Park group has been successful in reducing all significant pest indices and this means that as the forest health improves, weeds are less competitive and native plant vectors (e.g. kereru) ensure ongoing forest recovery and maintenance. It is vital that these groups continue to be assisted as much as possible.

New pest animal control methodologies are now being made available that will enable better pest control, at lower cost than ever before. It is important that AC takes advantage of these new developments, to bring down possum, rodent and mustelid indices over all natural areas of the WRHA. In addition to the direct benefits of pest animal control, this will assist greatly with preventing weed ingress.

Recommendation 22 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process and Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to maintain possum indices in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area at two per cent Residual Trap Catch or below in perpetuity.

Recommendation 23 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to deploy new pest animal technologies in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area as soon as they become available.

Management of disturbance, fire, water, nutrients, light, etc.

Native plants germinate and grow best in a normal successional fashion, which may occasionally result from disturbance (e.g. fire, tree fall). Many weeds are early colonisers of disturbed sites, and their presence typically sets off a whole new successional process that usually graduates through groundcovers to shrubs and vines, which reduce habitat height, and lead often to kikuyu as the terminal cover. Many primary coloniser species (e.g. gorse, pampas) are fire-prone and/or encourage fires and/or rely on fire for propagation. It is therefore important to minimise habitat disturbance. Planning controls on disturbance and mitigation measures need to be rigorously administered for land clearance, plantation forestry, roading and other activities that cause land disturbance.

Fire management is an area that is frequently under-funded and under-prepared. Fire management is not prominent politically until a major fire occurs, and usually only for a short while. It is important that fire managers' requests for organisational and infrastructural improvement be heeded.

Recommendation 24 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board seeks information from Auckland Council's Rural Fire and Regional Parks team that fire prevention and response provisions are adequate in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Weed control causes disturbance because it removes weeds. If not done selectively, weed control can cause significant disturbance which will lead to replacement by primary coloniser weeds e.g. pampas, gorse. This can be clearly seen on many roadsides, where current methods of control (e.g. bulldozing, spraying indiscriminately with glyphosate) have led to more gorse, pampas, woolly nightshade, agapanthus and tradescantia. The Auckland Council Best Practice guidelines for weed management (which can be found on Council's website) require that the Method Of Least Disturbance (MOLD) is used in all natural areas and roadsides under Auckland Council control, to protect desirable vegetation, minimise or prevent weed invasion, and ensure succession to a weed free natural habitat as quickly as possible. MOLD often means higher initial treatment costs but always costs less long-term as need for follow up treatments drops rapidly, compared with non-selective methods that will require permanent ongoing treatments.

It is very important that all weed control in the WRHA be undertaken using MOLD principles and techniques, including on all Council-owned land.

Recommendation 25 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that Best Practice control methods are used on all council-owned land, including Method Of Least Disturbance principles.

Where deliberate disturbance is undertaken (e.g. removal of exotic pines), or where fire has destroyed habitat, land managers need to ensure that restoration plans are created and implemented to prevent rapid colonisation by weedy exotic species. This particularly needs to occur in the Regional Park.

Recommendation 26 Advocacy to Auckland Council Regional Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that restoration plan templates have been created and that restoration plans are put in place after all significant habitat disturbance instances.

Pest plant infestations can arise where normal water flows have been disrupted, e.g. channelling of water off roads into native habitats. This causes significant increases in flows in some areas and lower flows in other areas. Both of these can lead to weed spread and diminish habitat health. For example, wetter areas are likely to support giant reed, glyceria etc. and areas becoming drier are more likely to support agapanthus, boneseed, aristeia, hakea, etc. All drainage design in the WRHA needs to take these factors into account, and planning controls need to enshrine catchment protection.

Recommendation 27 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that planning controls protect catchment values at all scales in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Nutrient run off frequently causes water quality problems in streams and rivers. Most of the worst freshwater aquatic weeds thrive in high nutrient situations and some require it. It is very fortunate that all waterways in the WRHA have their headwaters in pristine or near pristine habitats, and water quality in these streams is generally very high. However, some of the streams become nutrient enhanced as they pass through farmland and habitated areas. The Waitākere River at Te Henga is at risk of nutrient pollution and it is important that nutrient levels are regularly monitored.

Recommendation 28 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that regular water quality monitoring is undertaken in the Waitākere River and other streams in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, and that steps be taken

to ensure reinstatement of high quality water values where these have been compromised.

8. Contain current infestations of most weeds

In addition to the range of measures outlined above, it is necessary to contain significant existing infestations of key pest plant species, to minimise risk of vectoring into new areas via wind and birds. The most important pest plant species listed above should be the first priorities for action, at sites closest to the Regional Park and coastline.

A number of local parks in the WRHA have significant pest plant infestations. The focus for management of local parks has tended to be for recreational rather than ecological values. It would be advantageous for weed management on local parks to be prioritised and implemented in the same fashion as for the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park, and Council should ensure that this occurs. In this way, current pest control programmes (and other ecological protection programmes) on the Regional Park can be extended seamlessly to include local parks.

The Piha Domain is a special case. It is essentially a recreational reserve but contains a very large and highly visible infestation of climbing asparagus. This serves as a primary source of contagion for the Regional Park. It is important that this infestation be eradicated.

Recommendation 29 Advocacy to Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks to adopt the site and species prioritisation model and Best Practice guidelines for weed control that are currently used on Regional Parks.

Recommendation 30 Advocacy to Auckland Council Local and Sports Parks and Biosecurity: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks ensure that the Piha Domain is maintained free of climbing asparagus, and Biosecurity commits to maintaining a programme to control this weed over the rest of Piha.

9. Clean up weedy areas, replant and restore

There are many very weedy sites in the WRHA in private ownership that do not in themselves contain high ecological values. However they almost all have high scenic and recreational value, and considerable asset value. These sites are also weed nurseries and are often weed fronts adjoining areas of high ecological value, especially those areas adjacent to the Waitākere Ranges

Regional Park. It is these areas where community effort should be best directed, and where the WRLB should direct resources to assist private landowners to manage ecological weeds.

The best means, and in all likelihood the only practical means, to deal with the considerable weed issues in these areas is by cooperative community action, integrated with Local Board and Council resources and effort. This is described in the section on Community Effort (below).

The Ecoweeds prioritisation process, Best Practice methodologies and costings used on Regional Parks and SWI programmes should be used when managing weeds on private land, whether by individuals or community groups. The process should also be used to advise the WRLB in how it allocates resources in relevant settlements, for species and area selection, methodologies to be used and costing. The WRLB and Council staff should be guided by the priorities established in the relevant Local Area Plans (LAPs) as these priorities have been developed in consultation with local residents. The Biosecurity team should continue to advise the Board, groups and individuals on Best Practice weed control methods.

The areas of highest priority in this category, and high priority for Board and Council assistance, are:

- i) Karekare – This settlement has few weeds and adjoins very high ecological value sites. In addition to Council's programmes, a community weed group should be formed to eradicate or permanently suppress most ecological weeds. This could be achieved at low cost.
- ii) Piha – The very significant weed infestations are contained essentially within the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park. Council is very unlikely in the next 20 years or so to have sufficient resources to deal with all of the weed issues at Piha. A community weed control group needs to be formed to complement Council's efforts.
- iii) Huia – Like Piha, this settlement is surrounded by high ecological value ecosystems. Although the Huia community has done a lot of weed control work, there is a pressing need for a lot more to be done, e.g. on climbing asparagus. A more concerted effort is required, assisted by Council and the Board.
- iv) Waiatarua – The very significant areas of weed infestation, range of weed species and elevation, make Waiatarua a primary weed nursery and distribution area. There is a pressing need for more community-led weed programmes, augmented by a Council programme.
- v) Big Muddy Creek / Parau – Council has done a lot of weed control in the parkland between the sea and private properties. However reinvasion from private land needs to be halted and a programme of weed control on private land implemented, otherwise the continuing need for weed control

will undermine the ecosystem and eventually become unsustainable to maintain.

- vi) Cornwallis – Most of the weed issues (e.g. pines and other weeds on the coastline) need to be managed by Council, however a relatively modest collaborative effort from local landowners would result in much ecological and scenic improvement.
- vii) Opanuku – Because it is surrounded on most sides by regional parkland, this settlement poses invasion threats to high value ecosystems. However its low population means that it could be managed reasonably easily with a joint community/ Council/ Board programme.
- viii) Oratia – This area has significant weed issues, however the large areas of relatively clean farmland act as a buffer to many weeds. It would be relatively easy for a community weed programme to manage these weeds and remove the threats to the regional parkland.
- ix) Woodlands Park – This settlement has lower weed indices than most others, and community management of weeds here could be relatively easily achieved.
- x) Laingholm – This settlement is characterised by mostly high ecological values and low weed indices in its centre and coastline, with a very significant weedy band along its northern border and roadsides. A community-led approach is needed to deal with this area.
- xi) Titirangi – Although this large settlement has the largest areas of weed infestation, greatest number of weed species, highest potential weed control costs and highest population, there exists in Titirangi many pockets of high value habitat and very high scenic values which are all threatened by weed invasion. The community has also demonstrated the ability to work together on many social, environmental and related issues. A community-led initiative would likely have to be initially focussed on specific areas, expanding as these areas are cleaned up.

In addition to the areas and settlements mentioned above, there is a very small number of very weedy sites where weeds pose an intolerable threat to surrounding values, where these areas would benefit from a major intervention by mechanical clearing of the very heavy weed infestations. This type of intervention creates areas of bare land, which very quickly become weed nurseries. In these cases, full site restoration programmes need to be implemented. These are very costly, so should only be implemented according to regional, area or local priorities that have funding surety over at least 10 years, and that have appropriate organisational support. A range of funding and operational mechanisms needs to be explored for these programmes, including formation of trusts to manage the sites. In this regard, the Project Twin Streams (PTS)

project can be used as a teaching experience. PTS has created some fine habitat, dealt with flood risks, and raised water quality and scenic values, however the initial and ongoing costs have been very high. It is not suggested that PTS was not a good investment, but its costs need to be considered as a good pointer to what can be expected for similar restoration projects.

6. Community and Volunteer effort, Coordination, Information Exchange, Publicity

As outlined above, there is very little that can be achieved on private land without coordinated community effort. Weed problems are simply too numerous, widespread and costly, and weed reinvasion too likely from neighbouring properties, for most landowners to successfully manage individually. Community partnerships are absolutely necessary if any worthwhile progress is to be made against weeds. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board should channel most or all of its weed management budget on programmes that are community-led and involve private land. The Board should also seek assistance from Council and other funding sources for these programmes.

Given the current focus on reducing maintenance costs, Auckland Council is lately encouraging a greater involvement of local community groups in environmental action, and is focussing on how it can assist this action. In this regard, Council policy mirrors recent Department of Conservation policy development. Council would therefore be more likely to be receptive to approaches for community assistance if it could be convinced that this assistance would save Council money in the short-to-medium term. This would not be difficult to demonstrate for many programmes.

There is a lot of voluntary effort already occurring, and these serve as examples of what can be achieved. Examples are listed below.

Local campaigns against specific weeds, e.g. Ginger Out Week, have worked well in the past to educate communities regarding weed threats and to achieve significant progress in control of the species. They also have some limited success in obtaining ongoing land occupier action against these and other weeds. The shortcomings include lack of focus on other weeds (the nominated weed is sometimes replaced by other adventive species), lack of focus on the causes of weed ingress and impacts, lack of long term commitment, and an increasing sense of hopelessness when successive single species campaigns are implemented (i.e. there will always be too many weeds). Nevertheless, these campaigns have greatly raised the profile of ecological weeds generally and led to other more holistic programmes.

Landcare and Weedbuster group formation and action on a suite of weeds have been very successful in some parts of the Auckland region and throughout New Zealand. Places with a strong local community focus are particularly adept at this type of approach, e.g. Waiheke Island. The group approach works very well because ownership of issues sits squarely with the land occupiers, shared problems become easier to overcome, groups can tap into external resources more readily than individuals, and peer pressure works better than officialdom in stimulating locals to action. There are a few groups in the WRHA that are doing excellent work on pest animals (e.g. Ark in the Park, Operation Possum Blitz, Bethel's Beachcare, Friends

of Whatipu, Friends of Arataki, Lone Kauri, Forest Ridge, La Trobe). There are also groups engaged in native planting and weed control (for example, through the Sustainable Neighbourhoods) but there is not the same level of community group involvement in weed control. Perhaps this is due to a sense of the problem being overwhelming or communities not knowing where to start.

Existing groups with a pest animal focus could also be encouraged to widen their ambit to include pest plants, to achieve more integrated solutions for their land, and capitalising on successful pest animal programmes. There is a range of external funding sources that can be utilised to support these groups, in addition to the budgets provided by Auckland Council. The growth in community pest initiatives regionally, while a welcome development, has required investment from Auckland Council through their Community Pest Control budget and the programme requires additional funds. Community assistance programmes offer great value for investment and should be encouraged in the Ranges, e.g. possum control is \$25/ha - \$55/ha if undertaken by contractor but \$5/ha - \$9/ha if materials are supplied to the landowner to use. The costs for weed control have not similarly been calculated but would be likely to be even more differentiated as weed control is almost always more labour-intensive than pest animal control. The Waitākere Ranges Local Board currently provides \$90,000 a year to support the Sustainable Neighbourhoods Programme, which supports community groups to engage in weed control and other activities. Since funding for this programme from Auckland Council is currently forecast to end in 2014/2015 in the draft Long-term Plan, the Board will also need to review its investment in this programme. AC also needs to improve the quality of its online and call centre advisory service for weed management, to match and update that provided by the former Auckland Regional Council. When ratepayers call with enquiries, the call centre staff should direct all complex matters to Biosecurity staff.

Adoption of local “Pest Free” programmes can be locally-driven, with advice, resources and publicity supplied by Council, WRLB and other public bodies. The objectives would be firstly to get all private land in a given area (e.g. a catchment or village) registered and working on clearing a list of nominated pest plants, and secondly, attaining the recognised standard. Incentives can be provided by way of pest free certification, celebrations and awards, advice, subsidised resources and the like. This approach is focused, uses peer pressure well, makes communities more connected, and increases individual property and community asset values. Such a programme would require employment of a local weed identification and advisory expert, who would assess properties initially, provide Best Practice advice, and reinspect properties prior to awarding of Weed Free certificates. Auckland Council Biosecurity should assist with publicity and advice. Programmes could be coordinated by an umbrella conservation organisation such as the Waitākere Ranges Conservation Network (WRCN). This idea has much merit and a business case should be prepared for WRLB and Council joint funding.

Volunteer programmes can be extended to programmes to manage weeds on local parks⁹ and on some parts of the regional parks network, typically perimeter areas. Auckland Council urgently needs to investigate how it can give operational impetus to this policy, by assisting “friends of”, Landcare, Weedbuster and other community groups to take ownership of weed issues on their local parks, irrespective of whether parks’ are categorised by Council as local or regional.

The Department of Conservation (DOC) owns some land in the WRHA and has recently adopted a policy of assisting local groups and individuals to achieve conservation outcomes on its lands.

One issue that has recently become a significant impediment to volunteer participation on Council land is the reticence of Council to permit volunteers to undertake weed control involving pesticides (e.g. at Ark in the Park). This is due to concerns over spillages, exposure and other safety matters. These concerns could probably be overcome by development of a strict protocol for volunteer involvement, limiting this to drill and fill or stump treatment and gel application (i.e. no spraying), plus provision of training and certification to an approved external standard. If the Growsafe Basic standard is deemed inappropriate then Council could sponsor development of a standard that is acceptable to its internal risk management principles.

Almost all community weed control programme assistance from Council comes from the Biosecurity Community Pest Control budget (currently \$130,000 for the Auckland region), which also covers pest animal control. Given the excellent return on investment (outlined above) this budget needs to be modestly increased each year to assist the community to take ownership of its weed problems. Council also needs to better assess how it can meld contractor and volunteer efforts in managing community weed control programmes. This would likely involve reworded contract specifications to include a degree of volunteer supervision and advice.

Recommendation 31 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to increase the Community Pest Control budget by \$30,000 pa to ensure that assistance can be provided to community care groups to undertake weed control in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 32 Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates funding and administrative options for creation of weed free community programmes.

Recommendation 33 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests the Auckland Council Regional Parks Department and Local and Sports Parks Department to develop resources to assist

⁹ Auckland Council Long Term Plan 2015-2025, sec 5.5, Parks, Community and Lifestyle.

the formation of local support groups for Regional and Local Parks in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

The WRLB has identified weeds as a strategic issue and is keen to be involved in information exchange, coordination of effort and publicity. It has a small budget earmarked for assistance to specific strategic projects, especially those that bring added value as seeding or co-funded initiatives.

The emergence of kauri dieback disease in the Waitākere Ranges, and consequent implementation of phytosanitary measures - which were initially not well accepted by many in the community - forced Council to examine individuals' motivations to comply with the measures and be involved in the wider programme. The need for community behaviour change was quickly identified, and campaigns were developed to encourage the required attitudinal and behaviour changes. The same study and measures need to be adopted for weeds. This should accompany any major community weed campaign.

There is no non-governmental coordinating body recognised or supported to act as the hub for information exchange. The Waitākere Ranges Conservation Network (WRCN) has recently been set up as such a body for a range of conservation outcomes. This body liaises with a very wide collection of groups (27 at last count) and has a strong focus on weed issues. It is suggested that WRCN would be an appropriate body to coordinate information exchange between council and community groups.

Other prominent groups in the WRHA include the Waitākere Ranges Protection Society, Forest & Bird, Friends of Regional Parks, Waitākere Weed Free Trust (notably its War On Weeds campaign which is also partially funded by WRLB), Friends of Arataki, Friends of Whatipu, several Residents and Ratepayers groups, Ecomatters Trust, Keep Waitākere Beautiful, and others. There are, at last count, 42 Sustainable Neighbourhoods groups in the WRHA and 33 Landcare/ Waicare/ Weedbuster groups as well as other school, scientific, recreational and religious groups with an environmental focus. All of these organisations and groups would benefit from a degree of coordination of information exchange and programme effort.

Recommendation 34 Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates which body could best act as the hub for information exchange between Auckland Council and community groups regarding weed management in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 35 Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates partnership relationships with local environmental and community groups to improve coordination and ensure efforts are targeted to areas where the greatest ecological gain can be made.

Recommendation 36 Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates the provision of a paid coordinator to assist and support volunteer pest plant control efforts in the WRHA.

There is a wealth of disparate information covering problems, activities and other weed issues in the WRHA, much of which is generated by community groups. Auckland Council has a lot of information on weed and animal pest management, biodiversity values and threats, restoration principles, community environmental assistance programmes (e.g. Environmental Initiatives Fund, Sustainable Neighbourhoods) and related advisory material. However much of this information is not currently on the Council website so is not readily available to the community. It is important that this be rectified so information is readily accessible to all interested parties.

Recommendation 37 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to improve its online weed management advisory resources so communities can easily access information on this topic.

Publicity

There are many paper and online publicity resources available to the communities in the WRHA. A degree of coordination would be desirable, to minimise overlaps or gaps and to ensure accuracy and consistency with policies, but which also allows for local issues, local solutions and interested local people to be highlighted. Although online resources are needed, their existence may never be discovered without more personal and tactile communication methods e.g. flyers and pamphlets. The creation, distribution and updating of advisory pamphlets is quite properly the responsibility of Auckland Council but there remains the need for a flyer template that can be adapted for each local community and local issue. This template could be funded by the WRLB, and possibly also production of individual print runs. Flyers can raise immediate issues, give basic advice, call for involvement, refer to more detailed advisory material, and stress achievements and progress to date.

A separate website could be considered but, given the existence of other sites with similar functions, this would only be advisable if a talented and hardworking individual or small team volunteered to undertake this ongoing task. It would be preferable if AC could create an interactive section of its own website or coordinated input into the Nature Space portal.

Recommendation 38 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's environmental services unit to coordinate local group effort and progress on the Nature Space website or other preferred website that allows for self-reporting.

7. Consolidated list of recommendations – with indicative timelines for implementation

Part A: Actions for Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Immediate i.e. within 3 months

Recommendation 34 Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates which body could best act as the hub for information exchange between Auckland Council and community groups regarding weed management in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 36 Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates the provision of a paid coordinator to assist and support volunteer pest plant control efforts in the WRHA.

Within 1 year

Recommendation 6 – Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board makes a priority of allocating resources to pest plant control on private land adjoining the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park.

Recommendation 32 Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates funding and administrative options for creation of weed free community programmes.

Recommendation 35 Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates partnership relationships with local environmental and community groups to improve coordination and ensure efforts are targeted to areas where the greatest ecological gain can be made.

Within 3 years

Recommendation 16 – Advocacy and Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to implement a campaign to minimise vegetation dumping, and should consider co-funding and or championing this campaign.

Part B: Advocacy by Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Immediate i.e. within 3 months

Recommendation 1 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to continue to materially

support the Auckland Weedspotter Network and Auckland Museum Herbarium, and to encourage people and groups in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area to join the Network.

Recommendation 3 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that Auckland Council ensures that all Significant Ecological Areas within the WRHA be monitored for weed ingress, ideally every two years but at least every five years.

Recommendation 4 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that Auckland Council investigates the creation of partnerships with external groups with botanical expertise, or the use of suitably trained summer students, to ensure that all Significant Ecological Areas in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area are monitored for weed status.

Recommendation 9 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that Auckland Council submits to the National Biocontrol Collective that Mexican daisy *Erigeron karvinskianus* be included as a national priority for biological control research.

Recommendation 10 – Advocacy to Auckland Transport and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board continue advocacy to Auckland Transport regarding weed management in the road corridor of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 12 – Advocacy to Auckland Council Regional Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board advocates to Auckland Council that all tracks in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park be temporarily closed when they are in a muddy condition, to prevent spread of weeds, kauri dieback and other pathogens.

Recommendation 17 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests that Auckland Council implements pest plant control programmes in Watercare catchments, according to its Best Practice guidelines. Such programmes particularly need to focus on ex-house sites, tracks, roads, infrastructure sites and willows in dams and streams.

Recommendation 18 – Advocacy to Watercare Services: It is recommended that Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests that Watercare Services funds the removal of all exotic carnivorous plants from land it administers.

Recommendation 19 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to prepare a business case to demonstrate to Watercare Services the value of strategic investment in weed control in the Waitākere catchment to ensure protection of catchment integrity and water quality.

Recommendation 23 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to deploy new pest

animal technologies in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area as soon as they become available.

Recommendation 24 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board seeks information from Auckland Council's Rural Fire and Regional Parks team that fire prevention and response provisions are adequate in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 25 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that Best Practice control methods are used on all council-owned land, including Method Of Least Disturbance principles.

Recommendation 26 Advocacy to Auckland Council Regional Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that restoration plan templates have been created and that restoration plans are put in place after all significant habitat disturbance instances.

Recommendation 27 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that planning controls protect catchment values at all scales in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 28 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that regular water quality monitoring is undertaken in the Waitākere River and other streams in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, and that steps be taken to ensure reinstatement of high quality water values where these have been compromised.

Recommendation 29 Advocacy to Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks to adopt the site and species prioritisation model and Best Practice guidelines for weed control that are currently used on Regional Parks.

Recommendation 30 Advocacy to Auckland Council Local and Sports Parks and Biosecurity: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks ensure that the Piha Domain is maintained free of climbing asparagus, and Biosecurity commits to maintaining a programme to control this weed over the rest of Piha.

Recommendation 31 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to increase the Community Pest Control budget by \$30,000 pa to ensure that assistance can be provided to community care groups to undertake weed control in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 33 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests the Auckland Council Regional Parks Department and Local and Sports Parks Department to develop resources to assist the formation of local support groups for Regional and Local Parks in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 37 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to improve its online weed management advisory resources so communities can easily access information on this topic.

Recommendation 38 Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's environmental services unit to coordinate local group effort and progress on the Nature Space website or other preferred website that allows for self-reporting.

Within the Long Term Plan process timeframe

Recommendation 5 – Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to increase the Biosecurity Strategic Weeds Initiative budget.

Recommendation 7 – Advocacy via Auckland Council's Long-term Plan process and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that Auckland Council Biosecurity formally commits to permanent suppression of pampas on the coastline from Whatipu to Muriwai, and also ensures the control of the pampas infestation on the northern end of the Awhitu Peninsula to prevent reinfestation of the WRHA.

Recommendation –13 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that:

- all tracks in the Regional Park be maintained to prevent weed and pathogen vectoring, and
- sufficient funding is provided to ensure all-weather condition track access to all major areas of the Park.

Recommendation 14 – Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board seeks to secure funding for completion of the Te Henga aquatic weed programme.

Recommendation 20: Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board submits to Auckland Council to ensure that the Council's Ecoweeds budget is increased by at least 20% in the Long-term Plan to prevent further environmental damage to the Regional Park.

Recommendation 21 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to maintain its current level of commitment to national biological control research programmes.

Recommendation 22 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process and Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to maintain possum indices in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area at two per cent Residual Trap Catch or below in perpetuity.

Within the timeframe of the Regional Pest Management Strategy review

Recommendation 2 – Advocacy and input into Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and other interested parties submit to Auckland Council to consider the plant taxa included in Appendix C for categorisation as Total Control Plants in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.

Recommendation 7 – Advocacy via Auckland Council’s Long-term Plan process and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that Auckland Council Biosecurity formally commits to permanent suppression of pampas on the coastline from Whatipu to Muriwai, and also ensures the control of the pampas infestation on the northern end of the Awhitu Peninsula to prevent reinfestation of the WRHA.

Recommendation 8 – Advocacy via input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that Auckland Council formally commit to permanent suppression of *Agapanthus praecox* from the WRHA coastline through the Regional Pest Management Plan.

Recommendation 9 – Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that Auckland Council submits to the National Biocontrol Collective that Mexican daisy *Erigeron karvinskianus* be included as a national priority for biological control research.

Recommendation 10 – Advocacy to Auckland Transport and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board continue advocacy to Auckland Transport regarding weed management in the road corridor of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.

Recommendation 11 – Advocacy via input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, as part of the review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy submits to Auckland Council to amend Section 18 of the new RPMP to include the legal

responsibility for land occupiers to be bound by the same pest plant provisions that are imposed upon Auckland Transport for road reserves, to a minimum of 10 metres back from their common boundary.

Recommendation 15– Advocacy via the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board supports the adoption of a nursery hygiene standard for all nurseries within the WRHA or supplying plants for planting in natural areas in the WRHA.

Recommendation 22 Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process and Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to maintain possum indices in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area at two per cent Residual Trap Catch or below in perpetuity.

Within 2 years

Recommendation 16 – Advocacy and Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to implement a campaign to minimise vegetation dumping, and should consider co-funding and or championing this campaign.

8. Glossary

Adventive: A plant taxon that has established, either in the wild or in modified habitats, without human assistance

Land occupier: The legal definition of the person or persons responsible, under the Biosecurity Act, for pest plants on the property they occupy. In most cases this is the **landowner** but an occupier can be a long term leasee or other occupier. The terms are often interchangeable in this document.

Pest plant: A plant species, subspecies, variety or other taxon that is declared to be a pest in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan

Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) 2007-2014: The statutory plan developed under the Biosecurity Act 1993, by the Auckland Regional Council (now the Auckland Council), that declares which taxa are pests, the programmes for management of these pests and who funds the implementation of these programmes

Regional Pest Management Plan: The replacement for the RPMS 2007-14 (see above). The Biosecurity Law Reform Act 2012 made several changes to the process of creating statutory pest management documents, including their name. All current RPMSs are now called RPMPs.

Taxon: A name covering any distinct plant type, i.e. species, sub-species, cultivar, hybrid or unique genetic or morphological form of a plant

Taxa: Plural of taxon

Weed: A plant that is a nuisance or problem due to invasiveness, poisonous nature or other characteristics deemed to be contrary to values stated or implied.

Weed Management Working Group: A cross-sector working group of officials from all parts of Auckland Council and its constituent bodies that have responsibilities for pest plant and vegetation management. It includes staff from Biosecurity, Regional and Local Parks, Watercare Services, Auckland Transport, Volcanic Cones, Environmental Services, Solid Waste, Stormwater, Botanical Gardens and Cemeteries. (Refer Appendix B).

9. Appendices

APPENDIX A

Extract from the Regional Parks Management Plan 2010, re the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008

This Act creates a distinct statutory identity for the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. The purpose of the Act is two-fold: to recognise the national, regional and local significance of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area which includes the regional park; and to promote the protection and enhancement of its heritage features for present and future generations.

Section 7 of the Act outlines the heritage features to be protected, including:

- its terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems of prominent indigenous character that:
 - include large contiguous areas of primary and regenerating lowland and coastal rain forest, wetland and dune systems with intact ecological sequences,
 - have intrinsic value,
 - provide a diversity of habitats for indigenous flora and fauna,
 - collect, store and produce high quality water,
 - provide opportunities for ecological restoration,
 - are of cultural, scientific or educational interest,
 - have landscape qualities of regional and national significance,
 - have natural scenic beauty
- the different classes of natural landforms and landscapes within the area that contrast and connect with each other, and which collectively give the area its distinctive character
- the coastal areas, which:
 - have a natural and dynamic character, and
 - contribute to the area's vistas, and
 - differ significantly from each other.
- the quietness and darkness of the Waitākere Ranges and the coastal parts of the area
- the dramatic landform of the Ranges and foothills, which is the visual backdrop to metropolitan Auckland, forming its western skyline
- the opportunities that the area provides for wilderness experiences, recreation and relaxation in close proximity to metropolitan Auckland,
- the historical, traditional and cultural relationships of people, communities and tangata whenua with the area and their exercise of kaitiakitanga and stewardship
- the evidence of past human activities in the area, including those in relation to timber extraction, gum digging, flax milling, mineral extraction, quarrying, extensive farming, and water impoundment and supply
- the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park and its importance as an accessible public place with significant natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources
- the public water catchment and supply system, the operation and maintenance, and development of which serves the people of Auckland.

APPENDIX B – Description of Auckland Council Weed Management Working Group

The best practice weed management working group is a cross council weed management working party established in 2014, by the Chief Operating Officer, Dean Kimpton, to deliver the weed management project. The scope of this project includes weed management on all council owned and managed lands and excludes methodologies to control algae and fungi.

It aims to deliver on the actions prescribed in the Auckland Council Weed Management Policy which are (broadly) to:

- complete an operational review of existing weed practices;
- evaluate different options (change scenarios);
- develop an implementation plan.

The operational review is an internal council exercise and is currently underway. It will investigate and report on current practices across council – including existing methods, costs, benefits and risks. This stocktake will be used as a basis for the evaluation of future options which will be carried out in consultation with key stakeholders.

The operational review is currently being completed in collaboration with:

- Watercare Services
- Regional Parks
- Volcanic Cones
- Local & Sports Parks
- Auckland Transport
- Environmental Services
- Solid Waste
- Stormwater
- Botanical Gardens
- Cemeteries

Alternative approaches will be evaluated according to an agreed set of criteria including, but not limited to target species, value for money, community acceptance and efficacy. The evaluation will include only those options which can be implemented within the available funding as prescribed by the Long-term Plan.

Options that will be evaluated include:

- continued use of existing methodologies (status quo);
- use agrichemical only to control weeds (including basal application, drill and inject, motorised application, back-pack application, boom spray by helicopter);
- use only non-agrchemical methods to control weeds (including hand-pulling, cut-stump, hot water, bio-control);
- species-led methodologies;
- site-led methodologies.

The development of options and the implementation plan will be consistent with the Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) which prescribes controls for 192 introduced pest plants categorised as Total Control Plants (eradication required), Containment Plants (landowner control in specified locations) or Surveillance Pest Plants (restrictions on sale and distribution). It will target investment across the region based on protection of native ecosystems and infrastructure assets.

The implementation plan will be guided by the action agreed in Auckland Council's Weed Management Policy and prescribe actions to:

- include best practice guidelines for weed management in all council contracts and ensure compliance with these through regular auditing and reporting;
- document costs, benefits and risks of weed management approaches and best practice methodology
- develop and maintain best practice guidelines for weed management and vegetation control
- assist local boards to set and deliver prescribed levels of service;
- include regional levels of services in CCOs statements of intent;
- identify, map and protect sites of high value from ecological and council infrastructure perspectives.

APPENDIX C

Plant taxa recorded from, or likely to be occurring in, the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area that should be assessed for inclusion as Total Control Pest Plants in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan.

Phragmites karka

Equisetum spp.

Drosera spp (exotic spp only)

Kennedia rubicunda

Passiflora apetala

Macfadyena unguis-cati

Ochna serrulata

In addition, Auckland Council should consider adopting local or area eradication programmes for the following taxa (subject to CBA)

Pteris cretica

Actinidia deliciosa (wild populations only)

Alternanthera philoxeroides

Arbutus unedo

Cotyledon orbiculata

Fuchsia boliviana

Gazania linearis, *Gazania rigens*

Gunnera tinctoria

Myoporum insulare

Agapanthus praecox

Succulent spp. on coastline

Freshwater aquatic pest plants

APPENDIX D

Suggested amended timelines for completion of legal responsibilities of Auckland Transport for pest plant management on road reserves in the Auckland Region (originally established 27 October 2011)

The Regional Pest Management Strategy (RPMS) requires, in Section 4.2 (p17) and Section 18.1.1 (p160) that the owner/occupier of the road reserve create and implement management plans to control specified pest plants. The various memoranda between Auckland Council and Auckland Transport confirm that Auckland Transport has control and jurisdiction on the management of road reserves in the Auckland region (outside of the state highway network).

Note there is no requirement for Auckland Transport to manage pest animals in the road corridor.

It is recommended that all terrestrial pest plant species in the RPMP (except for Total Control Species) be included in Auckland Transport's roadside management plans, and that these plans cover all roads in the region-wide network. However it is acknowledged that many of these species pose minor problems in the road corridor and that Auckland Transport needs to prioritise its resources. It is also vital that the weed management programmes implemented by the former territorial councils be maintained, in order to prevent and/or minimise complaints, protect previous investment and pre-empt need for significant new work in the future. The previous councils responded to their roadside pest plant responsibilities reasonably well, however there are a number of roads currently subject to complaint that need to be treated immediately. These roads are listed below.

Please note: Biosecurity has an almost identical programme in place with NZ Transport Agency, and this covers all state highways in the Auckland region. NZTA is generally doing an excellent job of managing pest plants and restoring highway reserve land. In a few areas, clearance of pest plants on the highway reserve has revealed adjoining land that is still infested and likely to reinfest the cleared reserve. Where this has occurred, Biosecurity acts to have this adjoining land cleared. This rule will also apply to support Auckland Transport's programmes.

Treatment methods and management approaches in roadside management plans need to be as per the Biosecurity Best Practice methods listed on the Auckland Council website. This is to ensure that previous and inappropriate methods used in the past by some councils are not continued, as these have merely led to greater medium-to-long term weed problems. It is possible to manage almost all areas to the point where desirable vegetation is healthy and effectively suppressing or excluding pest plants, thereby requiring minimal or nil weed control.

Biosecurity staff are available at all times to assist Auckland Transport in developing roadside management plans, to ensure that treatment methodologies are:

- appropriate for the existing or desired groundcover
- integrated and efficient (e.g. treatment regimes cover multiple species wherever possible to minimise need for repeat visits)

- safe (i.e. comply with Council's Air, Land & Water Plan, all legislation) and community risk-averse (e.g. include non-spray options wherever possible)
- seasonally timed for maximum effectiveness (e.g. greatest control level, lowest herbicide rates)
- the most cost-effective

Staff can also give advice on maintenance of desired vegetation, including (with Council's Biodiversity Team) advice on recommended species to plant. Staff can also advise on control of non-pest plants that Auckland Transport wishes to control e.g. bamboo.

Species in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy that need to be included (as a minimum) in region-wide roadside management plans 2015-16 and thereafter:

Pampas (2 species), Chinese privet, tree privet, moth plant, gorse, woolly nightshade, Japanese honeysuckle, brush wattle, alligator weed, castor oil plant, boneseed, wild ginger (2 species), giant reed, climbing asparagus, cotoneaster (2 species), lantana (urban areas only), jasmine, Madeira vine, broom, Montpellier broom, buddleia, mile-a-minute, sweet pea shrub, blue morning glory, blue passion flower, elaeagnus, Spanish heath, periwinkle, ragwort, smilax, tutsan.

Of these species, the most invasive, and the most subject to complaint, are woolly nightshade, moth plant, gorse, both privet species, and wild ginger. These species need to be treated immediately.

Species in Auckland Regional Pest Management Strategy that need to be included in region-wide roadside management plans from 2016-17 and thereafter:

Monkey apple, Japanese spindle tree, grey willow, crack willow, phoenix palm, agapanthus (large forms), banana passionfruit, Cape ivy, English ivy, raphiolepis (sexton's bride), tuber ladder fern.

Biosecurity will meet with Auckland Transport in 2015 to determine which species need to be added to roadside management plans from 2017-18 onwards. The list of additional species is likely to be small and have minor resource implications. It is more likely that additional resources will need to be applied to managing the existing pest plant list for additional roads.

Roads requiring urgent attention i.e. by 31 December 2015

These roads are subject to ongoing and frequent complaint. Due to significant delays (i.e. since 1 November 2010) these roads need to be immediately treated irrespective of the time needed to create roadside management plans.

(Note: only the affected roads in the WRHA have been included here)

- Scenic Drive from Titirangi to Te Henga Rd corner
- Te Henga Rd and on down the Bethels Rd to the coast
- Piha Rd and associated side roads to Karekare and Anawhata
- Huia Rd from Titirangi to Huia
- Waitākere Rd from Swanson to Taupaki

**Waitākere Ranges
Local Board**



Auckland Council

Recommendation	For	Theme	Action	Suggested Timeframe	Comments 2023	Topic Area for LB discussion 2023
9		Manage weed vectors (wind)	It is recommended that Auckland Council submits to the National Biocontrol Collective that <i>Melanthera frigida</i> var. <i>australis</i> be included as a national priority for biological control research.	Within 3 months, Within the RPMP review timeframe	Auckland Council funded a feasibility study on mexican daisy and yes it is currently on the list being considered by the National Biocontrol Collective	Biocontrol
21	WRBL	Make weeds less competitive (biocontrol)	Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to maintain its current level of commitment to national biological control research programmes	Within the LTP process timeframe	Yes the current level of commitment is being maintained with additional investment	Biocontrol
5	WRBL	Eradicate newly-arrived high threat weeds	Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to increase the Biosecurity Strategic Weeds Initiative budget.	Within the LTP process timeframe	Strategic Weeds initiative budget does not exist anymore but the equivalent is the Buffer programme and increase in budgets through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate. The Strategic Weeds budget was previously \$103,750k across the whole of Auckland and the Heritage Area would have received the highest proportion of this. In contrast the Buffer programme for 2022/23 is 185K NETR total + 150K from the Local Board or Plans and Places (Our Backyard & Bufferzone)	Funded through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)
6	WRBL	Eradicate newly-arrived high threat weeds	It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board makes a priority of allocating resources to pest plant control on private land adjoining the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park	Within 1 year	Yes this is priority and happening to a certain extent through the Buffer programme targeting weeds on private land in the Heritage Area. For the FY 22/23 the total budget was 335k comprising a contribution through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) of 185k, as well as through Local Board funded projects Our Backyard 100k and Bufferzone 550k. Additional budget is also allocated toward community groups working on private land through the Tools & Resources Budget (NETR funded)	Funded through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)
15	WRBL	Manage weed vectors (nurseries)	Advocacy via the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board supports the adoption of a nursery hygiene standard for all nurseries within the WRHA or supplying plants for planting in natural areas in the WRHA	Within the RPMP review timeframe	Auckland Council has signed up as signatories to the Plant Buyers Accord and is supporting nurseries across the region to get accredited, specifically supporting community, kaupapa Māori nurseries to improve biosecurity practices. Additionally the Trade Regulation Programme funded by the Natural Environment Targeted Rate in which all nurseries, plant outlets and some market places Auckland wide are regularly visited and inspected for weeds & hygiene standards as well as education	Funded through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)
20	WRBL	Roll back significant weed infestations	Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that the Council's Ecosens budget is increased by at least 20% in the Long-term Plan to prevent further environmental damage to the Regional Park.	Within the LTP process timeframe	Through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate the Regional Parks budget has gone from 500k regionwide to ~2.5m with a significant proportion invested in the Waitākere Ranges.	Funded through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)
31	WRBL	Community and volunteer effort, coordination, information exchange, publicity	Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to increase the Community Pest Control budget by \$30,000 so that assistance can be provided to community care groups to undertake weed control in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.	Within 3 months	Yes. Community pest control budget - tools and resources funded by the Natural Environment Targeted Rate	Funded through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)
37	WRBL	Community and volunteer effort, coordination, information exchange, publicity	Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to improve its online weed management advisory resources so communities can easily access information on this	Within 3 months	There are a number of resources now available online. Tiaki Tamaki Makaurau (Conservation Auckland) https://www.tiakitamakaurau.govt.nz has been active since "2020, including a new "Pest Search" feature on the website which was fully funded by NETR to provide guidance to the community around pest plants, ID and control options. Also the Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance website https://pfwra.org.nz/	Funded through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR)
16	WRBL	Manage weed vectors (dumping)	Advocacy and Action: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to implement a campaign to minimise vegetation dumping, and should consider co-funding and or championing this campaign.	Within 2-3 years	Community weed bin programme implemented for several years now and funded via Plans & Places / Heritage Area Act 22/23 budget \$96,056	Local Board funded projects
32	WRBL	Community and volunteer effort, coordination, information exchange, publicity	It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates funding and administrative options for creation of weed free community programmes	Within 1 year	Local Board or Plans & Places (Heritage Area Act) funding a range of community programmes in 22/23 e.g. South Tairāwhiti Neighbourhood Network (STNN) 15k, weed bins 96k, Bufferzone & our backyard 150K, Pest Free Alliance coordinator 75K	Local Board funded projects
34	WRBL	Community and volunteer effort, coordination, information exchange, publicity	It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates which body could best act as the hub for information exchange between Auckland Council and community groups regarding weed management in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.	Within 3 months	Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance (PFWRA) - coordinator role created & funded by the LB	Local Board funded projects
35	WRBL	Community and volunteer effort, coordination, information exchange, publicity	It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates partnership relationships with local environmental and community groups to improve coordination and ensure efforts are targeted to areas where the greatest ecological gain can be made	Within 1 year	Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance (PFWRA) - coordinator role created & funded by the LB	Local Board funded projects
36	WRBL	Community and volunteer effort, coordination, information exchange, publicity	It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board investigates the provision of a paid coordinator to assist and support volunteer pest plant control efforts in the WRHA.	Within 3 months	Pest Free Waitākere Ranges Alliance (PFWRA) - coordinator role created & funded by the LB	Local Board funded projects
1	WRBL	Keep new weeds out of the WRHA	It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to continue to materially support the Auckland Weedspotter Network and Auckland Museum Herbarium, and to encourage people and groups in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area to join the Network.	Within 3 months	Yes, Auckland Council monitors new developments across all pest species, and looks to deploy new animal technologies as soon as they become available and we can be sure they offer benefits and are cost effective	Local Board funded projects
14	WRBL	Manage weed vectors (waterways)	Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board seeks to secure funding for completion of the Te Henga aquatic weed programme.	Within the LTP process timeframe	Has been identified as a Biodiversity Focus Area (BFA). Complicated due to the majority of land being privately owned and very strong community opposition to herbicide & Council so no work is planned here at present, suggestion that the Local Board could help provide leadership to the community?	Other
23	WRBL	Make weeds less competitive (pest animal control)	Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to deploy new pest animal technologies in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area as soon as they become available.	Within 3 months	Yes, Auckland Council monitors new developments across all pest species, and looks to deploy new animal technologies as soon as they become available and we can be sure they offer benefits and are cost effective	Other
27	WRBL	Make weeds less competitive (disturbance)	Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that planning control/protection catchment values at all sales in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.	Within 3 months	The Unitary Plan (2016) has given effect to the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act with zones (e.g. Waitākere Ranges Rural Zone, Waitākere Foothills Zone, Coastal Settlement Zone) and overlays (e.g. Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Overlay, Significant Ecological Area, Outstanding Natural Features Overlay and Outstanding Natural Landscapes Overlay, Outstanding Natural Character and High Natural Character Overlay) etc that protect the Waitākere Ranges from inappropriate development, with rules restricting subdivision and vegetation clearance.	Other
38	WRBL	Community and volunteer effort, coordination, information exchange, publicity	Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's environmental services unit to coordinate local group effort and progress on the Nature Space website or other preferred website that allows for self-reporting.	Within 3 months	Inaturalist is currently widely used and preferred site for self reporting at present.	Other
3	WRBL	Eradicate newly-arrived high threat weeds	It is recommended that Auckland Council ensures that all Significant Ecological Areas within the WRHA be monitored for weed ingress, ideally every two years but at least every five years.	Within 3 months	The Research and Evaluation unit (RIMU) at Auckland Council has a tiered selection of monitoring plots in terms of understanding trends. In addition, monitoring will be carried out where applicable / as required to inform operational management / part of control works. All WRHA roadides have been surveyed previously by botanists and will likely be done so again although not sure when	Monitoring
4	WRBL	Eradicate newly-arrived high threat weeds	It is recommended that Auckland Council investigates the creation of partnerships with external groups with botanical expertise, or the use of suitably trained summer students, to ensure that all Significant Ecological Areas in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area are monitored for weed status.	Within 3 months	Monitoring plots are being managed by the Research and Evaluation unit (RIMU) at Auckland Council OR as required / where applicable to inform operational management.	Monitoring
28	WRBL	Make weeds less competitive (disturbance)	Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that regular water quality monitoring is undertaken in the Waitākere River and other streams in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area, and steps be taken Waitākere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan 35 to ensure reinstatement of high quality water values where these have been compromised.	Within 3 months	The Research and Evaluation unit in Council (RIMU) undertake ecology (freshwater macroinvertebrates) and water quality (for contaminants and nutrients at a trace level) monitoring at multiple sites in the Heritage Area and these are long-term monitoring sites (Cascades Stream & Opānuku Stream). There are additional sites in the freshwater ecology programme as well. (Healthy Waters & RIMU for more info)	Monitoring
24	WRBL	Make weeds less competitive (disturbance)	Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board seeks information from Auckland Council's Rural Fire and Regional Parks teams that fire prevention and response provisions are adequate in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area	Within 3 months	Checked with Regional Parks, not aware of anything specific (Regional Parks for more info)	Regional & Local Parks
25	WRBL	Make weeds less competitive (disturbance)	Advocacy to Auckland Council: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that Best Practice control methods are used on all council-owned land, including Method Of Least Disturbance principles	Within 3 months	Contractors are required to use best practice control methods, included in contract specifications and contractors are audited during the contract terms for performance, including methodology. Best practice advice regarding control methodology geared toward community use is found online at Tiaki Tamaki Makaurau (Conservation Auckland website). Note that Auckland Council has a Weed Management Policy and there was a weed management best practice advice group established some years ago which appears to have fallen away in recent times (Local Parks/Community Facilities or Regional Parks for more info)	Regional & Local Parks
26	WRBL	Make weeds less competitive (disturbance)	Advocacy to Auckland Council Regional Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that restoration plan templates have been created and that restoration plans are put in place after all significant habitat disturbance instances.	Within 3 months	Response from Regional Parks - "Not aware of official template. However, we achieve as such through our pest plant control and revegetation operational programmes, undertaken over short and long time scales. Restoration plans can be considered in high value ecological areas, but are not a given for all sites/scales of disturbance. Also, for many works that include disturbance there are often consent-related actions required relating to weed control or revegetation, recognising these matters, and these are being delivered by RPs." (Regional Parks for more info)	Regional & Local Parks
29	WRBL	Contain current infestations of most weeds	Advocacy to Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks to adopt the site and species prioritisation model and Best Practice guidelines for weed control that are currently used on Regional Parks.	Within 3 months	Talked to Regional Parks & Community Facilities/Parks and not aware of this. Regarding methodologies and species prioritisation, Local Parks/Community Facilities prescribe their own best practice and species prioritisation included contract specifications which includes prioritising weeds and sites based on what will cause the most damage / future liability etc. Note that performance audits are carried out on all contracts and contractors (Local Parks/CF and Regional Parks for more info)	Regional & Local Parks
33	WRBL	Community and volunteer effort, coordination, information exchange, publicity	Advocacy to Auckland Council Regional Parks: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that all tracks in the Waitākere Ranges Regional Park be temporarily closed when they are in a muddy condition, to prevent spread of weeds, kauri dieback and other pathogens.	Within 3 months	Community Park Ranger - Kim Morris, & conservation ranger help in Regional Parks (Regional & Local Parks/CF for more info)	Regional & Local Parks
12	WRBL	Manage weed vectors (tracks)	Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process: It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to ensure that: : all tracks in the Regional Park be maintained to prevent weed and pathogen vectoring, and : sufficient funding is provided to ensure all-weather condition track access to all major areas of the Park.	Within the LTP process timeframe	Yes, rahui implemented and still in place. See report 2021 kauri population health monitoring survey for more info https://knowledge.auckland.govt.nz/publications/2021-wait%C4%81kere-ranges-kauri-population-health-monitoring-survey/	Regional Parks - Rahui
13	WRBL	Manage weed vectors (tracks)	It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and other interested parties submit to Auckland Council to consider the plant taxa included in Appendix C for categorisation as Total Control Plants in the Auckland Regional Pest Management Plan	Within the LTP process timeframe	Yes, rahui implemented and still in place. Track upgrades ongoing. See report 2021 kauri population health monitoring survey for more info https://knowledge.auckland.govt.nz/publications/2021-wait%C4%81kere-ranges-kauri-population-health-monitoring-survey/	Regional Parks - Rahui
2	WRBL	Eradicate newly-arrived high threat weeds	Advocacy via Auckland Council's Long-term Plan process and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that Auckland Council Biosecurity formally commits to permanent suppression of pampas on the coastline from Whāroa to Muriwai, and also ensures the control of the pampas infestation on the northern end of the Awhitu Peninsula to prevent reinfestation of the WRHA.	Within the RPMP review timeframe	Three species listed in Appendix C of the report are actively managed under the regionwide Low Incidence Programme (previously known as Total Control) under the rules in the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), (phragmites koriko, <i>Paspalum apetalum</i> - batwing, <i>Actinidia deliciosa</i> - wild kiwifruit). All others on the list are either too widespread to warrant eradication OR are currently not legally declared pest plants in Auckland OR are already managed at priority places or high value areas. See sheet 2 for more detailed information on each species and the current status in the RPMP. Suggestions are welcomed for changes or for new species to be considered for cost benefit analysis and potential inclusion in the next RPMP or at a partial plan review.	Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)
7	WRBL	Manage weed vectors (wind)	Advocacy via Auckland Council's Long-term Plan process and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process: It is recommended that Auckland Council Biosecurity formally commits to permanent suppression of pampas on the coastline from Whāroa to Muriwai, and also ensures the control of the pampas infestation on the northern end of the Awhitu Peninsula to prevent reinfestation of the WRHA.	Within the LTP process timeframe, Within the RPMP review timeframe	Some pampas control is happening at Whāroa on the dunes. Managed through integrated site management and prioritising in highest ecological places. Budget constraints and a lack of both staff and contractor resource as well as logistical barriers around resource consent and aerial works, but agree that more needs to be done here and anticipate this will increase in future years.	Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)

8		Manage weed vectors (wind)	Advocacy via input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process. It is recommended that Auckland Council formally commit to permanent suppression of <i>Agapanthus praecox</i> from the WRHA coastline through the Regional Pest Management Plan.	Within the RPMP review timeframe	Same as above - prioritising in highest ecological places. Note also that transport corridor rules now exist in the Regional Pest Management Plan for agapanthus (and pampas) in the Heritage Area (All occupiers of any transport corridor/land located within the buffer area of any park which is managed for agapanthus must destroy all agapanthus...)	Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)
10	WRLB	Manage weed vectors (roads)	Advocacy to Auckland Transport and input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process. It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board continue advocacy to Auckland Transport regarding weed management in the road corridor of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area.	Within 3 months, Within the RPMP review timeframe	Buffer rules now in place for roadside corridors. Section 7.5.2 of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) requires control of 10 species of pest plants in road corridors in the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area (Woolly nightshade, ginger, rhizopus, moth plant, gorse, pampas, forsoythia, agapanthus, climbing asparagus, bushy asparagus). Road corridors now managed by Community facilities and these are being systematically worked through starting early 2023 from Anawhata and working east, at a cost of ~500k. Expensive due to working at heights, use of ropes, drones and the need for traffic management	Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)
11	WRLB	Manage weed vectors (roads)	Advocacy via input into the Regional Pest Management Strategy review process. It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board, as part of the review of the Regional Pest Management Strategy submits to Auckland Council to amend Section 18 of the new RPMP to include the legal responsibility for land occupiers to be bound by the same pest Waitākere Ranges Strategic Weed Management Plan 21 plant provisions that are imposed upon Auckland Transport for road reserves, to a minimum of 10 metres back from their common boundary.	Within the RPMP review timeframe	The new proposal for the Regional Pest Management Plan didn't match like for like so couldn't submit on that particular section, but new buffer rules have been implemented in the Regional Pest Management Plan under Section 7.5.2 requiring legal responsibility for land occupiers to control selected weeds.	Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)
22	WRLB	Make weeds less competitive (pest animal control)	Advocacy via the Long-term Plan process and Regional Pest Management Strategy review process. It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to maintain possum indices in natural areas of the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area at two per cent Residual Trap Catch or below in perpetuity.	Within the LTP process timeframe, Within the RPMP review timeframe	Yes this was included in the Regional Pest Management Plan with the wording "Aiming for below 2%" RTC	Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)
30	WRLB	Contain current infestations of most weeds	Advocacy to Auckland Council Local and Sports Parks and Biosecurity. It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council's Local and Sports Parks ensure that the Piha Domain is maintained free of climbing asparagus, and Biosecurity commits to maintaining a programme to control this weed over the rest of Piha.	Within 3 months	Yes, climbing asparagus control is happening at Piha Domain plus the buffer is activated under the section 7.5.2 in the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) - in 2022/23 the buffer programme for Waitākere includes 185k provided from the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and 150k from the Our Backyard / Waitākere Weed Action project funded by Local Board	Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP)
17	WRLB	Manage weed vectors (Watercare)	Advocacy to Auckland Council. It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests that Auckland Council implements pest plant control programmes in Watercare catchments, according to its Best Practice guidelines. Such programmes particularly need to focus on ex-house sites, tracks, roads, infrastructure sites and willows in dams and streams	Within 3 months	Not aware this has been done? Watercare decision, requires advocacy to Watercare, Local Board to talk to Watercare?	Watercare
18	WRLB	Manage weed vectors (Watercare)	Advocacy to Watercare Services: It is recommended that Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests that Watercare Services funds the removal of all exotic carnivorous plants from land it administers.	Within 3 months	Not aware this has been done. Watercare decision, requires advocacy to Watercare. Note however that control is happening at Whaitapu. Control of carnivorous plants like all other pest weed species is prioritised at high value places where they are transforming.	Watercare
19	WRLB	Manage weed vectors (Watercare)	Advocacy to Auckland Council. It is recommended that the Waitākere Ranges Local Board requests Auckland Council to prepare a business case to demonstrate to Watercare Services the value of strategic investment in weed control in the Waitākere catchment to ensure protection of catchment integrity and water quality.	Within 3 months	Not aware this has been done	Watercare

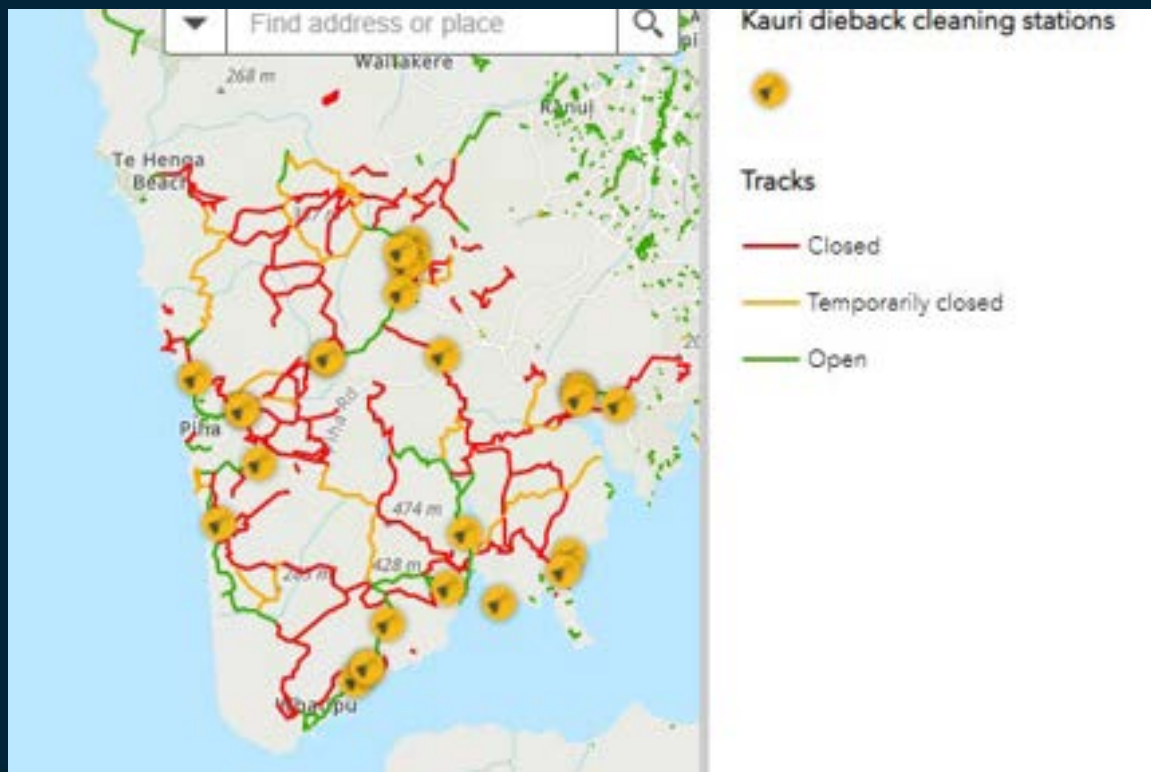
Track Update – Waitakere Ranges

Overview

- Significant damage to the Waitakere Ranges track network subsequent to the 2023 the storm events
- We will need to re-assess again following the current weather event as the land remains fragile in many areas
- Te Kawerau a Maki have been assessing KD tracks with biosecurity also – we are required to reach agreement with them before opening tracks subject to the CAN
- Road closures have added limitations to our recovery assessments & pace to remediate
- Geotech report delays
- A lot of remedial work underway but, some areas have some big decisions ahead
- Is it reasonable to rebuild? The rebuild must be resilient. How do we fund?

Kauri Dieback Track Map

- Most up to date source of truth
- <https://aucklandcouncil.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=090a929b13884cfdb17078f7bb41c8a4>



Huia - Whatipu

- Pararaha Valley Track – accessible with some obstructions.
- Muir Track – closed, slip, new box steps. Timeframe, months.
- Gibbons Track – slip has been cleared, resurfacing required. Timeframe, months.
- Caves Track – slip cleared, temporary closure for more work.
- Signal House Track – Open
- Omanawanui Track – remediated and open
- Puriri Ridge – cleared and open
- Mt Donald McLean walk – Open (access road work required)
- Mt Donald McLean tramp – remediated and open
- Karamatura tramp – remediated and open
- Kakamatua – open
- Con Bryan - open
- Jubilee Track – remediated and open
- McLachlan and Spragg monuments open
- Walk to lower Huia Dam face still open

Huia - Whatipu

- Karamatura Falls and Loop – slip cleared, remediated and open



Titirangi - Waiatarua

- Zig Zag – closed, multiple slips. Awaiting Geotech. Long term viability?
- Exhibition Drive (Watercare) half closed – slips and slumps.
- Slip track – work in progress, closed currently.
- Pipeline Road – closed (minor, slips cleared)
- Beveridge Track – remediated and open (note – car park work for slip)
- Nature Trail– cleared and open
- Parker Track & Plant ID track – remediated and open
- Lookout track open
- Parkinson Lookout - open

Piha, Karekare & Anawhata

- Ahu Ahu Track – large number of slips – remediation closer to summer
- Comans Track – slip and minor re-surfacing. Timeframe, months.
- Mercer Bay Loop – minor resurfacing. Timeframe months.
- Cutty Grass Track - open
- McElwain Lookout – remedial work completed
- Anawhata Beach Track – significant scour. Funding required.
- Rose Track – open, good community effort
- Byers, Kitekite, Knutzen, Connect, Winstone, Ussher – closed, slip, bridge loss. Waiting geo tech

Piha, Karekare & Anawhata

- Upper Nihotupu Dam – bridge to be lifted back to bearers. Timeframe, months.



Piha, Karekare & Anawhata

- Lion Rock – slip, could be a permanent closure



Piha, Karekare & Anawhata

- Marawhara – White Track – closed, deep soft silt and slip. Timeframe, years.



Piha, Karekare & Anawhata

- Marawhara – if we build the same we can expect the same outcome



Piha, Karekare & Anawhata

- Liard Thomson – closed, substantial slip from North Piha. Could be long term closure at lower section



Piha, Karekare & Anawhata

- Tasman Lookout and Tasman view – slips, restoring access from beach at North Piha may not be reasonably possible



Cascade Kauri – Lake Wainamu

- Spragg Bush – open
- Large Kauri – open
- Waitakere Dam walk – Open
- Te Piringa / Auckland City Walk – waiting geo tech

Cascade Kauri – Lake Wainamu

- Lake Wainamu – closed, may be years.



Cascade Kauri – Lake Wainamu

- and if we enable some access to lake Wainamu, where will people park?



We will have challenges for some time.....



But it wasn't all bad... Kowhatukiteuru



Memorandum

29 April 2023

To: Waitākere Ranges Local Board

CC: Adam Milina, Local Area Manager
Brett Lane, Senior Local Board Advisor
Nataly Anchicoque, Democracy Advisor

Subject: Thursday 4 May 2023 Annual Budget feedback workshop

From: Natasha Yapp, Local Board Advisor

Contact information: natasha.yapp@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Purpose

1. To provide an overview of the upcoming workshop on the Annual Budget 2023/2024 feedback.
2. To put the workshop material on Nexus into context.

Summary

3. At the next workshop on Thursday 4 May 2023, the Local Board will receive and deliberate on the consultation feedback from the Waitākere Ranges local board area.
4. 1876 submissions were received from people living in the Waitākere Ranges, including 36 from organisations.
5. The Local Board will discuss this feedback at the workshop to help:
 - prepare feedback on proposed Annual Budget regional topics
 - provide formal feedback to the Governing Body at an extraordinary business meeting on Thursday 11 May 2023
 - inform future development of the local board agreement and work programmes.

Context

6. The annual budget consultation period ran from 28 February 2023 – 28 March 2023.
7. Submissions were made on two main areas: (1) local board priorities and (2) regional topics in the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024.
8. Last Monday 24 April 2023, an email containing an Excel spreadsheet was sent out to the Waitākere Ranges Local Board members containing all of the submission comments from their local board area, as well as graphs and tables pertaining to these.
9. In addition to this information, the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Services team have provided accompanying material on Nexus to support local board members in their analysis of the feedback prior to the workshop.

Discussion

10. A presentation to be delivered at the workshop will provide a high-level overview of the submissions received.
11. The presentation supports two broad areas of discussion:

(1) The Local Board will receive consultation feedback on:

- proposed local board priorities for 2023/2024
- proposed local activities to discontinue, reduce spending on, or increase fees to meet the Governing Body's proposed reduction in local board funding
- regional topics in the draft Annual Budget 2023/2024.

(2) Discuss local feedback on regional topics to be formalised at your business meeting.

12. A further document¹ which contains a more detailed analysis of the comments received during the submission process is also available on Nexus. This has been provided by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board Services team, and sets out the main themes from the submissions, which are also discussed in the presentation.
13. The presentation covers 'Consultation feedback received on the Waitākere Ranges Local Board priorities for 2023/2024'. This section consists of a number of slides concerning 'Local board priorities and key themes'. These priorities were taken directly from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board consultation document, which were discussed and adopted by the Local Board at the end of 2022.
14. The key themes stated under each listed local board priority were derived from the written submissions in response to question 5A² in the Annual Budget survey.
15. The themes on these slides have been presented in a slightly different manner to those found within the 'Annual Budget 2023/2024 – Community Feedback Analysis' document for question 5A. This is because the document provides a summary of all of the comments received for this question. The themes in the presentation represent a 'weighting' of the submission comments pertaining to each listed local board priority, in the hope of demonstrating the recurrence of themes throughout submission comments.
16. The table on the subsequent slide titled 'Local board priorities continued' provides an overview of some of the other topics mentioned in submission comments for question 5A.
17. The next part of this section is titled 'Responding to the budget challenge' (question 5B³ of the Annual Budget survey). The first slide in this section lists the proposed local activities which would have to be discontinued, have reduced spending, or increased fees, as taken from the consultation document.
18. The table on the following slide illustrates the services considered the most important to the local board area. Subsequent slides provide more information regarding the identified themes from the submissions for the services considered most important to the community. Whilst the top three most important services have been discussed in more depth in the presentation, it is worth noting that some submitter comments did not support being asked to choose three services only.
19. The following sections of the presentation detail Te Kawerau ā Maki's submission, a high-level quantitative overview of the consultation feedback received on regional topics and a brief overview of the Auckland Council staff survey on the Annual Budget. After these sections of the presentation have been covered, there will be an opportunity to discuss potential Local Board advocacy topics and more time dedicated to considering Local Board feedback on proposed Annual Budget regional topics.
20. As part of the annual financial planning cycle, the Local Board will also begin the process for developing work programmes at a workshop on Thursday 11 May 2023. This process occurs alongside the development of the Local Board Agreement, prior to the start of each financial

¹ Annual Budget 2023/2024 – Community Feedback Analysis

² It is proposed to reduce funding by \$16 million across all local boards which will impact the activities and services delivered by local boards. Given this possible reduction in funding, what do you think of our proposed priorities for services and activities in this local board in 2023/2024?

³ If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? (i.e. which are most important to you?)

year. Feedback the Local Board provides to the Governing Body on 11 May will be used to inform future budgetary decisions, which impact both work programmes and the Local Board Agreement process.

Next steps

21. The Local Board will formalise their feedback on 11 May at an extraordinary business meeting.
22. On Wednesday 17 May, the Local Board will have the opportunity to speak to their Annual Budget 2023/2024 input at the Governing Body Workshop.

Attachments available on Nexus

1. Annual Budget consultation feedback presentation
2. Annual Budget 2023/2024 – Community Feedback analysis
3. Annual Budget feedback graphs and tables

Local board agreements and work programmes

Workshop: Discuss and consider consultation feedback and input on regional topics

Waitākere Ranges Local Board

4 May 2023



Workshop purpose

1. To receive consultation feedback from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area on:
 - proposed local board priorities for 2023/2024
 - proposed local activities to discontinue, reduce spending on, or increase fees to meet the Governing Body's proposed reduction in local board funding
 - regional topics in the draft Annual Budget 2023/2024
2. Discuss local feedback on regional topics to be formalised at your business meeting on 11 May 2023. These will be considered by the Governing Body when making decisions on the Annual Budget 2023/2024



LBA Workshop: agenda

Topic		Time
Topic 1	Consultation feedback on local board priorities for 2023/2024 and advocacy initiatives	
Topic 2	Consultation feedback on regional topics in the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024	
Topic 3	Staff survey on Annual Budget	
Topic 4	Advocacy	
Topic 5	Input on regional topics in the proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024	



Topic 1: Consultation feedback



Types of feedback

- online submissions, hard copy forms, emails and letters.
- Have Your Say events

Feedback received

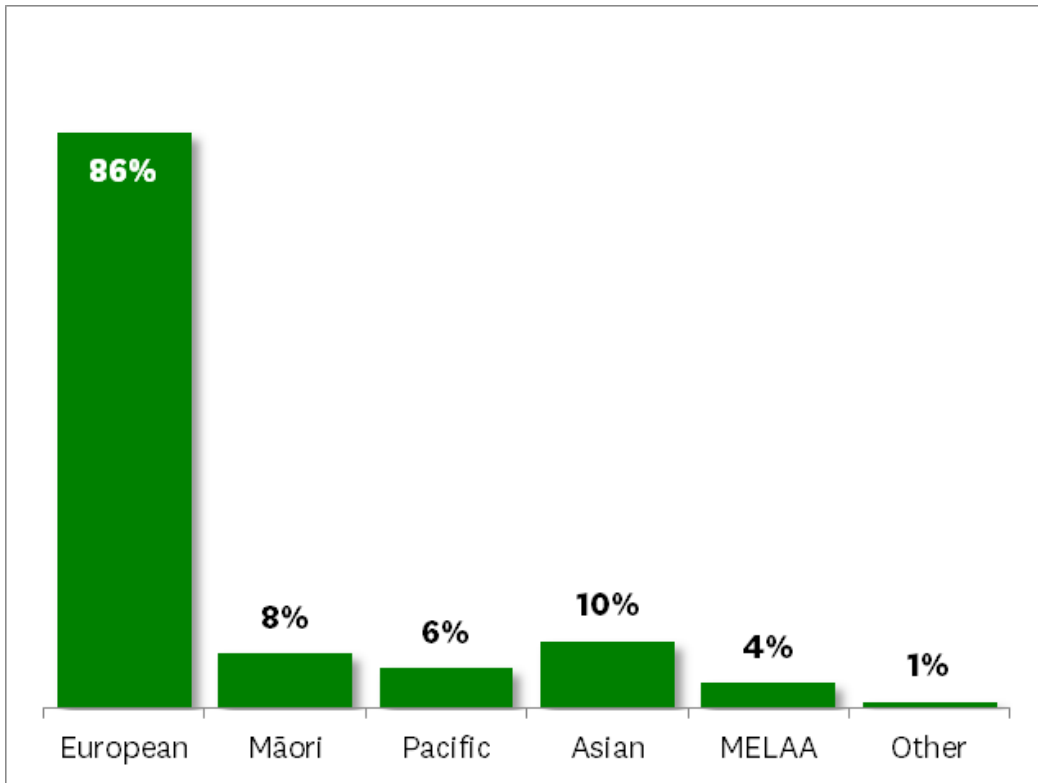
Out of 41 147 pieces of feedback received regionally, 1876 were from people living in the Waitākere Ranges area.

Submitters	No.	%
Individual	1840	98%
Organisation	36	2%
Total	1876	100%



Information on submitters

The tables and graphs below show what demographic categories people identified with. This information only relates to those submitters who provided demographic information.

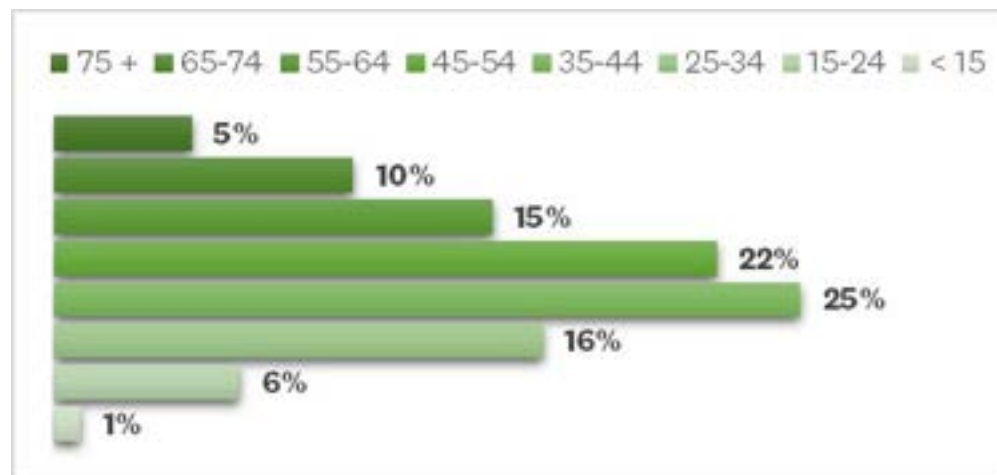
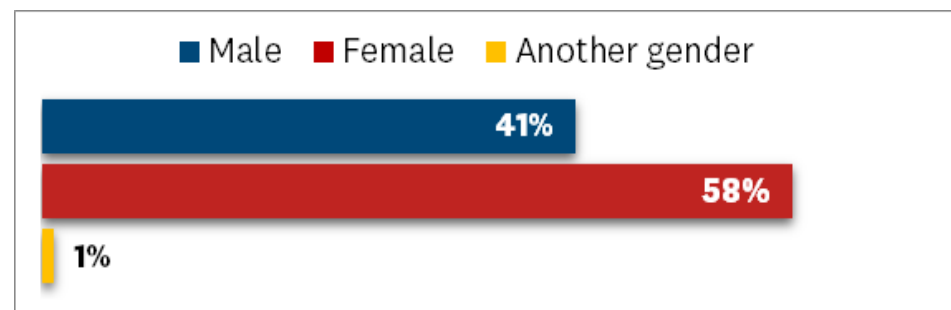


Ethnicity	#	%
European	1460	86%
Pākehā/NZ European	1258	75%
Other European	202	12%
Māori	138	8%
Pasifika	101	6%
Samoan	57	3%
Cook Islands Māori	13	1%
Tongan	10	1%
Other Pasifika	21	1%
Asian	169	10%
Chinese	57	3%
Southeast Asian	37	2%
Korean	7	0%
Indian	50	3%
Other Asian	18	1%
African/Middle Eastern/Latin	64	4%
Other	16	1%
Total	1688	115%



Information on submitters

Demographics		Count
Gender		1671
	Male	688
	Female	968
	Another gender	15



Age		Count
	Under 15	15
	15-17	30
	18-24	76
	25-34	279
	35-44	427
	45-54	379
	55-64	251
	65-74	171
	75+	79

Consultation feedback received on the Waitākere Ranges Local Board priorities for 2023/2024



Local board priorities



The Waitākere Ranges Local Board consulted on the following five priorities:

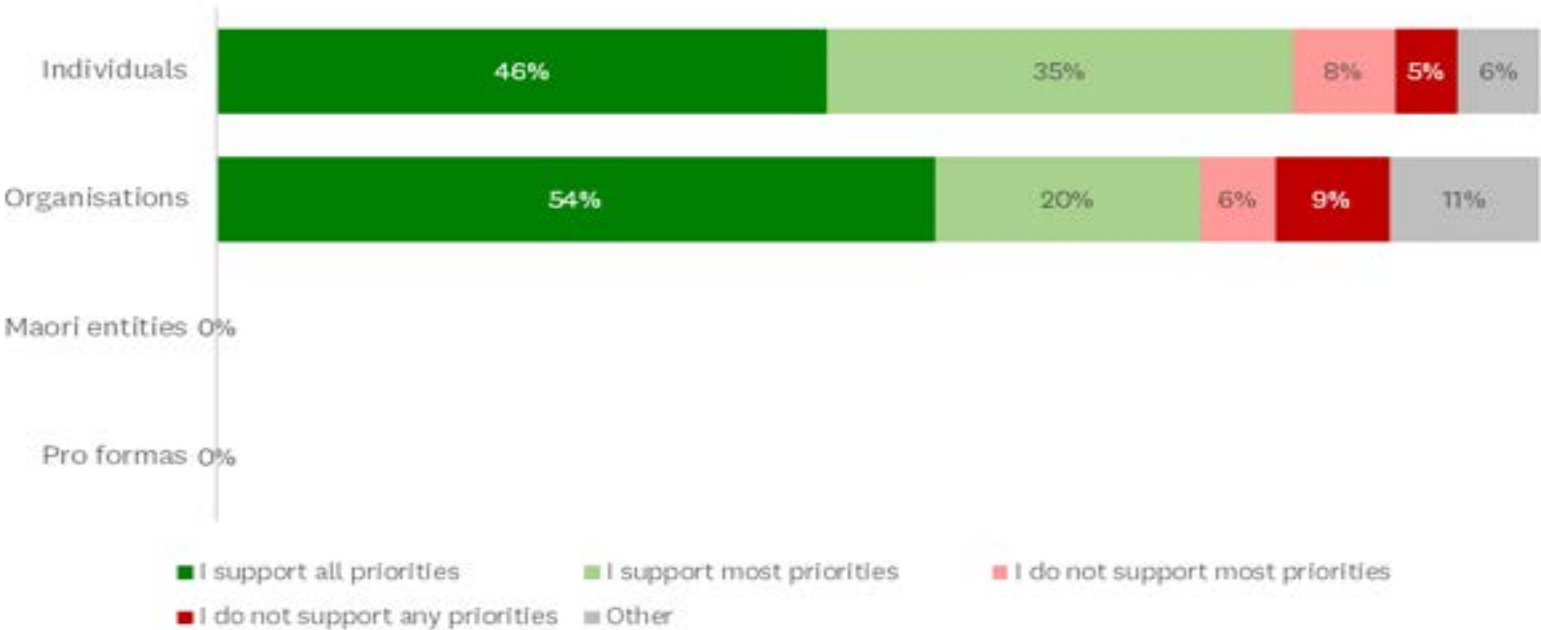
- Priority 1: Maintaining our parks and facilities, including renewing the Parrs Park artificial turf sports field, and refurbishing Titirangi War Memorial Hall.
- Priority 2: Advocating for increased funding to make our local community and roading infrastructure resilient in the face of increasing severe weather events in the Waitākere Ranges.
- Priority 3: Keeping as many local community services going as possible in the face of our budget challenge.
- Priority 4: Keeping as many local environmental services going as possible in the face of our budget challenge.
- Priority 5: Developing a new local board plan in consultation with our communities.



Q5A What do you think of our proposed priorities for services and activities in this local board in 2023 / 2024?

This table and graph provide an overview of responses from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area about local priorities for services and activities.

Count	I support all priorities	I support most priorities	I do not support most priorities	I do not support any priorities	Other	Don't know	Total
Individuals	799	610	135	81	109	2	1736
Organisations	19	7	2	3	4	0	35
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Percentage	I support all	I support most	I do not support most	I do not support any	Other	Don't know	Total
Individuals	46%	35%	8%	5%	6%	0%	100%
Organisations	54%	20%	6%	9%	11%	0%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%



Local board priorities and key themes

Priority 1: Maintaining our parks and facilities, including renewing the Parrs Park artificial turf sports field, and refurbishing Titirangi War Memorial Hall

- General support for this proposal
- Several comments suggest Parrs Park artificial turf renewal and Titirangi War Memorial Hall refurbishment not a priority right now
- Support for park maintenance
- Some commentary about support for opening tracks

Priority 2: Advocating for increased funding to make our local community and roading infrastructure resilient in the face of increasing severe weather events in the Waitākere Ranges

- General support for this proposal
- General comments about pre-existing road infrastructure problems
- Support for prioritising improving condition of roads
- In context of Gabrielle, comments suggest support for increased funding for futureproofed infrastructure such as flood protection, stream maintenance, storm water system upgrades and roads that are able to withstand severe weather events
- Support for strong and resilient community links



Local board priorities and key themes

- **Priority 3: keeping as many local community services going as possible in the face of our budget challenge**
 - General support for this proposal, with an emphasis on cuts ‘compounding’ the current hurt in the communities after flooding events
 - Importance of ‘investing in our communities’ and ‘all community funding is important’
- **Priority 4: keeping as many local environmental services going as possible in the face of our budget challenge**
 - General support for keeping local environmental services going
 - General support for maintaining weed and pest control initiatives specifically
 - Real concern for future long-term effects if environmental programmes are cut
 - Recognition that Waitākere Ranges is taonga and should be protected
 - General support for priorities relating to mitigation of climate change effects



Local board priorities and key themes

- **Priority 5: developing a new local board plan in consultation with our communities**
 - Generally against cutting local board funding
 - Concern regarding future impacts of funding cuts for community
 - Future youth initiatives alongside mental health and wellbeing priorities need to be considered outside of what has been proposed
 - Support for continued investment into arts, culture and community



Local board priorities continued

Other key themes received include feedback on:

Comments	1119	
Themes	Count	%
Q5 WTK Community services	195	17%
Q5 WTK Libraries	51	5%
Q5 WTK Parks, sport and recreation	137	12%
Q5 WTK Arts, culture and events	119	11%
Q5 WTK Local planning	130	12%
Q5 WTK Economic development	23	2%
Q5 WTK Environmental management	309	28%
Q5 WTK Governance and support	75	7%
Q5 WTK Other comment	380	34%
Don't know	10	1%





Responding to the budget challenge

Waitākere Ranges Local Board consulted on the community's priorities given the proposed reduction would mean some local activities would have to be discontinued, have reduced spending, or increased fees. The areas proposed were:

- Arts and Culture
- Community services
- Natural Environment
- Climate action and sustainability
- Local parks environmental volunteers
- Events
- Community grants
- Planning investigations
- Community Leases
- Local parks and facilities maintenance



Responding to the budget challenge continued

Q5B If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? (i.e. which are most important to you?)

Themes								
	Individuals	Organisatio	Maori enti	Pro forma	Individual	Organisati	Maori enti	Pro forma
Arts and culture facilities and events	686	17	0	0	14%	18%	0%	0%
Community facilities, services and activities	826	19	0	0	17%	20%	0%	0%
Environmental activities e.g. pest control and wildlife protection on west coast beaches	1001	13	0	0	21%	14%	0%	0%
Climate action and sustainability initiatives	801	11	0	0	17%	12%	0%	0%
Parks volunteers and restoration of local waterways	499	6	0	0	10%	6%	0%	0%
Local community events	152	4	0	0	3%	4%	0%	0%
Local community grants	211	13	0	0	4%	14%	0%	0%
Parks planning and investigations	75	1	0	0	2%	1%	0%	0%
Community lease charges	54	8	0	0	1%	9%	0%	0%
Local parks and facilities maintenance	492	2	0	0	10%	2%	0%	0%
Other	42	0	0	0	1%	0%	0%	0%
Total	4839	94	0	0	100%	100%	0%	0%



Responding to the budget challenge: key themes

Submission comments signalled that environmental activities and climate action and sustainability initiatives are important local board activities. The following theme and comments were prevalent amongst submissions:

Environmental sustainability and protection:

- Climate action, pest control, waterway restoration, and parks and recreation services are important investments for local boards to make, due to the increasing urgency of the climate crisis and the need to protect and preserve natural resources.
- Services related to environmental protection and restoration, such as managing rain events, improving harbours, and cleaning up waterways, are vital for increasing resilience to climate change and severe weather, and protecting the natural environment for future generations.
- Environmental protection and restoration services promote sustainability and positively impact well-being.
- Reducing or cutting funding to pest control, invasive weeds, wildlife protection etc. will result in unreclaimable losses and degradation of natural habitats.



Responding to the budget challenge: key themes

Submission comments also signalled that community facilities and services and are important local board activities. The following theme and comments were prevalent amongst submissions:

Community facilities and programmes:

- Libraries, community centres, recreational facilities, and community buildings are essential for promoting social cohesion and supporting the well-being of individuals and communities.
- Community facilities and services also provide educational opportunities and promote sustainability, making Auckland a thriving city.
- Services related to community support, such as grants and events, are essential for building strong and resilient communities and providing social opportunities.



Responding to the budget challenge: key themes

Finally, submission comments signalled that arts and culture and are important local board activities. The following theme and comments were prevalent amongst submissions:

Arts and culture:

- Arts and cultural activities foster creativity, improve education, and provide opportunities for cultural exchange and celebration.
- Arts and cultural initiatives promote a sense of community and pride, and provide opportunities for people to express themselves and engage in creative activities.
- Arts and culture events and organisations foster social cohesion and provide educational and social opportunities, including education relating to the environment.
- Arts and cultural activities also build community connections and support the city's wider economy.
- Arts and cultural activities positively impact 'quality of life'.



Summary of feedback from Te Kawerau ā Maki (TKaM)

Areas of importance to maintain:

- Māori Outcomes Budget
- Environmental Targeted Rate
- Water Quality Targeted Rate
- Budget supporting Waitangi Day and Matariki events
- Budget for TKaM to lead Creative Henderson/West project in partnership with Tātaki

Request for funding:

- Ongoing support for the establishment of the Te Henga marae
- Funding for dedicated officer resources for Waitākere Ranges Kaitiaki Monitoring, as well as to be able to exercise its regulatory functions in a more systematic way, build capacity and capability in TKaM, and to be able to participate in Council processes in genuine partnership
- Relationship agreement and Mana Whakahono document



Topic 2:
**Consultation
feedback received on
regional topics in the
proposed Annual
Budget 2023/2024**





Annual Budget 2023/2024: regional topic

The proposed Annual Budget 2023/2024 sets out Auckland Council's priorities and how to pay for them. Submitters were asked to respond to five key questions on regional topics outlined below:

- 1. operating spending reductions**
- 2. amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy**
- 3. managing rates and debt**
- 4. storm response**
- 5. changes to other rates, fees and charges**



1. Operating spending reductions

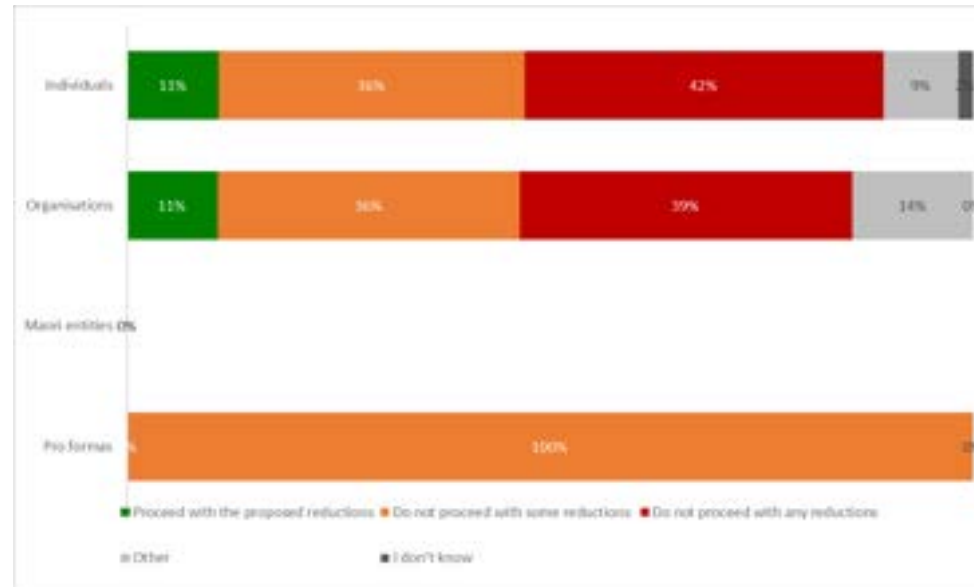
Aucklanders were asked for feedback on a proposal to save \$125 million through reductions including:

- maintaining the current reduced number of public transport services for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million
- reducing funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million with effects on service delivery (including economic development and tourism promotion) and pricing at venues it manages such as Auckland Zoo, Auckland Art Gallery and stadiums
- reducing regional services such as community and education programmes, arts and culture programmes, regional events, economic development and other social services activities such as homelessness funding, community empowerment and funding for youth centres to save \$20 million
- reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million (feedback received on local impacts of the reduction is outlined in the 'Feedback received for the Waitākere Ranges Local Board for 2023/2024' section above)
- reducing contestable grants to save \$3 million
- no longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million.

The table and graph in the following slide provide an overview of the responses from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.



1. Operating spending reductions



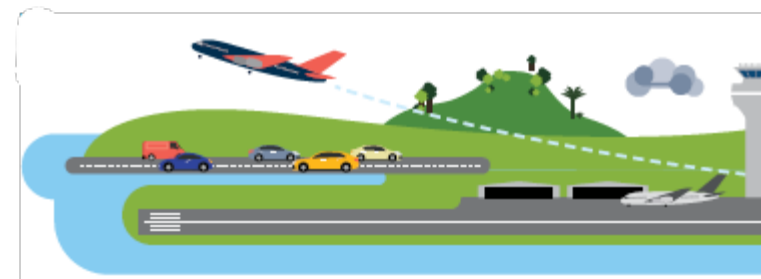
Q1 Operating spending reductions						
Category	Count					Total
	Proceed with the proposed reductions	Do not proceed with some reductions	Do not proceed with any reductions	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	183	613	719	150	30	1695
Organisations	3	10	11	4	0	28
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	67	0	0	0	67
Percentage						
Category	Proceed with the proposed reductions	Do not proceed with some reductions	Do not proceed with any reductions	Other	I don't know	Total
Individuals	11%	36%	42%	9%	2%	100%
Organisations	11%	36%	39%	14%	0%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%



2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

Aucklanders were asked about a planned change to the AIAL Shareholding Policy which will allow the sale of some or all of Auckland Council's shares in AIAL. The proposal is to sell all the shareholding (currently around 18% of shares in Auckland Airport) which would reduce debt by around \$1.9 billion. This is projected to reduce interest costs by \$87 million per year.

The table and graph in the following slide provide an overview of the responses from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.



2. Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy



Q2 AIAL Shareholding Policy						
Category	Count					Total
	Proceed with	Enable a par	Don't chang	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	367	474	607	76	143	1667
Organisations	1	4	13	2	4	24
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	0	0	0	0	0
Category	Percentage					Total
	Proceed with	Enable a par	Don't chang	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	22%	28%	36%	5%	9%	100%
Organisations	4%	17%	54%	8%	17%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%



3. Managing rates and debt

Aucklanders were asked to provide feedback on a proposal of a total rates increase for the average value residential property of around 4.66 per cent or \$154 per year. This would be achieved through:

- an average increase in general rates of 7 per cent across all existing properties, including non-residential
- reducing the Natural Environment Targeted Rate (NETR) and Water Quality Targeted Rate (WQTR) by around two thirds and using the money already collected from these rates to continue delivering these work programmes as planned in 2023/2024
- pausing the long-term differential strategy (the split between business and residential rates) for one year.

Aucklanders were also asked about the proposal to increase council's use of debt by up to \$75 million in the 2023/2024 year. The proposal involves using the debt to fund some capital expenditure that is currently planned.

The table and graph in the following slide provide an overview of the responses from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.



3. Managing rates and debt



Q3 Managing rates and debt								Total
Category	Count							
	Proceed with the proposed increases to rates and debt	Set a higher general rates increase	Set a higher general rates increase and make less use of debt	Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt	Make greater use of debt	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	403	285	148	293	138	308	102	1677
Organisations	1	9	2	2	2	9	1	26
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	0	0	0	0	67	0	67
	Percentage							
	Proceed with the proposed increases to rates and debt	Set a higher general rates increase	Set a higher general rates increase and make less use of debt	Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt	Make greater use of debt	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	24%	17%	9%	17%	8%	18%	6%	100%
Organisations	4%	35%	8%	8%	8%	35%	4%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%

4. Storm response

Aucklanders were asked about a proposal to increase council's operating budgets by around \$20 million each year to improve the ability to prepare for and respond to future storms. This would likely require rates to increase for 2023/2024 by around an additional 1 per cent (on top of the 4.66 per cent increase proposed to address the budget shortfall).

The table and graph in the following slide provide an overview of the responses from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.



4. Storm response



Q4 Storm response					
Category	Count				Total
	Proceed with the proposal	Do not proceed with the proposal	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	1258	210	90	115	1673
Organisations	18	2	4	1	25
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	67	0	0	0	67
	Percentage				
	Proceed with the proposal	Do not proceed with the proposal	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	75%	13%	5%	7%	100%
Organisations	72%	8%	16%	4%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%

Storm Events
 A higher rates increase may now be required to enable us to better prepare for and respond to future storm events.



6. Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Aucklanders were asked for feedback on proposals to increase some targeted rates and other regulatory fees and charges as set out below. If the changes are not made, then general rates may need to be higher than proposed.

This includes re-prioritisation of additional bus service expenditure which was planned to be funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate (CATR) and the following waste management rates changes

- A 10.6 per cent increase to the base rate and targeted rate charges for non-standard refuse bins (in the former Auckland (ACC) and Manukau (MCC) city council areas)
- introduction of a fee for swapping bin sizes
- extension of the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.

The table and graph in the following slide provide an overview of the responses from the Waitākere Ranges Local Board area.



6. Changes to other rates, fees and charges

INDIVIDUALS					
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	TOTAL
Cost changes in waste management	868	386	60	262	1576
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	1093	301	31	149	1574
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year?	1010	310	32	213	1565
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	1056	326	23	180	1585
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	788	421	29	332	1570
ORGANISATIONS					
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	TOTAL
Cost changes in waste management	13	5	0	6	24
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	17	3	0	4	24
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year?	15	4	0	6	25
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	17	3	0	4	24
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	9	8	0	7	24



6. Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Māori Entities					
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	TOTAL
Cost changes in waste management	0	0	0	0	0
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	0	0	0	0	0
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year ²	0	0	0	0	0
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Pro Forma					
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	TOTAL
Cost changes in waste management	0	0	0	0	0
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	0	0	0	0	0
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year ²	0	0	0	0	0
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0	0



Other Issues

Feedback on any other issues, including:

- Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2023/2024
- Annual Budget 2023/2024 related policies:
 - Revenue and Financing Policy
 - Māori Land Rates Remission and Postponement Policy



Other Issues continued

Respondents identified a number of concerns and issues requiring action including the need to invest in/ support:

- Climate change mitigation and sustainability and urgent action on climate change
- Environmental services
- Lack of attention to roads
- A need for improved infrastructure, including cycling and walking infrastructure and public transport
- Community resilience, culture, the arts and collective wellbeing and the negative impact of budget reductions on community groups and services

Q7 - Other feedback				
Themes	Individuals	Organisation	Maori entities	Pro forma
Q7 General financial strategy	80	1	0	0
Q7 Other rating policy	12	0	0	0
Q7 APTR (Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate)	0	0	0	0
Q7 Climate Action Targeted Rate (CATR)	2	0	0	0
Q7 Rodney Drainage Districts Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0
Cemetery fees	3	2	0	0
Q7 Changes to other fees and charges	1	0	0	0
Q7 Business Improvements Districts (BIDs)	0	2	0	0
Q7 Strategic assets	26	0	0	0
Q7 Local Board Funding policy	18	2	0	0
Q7 Contributions policy	0	0	0	0
Q7 Grants and Subsidies	4	2	0	0
Q7 Other rating and funding	9	0	0	0
Q7 Transport (roads and footpaths)	61	2	0	0
Q7 Transport (public transport)	97	2	0	0
Q7 Transport (walking and cycling)	43	0	0	0
Q7 Transport (parking and enforcement)	8	0	0	0
Q7 Transport (other)	17	0	0	0
Q7 Water supply	12	0	0	0
Q7 Wastewater	11	0	0	0
Q7 Stormwater	28	2	0	0
Q7 Regional community places and services	156	7	0	0
Q7 Regional libraries	46	5	0	0
Q7 Regional parks, sport and rec	47	5	0	0
Q7 Regional arts, culture and events	117	7	0	0
Q7 Regional planning	29	1	0	0
Q7 Housing	21	0	0	0
Q7 Bylaws	1	0	0	0
Q7 Regulatory services	8	0	0	0
Q7 Cultural and built heritage	5	2	0	0
Q7 Solid waste services	13	1	0	0
Q7 Environmental services	169	8	0	0
Q7 Governance and support	68	0	0	0
Q7 Organisational support	41	1	0	0
Q7 Maori outcomes	4	1	0	0
Q7 Emergency management	9	0	0	0
Q7 Tupuna Maunga	36	0	0	0
Q7 Panuku Development Auckland	7	1	0	0
Q7 Auckland Unlimited	35	2	0	0
Q7 General comments about the plan	108	3	0	0
Q7 General comments about the process	22	3	0	0
Out of scope	24	1	0	0
TOTAL COMMENTS	747	20	0	0



Topic 3: Staff survey on Annual Budget





Targeted Auckland Council staff survey

- Teams with kaimahi/staff potentially impacted by the savings proposals in the Customer and Community Services, Finance and Infrastructure & Environmental Services divisions were surveyed as part of the Governing Body process
- The survey was open for two weeks from Tuesday 28 March until Monday 13 March
- 378 of the 1013 kaimahi invited to participate responded to the survey
- Responses did not relate to any specific local board area but to Council as a whole
- More information and the results of the survey can be found on Kotahi:
 - [Article](#)
 - [Report](#)
 - [Presentation](#)



Topic 4: Advocacy



Local board advocacy

- Consider any initiatives to include as advocacy to Governing Body as part of the Annual Budget
- Take into account the consultation feedback above and Council's financial position.



**Topic 5: local board
feedback on regional
topics in the Annual
Budget**



Waitākere Ranges Local Board input on regional topics in the Annual Budget 2023/2024

1. operating spending reductions
2. amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy
3. managing rates and debt
4. storm response
5. changes to other rates, fees and charges



Key steps: local board input on regional topics in the Annual Budget 2023/2024

**Consider
consultation
feedback
(today)**

**Resolve your
input on regional
topics
(11 May)**

**Present to
Finance and
Performance
Committee
(17 May)**



Waitākere Ranges Local Board

Input into the Annual Budget 2023/2024



Governing Body workshop 17 May 2023



LB feedback on Proposed Annual Budget Regional Topics

Topic	Proposal	Support / Do not support
Operating spending reductions	Maintaining the currently reduced number of public transport services (as of December 2022) for 2023/2024 to save \$21 million	Support / Do not support
	Reducing funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to save a further \$27.5 million,	Support / Do not support
	Reducing regional services to save \$20 million	Support / Do not support
	Reducing local board funded activities across all boards to save \$16 million	Support / Do not support
	Reducing regional contestable grants to save \$3 million	Support / Do not support
	No longer directly providing early childhood education services to save \$1 million	Support / Do not support



LB feedback on Proposed Annual Budget Regional Topics

Topic	Proposal	Support / Do not support
Amending Auckland International Airport Limited Shareholding Policy	To sell Auckland Council's shares in AIAL	Support / Do not support
Managing rates and debt	To increase rates by 4.66 percent.	Support / Do not support
	To increase debt by \$75 million	Support / Do not support
	To reduce Natural Environment and Water Quality Targeted Rates.	Support / Do not support
Storm response	To increase rates by an additional 1 per cent to fund a storm response fund	Support / Do not support



Additional feedback

- Add any additional feedback here (particularly areas on do not support)





Waitākere Ranges Local Board
Annual Budget 2023/2024 - Community Feedback Analysis

Q1 - Operating spending reductions

What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

- Proceed with the proposed reductions
- Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt
- Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt
- Other
- I don't know

Tell us why, and which reductions you would not proceed with, if any:

Areas that some people suggest could have funding reduced include:

- 1. Public transport:** Some people argue that this area should have funding reduced due to its cost-effectiveness and the fact that it often runs at a loss and requires subsidies from the government.
- 2. Early childhood education:** While some suggest that cuts could be made in this area, others believe that it is an essential service that provides children with a solid foundation for their future success.
- 3. Regional services:** Some argue that funding could be reduced in this area, as they are not essential services and may not contribute as much to the community as other services.

Areas that most people oppose reducing funding for include:

- 1. Social services for vulnerable members of the community:** Many people believe that funding for homelessness, mental health support, and addiction support should not be cut, as these are crucial services that can have severe consequences if they are reduced.
- 2. Libraries, zoos, and sports assets:** Many people believe that these areas are important for community morale and tourism and should not be subject to funding cuts.
- 3. Public transport:** While some people suggest reducing funding for public transport, many believe that it is an essential service that many people rely on to get around Auckland, and that reducing funding could lead to reduced service levels and inconvenience for those who depend on it.

Summary:

The issue of reducing funding for various services in Auckland is a complex and multifaceted one, with mixed opinions regarding which areas should be reduced or maintained. Some people argue for reducing funding to public transport, early childhood education, and regional services, while others believe that these are essential services that should be maintained or even increased. However, there are some areas that most people agree should not be cut, such as social services, homelessness, mental health support, and addiction support. In addition, community programs, public transport, arts and culture, and sports assets are seen as important for community morale and tourism, and many people oppose reducing funding for these areas. Some even suggest increasing funding for all of these areas. Therefore, it is important to carefully consider the impact of any funding cuts on the community and prioritize essential services to make Auckland a liveable and attractive city.

Q2 - Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

What is your preference on this proposal to change the AIAL shareholding policy to enable the sale of all Auckland Council's shares?

- Proceed with the proposal to enable the sale of all our shares in AIAL and use the proceeds to reduce debt
- and therefore annual interest costs by around \$87 million per year
- Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt
- Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt
- Other
- I don't know

Tell us why:

Arguments in favour:

1. **Short-term financial gain:** The sale of shares in Auckland Airport could provide a short-term boost to Auckland Council's finances, which is carrying significant debt.
2. **Reducing funding:** As the airport is not currently making a lot of money for the city, reducing funding would be beneficial in order to address the city's budget deficit and reduce the amount of debt the city is carrying.

Arguments against:

1. **Long-term revenue stream:** By retaining ownership of the shares, Auckland Council could benefit from future growth in the aviation industry and increasing demand for air travel, providing a steady source of revenue over the long term for vital services and infrastructure projects.
2. **Negative consequences for the community:** Selling off public assets, such as the airport or golf courses, could limit access to recreational opportunities for residents, particularly those on lower incomes. It is important to consider the long-term impact of any decisions made and ensure that the needs of the community are taken into account.
3. **Short-term solution to a long-term problem:** Selling off assets does not address the underlying issues causing the budget shortfall, and the council should focus on reducing costs and finding more sustainable ways to fund its operations.
4. **Strategic asset:** Auckland Airport is a strategic asset that could be used to benefit the city's economy in the long term, and owning shares in the airport is a valuable asset that could provide future income opportunities.

Summary:

The issue of funding for Auckland Council has sparked a debate on whether or not to sell shares in Auckland International Airport (AIAL), which is one of the largest line items in the city's budget. While selling shares may provide a short-term boost to the council's finances, it could limit future revenue streams and remove an important piece of infrastructure for all of New Zealand. The decision to sell shares in AIAL will depend on various factors, including the council's overall financial situation, the state of the aviation industry, and the needs of the community. Some people argue that reducing funding for AIAL is necessary to address the city's budget deficit and reduce debt, while others believe it is a strategic asset that could benefit the city's economy in the long term.

Q3 - Managing rates and debt

What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

- Proceed with the proposed increases to rates (4.66 per cent overall for the average value residential property) and debt (up to \$75 million of additional debt)
- Set a higher general rates increase
- Make greater use of debt
- Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt
- Make less use of debt and set a higher general rates increase
- Other
- I don't know

Tell us why:

Arguments in Favor:

1. **To keep rates affordable:** The Auckland Council aims to balance the provision of high-quality services and infrastructure with keeping rates affordable for residents, especially those who are already struggling with the high cost of living in Auckland. Some argue that the Council has not managed its finances effectively in the past, and that increasing rates is not the solution.
2. **To fund essential services and infrastructure:** There is a growing recognition that the Auckland region faces significant environmental challenges, including climate change and pollution. Some residents believe that the Council should prioritize investment in environmental infrastructure, such as public transport and waste management, even if it means increasing rates or taking on debt. Additionally, some argue that increased rates and debt are necessary to fund essential services and infrastructure projects, which are critical to the well-being of residents and the long-term growth and prosperity of the city.
3. **To avoid cuts to social services:** Some people believe that rates and debt should be managed to avoid cuts to social services, which they see as essential for the well-being of the community. This includes responding to future events, funding core services, and investing in long-term infrastructure improvements that will benefit the city's wealth and growth.
4. **To maintain a desirable place to live:** Some people believe that rates and debt should be managed to maintain Auckland's status as a desirable place to live, which may require increased investment in services and infrastructure.
5. **To reduce the wealth gap:** Some people believe that managing rates and debt is important to reduce the wealth gap and make things easier for those living in hardship.

Arguments Against:

1. **To avoid stifling economic growth:** There are opposing views, such as those who believe that rates should be kept low to avoid stifling economic growth.
2. **To prevent people from being forced out of the property market:** Some people believe that increased rates will force many people out of the property market.
3. **To spend money more wisely:** Some people argue that the council should look at their spending and make adjustments to where money is spent before asking Aucklanders for more money. They believe that the Council should not be spending money on certain projects or events, such as the America's Cup, and that there should be more rebates or exemptions available for those who cannot afford to pay their rates.
4. **To manage debt more responsibly:** Others believe that increased rates will disproportionately affect low-income earners and that the debt should be managed in a more responsible way.

Summary:

Managing rates and debt in Auckland Council is a complex issue that requires careful consideration and planning. While some residents believe that increasing rates and taking on debt is necessary to fund essential services and infrastructure projects, others argue that the council should prioritize investment in environmental infrastructure to combat climate change and pollution. The main reasons behind the preferences to manage rates and debt include funding core services, avoiding cuts to social services, funding infrastructure improvements, maintaining a desirable place to live, and reducing the wealth gap. However, there are opposing views, such as those who believe that rates should be kept low to avoid stifling economic growth or those who believe that increased rates will force many people out of the property market. It is crucial for the council to carefully consider the current economic climate, community needs, and the potential impact on individuals and businesses to find a sustainable and equitable solution.

Q4 - Storm response

What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

- Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year
- Do not proceed with the proposal
- Other
- Don't know

Arguments in favour to manage the impact of future storms:

1. **Protect property and people from damage:** Investing in infrastructure to prepare for more frequent storms due to climate change can help protect property and people from damage caused by severe weather events. One proposal is to finance this through increased debt.
2. **Prevent injuries or fatalities:** Preparing for future storms can help prevent injuries or fatalities that may result from severe weather events.
3. **Minimize disruption to life and business:** Preparing for future storms can help minimize the disruption to life and business that severe weather events can cause.
4. **Reduce the cost of storm cleanup and repairs:** Investing in preparedness now can help reduce the cost of storm cleanup and repairs in the long run.
5. **Invest in better stormwater management, risk-based natural hazard land use planning, and infrastructure that can withstand future weather events:** Improving stormwater management, natural hazard land use planning, and infrastructure can help mitigate the impact of future storms.
6. **Increase investment in climate change mitigation and adaptation:** Investing in climate change mitigation and adaptation can help protect vulnerable communities, the environment, and the economy.
7. **Protect vulnerable communities:** Preparing for future storms can help protect vulnerable communities that may be disproportionately affected by severe weather events.
8. **Improve stormwater infrastructure:** Improving Auckland's stormwater infrastructure can help combat future storms, which some residents believe has been inadequate for years.
9. **Involve the local community in solutions planning:** Involving the local community in planning for future storms can help ensure that the solutions are effective and appropriate for the area.
10. **Support managed retreat from flood-prone areas:** Managed retreat from flood-prone areas can help protect communities from the impact of future storms.
11. **Promote nature-based solutions:** Nature-based solutions, such as wetland restoration and green roofs, can help mitigate the impact of future storms and provide additional benefits, such as improved water quality and biodiversity.
12. **Hire external consultants to help manage future storms:** Some residents believe that external consultants should be hired to help manage the impact of future storms.

13. **Improve the natural environment:** Some residents believe that improving the natural environment should be the focus of managing the impact of future storms.
14. **Increase spending on managing the impact of future storms:** Some residents believe that 20 million is not enough to spend on managing the impact of future storms and that increased spending is necessary.

Summary:

Residents are concerned about the impact of future storms and are calling for immediate action to manage their effects. There is a consensus that investing in infrastructure and preparedness is necessary to combat the increasing severity and frequency of extreme weather events due to climate change. Suggestions for managing the impact of future storms include improving stormwater infrastructure, investing in public transportation, purchasing land in flood-affected areas, and promoting nature-based solutions. There is some disagreement about where the funding should come from, with some preferring increased spending and others suggesting a natural hazard levy or tolls. Additionally, some believe that external consultants should be hired to help manage future storms and that 20 million is not enough to spend on future storm preparations. The focus is on protecting infrastructure and communities, promoting managed retreat from flood-prone areas, and involving the local community in solutions planning.

Q5 - Local board priorities

Q5A - It is proposed to reduce funding by \$16 million across all local boards which will impact the activities and services delivered by local boards. Given this possible reduction in funding, what do you think of our proposed priorities for services and activities in this local board in 2023/2024?

- I support all priorities
- I support most priorities
- I do not support most priorities
- I do not support any priorities
- Other
- Don't know

Tell us why:

Main themes and arguments:

1. **Maintaining essential services:** The prioritization of essential services, such as roading infrastructure, pest control, and environmental protection, is seen as crucial even in the face of potential funding reductions. There is concern that reducing funding would be detrimental to the community.
2. **Climate resilience and sustainability:** There is general agreement that climate resilience and sustainability should be prioritized, with some advocating for increased funding to make the local community and roading infrastructure more resilient in the face of severe weather events.
3. **Support for community and cultural initiatives:** Many express support for community and cultural initiatives, including arts and cultural events and community services.
4. **Concerns about potential cuts:** Some express concern about potential cuts to essential services. Others suggest that the local board needs more funding to invest in the future.
5. **Focus on infrastructure:**
 - Some believe that the local board should focus on improving infrastructure, such as fixing roads and making them resilient to weather, and investing in core infrastructure.
 - Consensus on improving roading infrastructure, particularly in areas like Piha, and making walking and cycling infrastructure more viable.
6. **Community desire for more funding:** The community wants more funding for storm response and infrastructure, education facilities, and social and environmental services.

- 7. Resiliency, pest control, safety, climate action, and cultural activities seen as important priorities:** Resiliency, pest control, maintaining safety in the community, investing in climate action and resilience, and supporting arts and cultural activities and events are seen as important priorities.
- 8. General agreement on proposed priorities:** There is general agreement on the proposed priorities for services and activities for the local board, including maintaining parks and green spaces, investing in arts and culture, supporting education and social services, and prioritizing environmental initiatives like weed and pest control.
- 9. Areas of disagreement and scepticism:** Such as whether to cut funding for certain priorities, including the need for the refurbishment of the Titirangi War Memorial Hall, the addition of another gym, Parris Park artificial turf, and whether to reduce the number of buildings in the Waitākere Ranges Portfolio, with some feeling that this would be a negative move and others believing it to be necessary for cost-saving purposes.

Summary:

The community has voiced their opinions on the proposed priorities for services and activities for the local board in light of potential funding reductions, and there is a range of opinions on the matter. However, there are some common themes that emerge from the comments. The community wants essential services to be maintained, such as roading infrastructure, pest control, and environmental protection, even in the face of potential funding reductions. Climate resilience and sustainability are also considered a priority, with many advocating for increased funding for these initiatives. Additionally, the community supports community and cultural initiatives, such as arts and cultural events and community services. Overall, there is a recognition that these services are crucial for the health, safety, and well-being of local communities, and that cuts to these services would have negative consequences.

Q5B - If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? (i.e. which are most important to you?)

Tell us why:

Main themes and arguments:

1. Environmental sustainability and protection:

- Climate action, pest control, waterway restoration, and parks and recreation services are important investments for local boards to make, due to the increasing urgency of the climate crisis and the need to protect and preserve natural resources.
- Services related to environmental protection and restoration, such as managing rain events, improving harbours, and cleaning up waterways, are vital for increasing resilience to climate change and severe weather, and protecting the natural environment for future generations.
- Environmental protection and restoration services promote sustainability and positively impact well-being.

2. Community facilities and programs:

- Libraries, community centres, recreational facilities, and community buildings are essential for promoting social cohesion and supporting the well-being of individuals and communities.
- Community facilities and programs also provide educational opportunities and promote sustainability, making Auckland a thriving city.
- Services related to community support, such as grants and events, are essential for building strong and resilient communities and providing social opportunities.

3. Arts and culture:

- Arts and cultural activities foster creativity, improve education, and provide opportunities for cultural exchange and celebration.
- Arts and cultural initiatives promote a sense of community and pride, and provide opportunities for people to express themselves and engage in creative activities.
- Arts and culture events and organizations foster social cohesion and provide educational and social opportunities.
- Arts and cultural activities also build community connections.

Summary:

The responses share a common theme of discussing the importance of local board services that people believe should not have their funding reduced. There is a strong consensus among people that the most important local board services are related to the environment, community facilities and events, and arts and culture. Environmental protection and restoration, community grants and programs, parks and green spaces maintenance, and libraries and educational services are among the services mentioned frequently. These services are seen as essential for promoting well-being, social cohesion, environmental protection, and sustainability. They are also recognized as vital for building strong and resilient communities that can thrive in the face of a changing climate and social challenges. It is clear that the community values services that contribute to the long-term sustainability and livability of the area, positively impact well-being, and build community cohesion and connection. Overall, it is important that funding for these services is not reduced to ensure that they continue to meet the needs and expectations of the people they serve.

Q6 - Changes to other rates and fees and charges

Proposal	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Waste management rates changes				
Cost changes in waste management, including:				
a) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase,				
b) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41).				
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changes to other rates				
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

***Do you have any feedback on the proposed changes in the table above, or the other proposed changes to rates, fees and charges in the consultation document (pages 55,58)
(Please be clear which proposal you are talking about)***

The main themes and arguments are as follows:

1. Waste Management Fees

- Proposed changes include introducing a user pays system for waste management, with charges scaled to the size of the bin, and a charge for reducing bin size to incentivize waste reduction.
- Some residents support these changes to encourage waste reduction, while others are concerned about affordability and illegal dumping.
- There are concerns that cost increases for rubbish disposal may result in increased fly tipping, which would then be more expensive to clean up.
- Some people suggest that rates, fees, and charges should be based on usage.

2. Environmental Initiatives Funding

- Proposed changes include increasing rates and fees to fund climate change and environmental initiatives.
- Some residents support this idea, believing that the funding is necessary to address urgent issues related to climate change and water quality. However, others are opposed to the increase, believing that the council should be using existing funds more efficiently rather than asking for more money.

3. Public Transport System

- Proposed changes include expanding the public transport system to make it more viable for more residents.
- The public transport system needs to be expanded and relevant to climate action, but there are concerns about funding for specific routes.
- Some people suggest that the CATR (Climate Action Targeted Rate) should be used to improve and increase bus services, with more investment in public and active transport.
- Some people suggest that more focus is needed on sustainable ways to get to school.
- There is support for more investment in public transport, walking, and cycling.

4. Auckland Council Rates, Fees, and Charges

- Some residents are opposed to cutting services, while others believe that rates, fees, and charges should be reduced.
- The CATR (Climate Action Targeted Rate) has public support, but some people are concerned about changes to the rate.
- There is a proposal to change rates, fees, and charges related to food waste to reduce emissions, but some people do not support the changes.
- There are concerns about the cost of proposed changes and whether they will make a difference.
- Some people want the council to focus on basics and use money more efficiently.
- There are proposals to increase funding for climate change, waterway cleaning, and environment, as well as for arts and culture programs.
- There are proposals to reduce council perks, transport, and clothing budgets to employees.

5. Other Waste Management Proposals

- Proposed changes include introducing a two-tiered system for the food scraps targeted rate and increasing fees for follow-up inspections for the Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate.
- Some people support these proposals, while others oppose them, and there are concerns that the changes may limit or decrease the ability of Aucklanders to enjoy certain facilities and services.
- There is support for a food scraps waste system to help divert such waste from landfill.
- There should be bin tags for all areas.
- There is opposition to the food scrap charge and a suggestion to stop inventing new make-work schemes.

6. Golf Course Subsidies

- There is a need to investigate the golf courses owned and managed by the Council to determine whether or not they are being subsidized by ratepayers.

Summary:

There are proposals to change rates, fees, and charges in Auckland, and opinions on these changes are varied. Some residents are in favour of the proposed changes, while others are opposed or have concerns about the cost or effectiveness of the changes. Proposed changes include introducing a user-pays system for waste management to encourage waste reduction, increasing rates and fees to fund climate change and environmental initiatives, and increasing parking fees in line with inflation. Other proposals include expanding the public transport system to make it more viable for more residents, increasing funding for community organizations, arts, and culture programs, and targeting businesses with the biggest emissions. There is support for some proposals such as a food scraps waste system to help divert such waste from landfill, and opposition to others such as the food scraps charge.

Q7 - What else is important to you?

Do you have feedback on any other issues, including the Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan 2023/2024 (page 59 in the consultation document)?

Or is there anything else you would like to give feedback on?

Feedback on the Auckland City Council budget consultation identified five main themes:

1. Infrastructure and Basic Services

- Residents expressed frustration with perceived wasteful spending and lack of attention to basic needs such as roads, waste management, and public transport.
- There is a need for improved infrastructure, including cycling and walking infrastructure and public transport.

2. Transparency and Accountability

- Several commenters suggested that budget cuts should be made in a way that does not create inequity across the city.
- The council needs to be more efficient with its spending and increase transparency in how rates are spent.
- There is a need for a more equitable taxation system.

- The council should focus on core activities and stop wasting money on frivolous ideas.

3. Community Resilience and Cohesion

- Many commenters stressed the need for community initiatives, particularly those focused on youth and education.
- Support for local volunteer programs aimed at pest control and weed management is needed.
- Others emphasized the need for more investment in cultural institutions such as libraries and local halls.
- The negative impact of budget reductions on community groups and services is a major concern.

4. Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainability

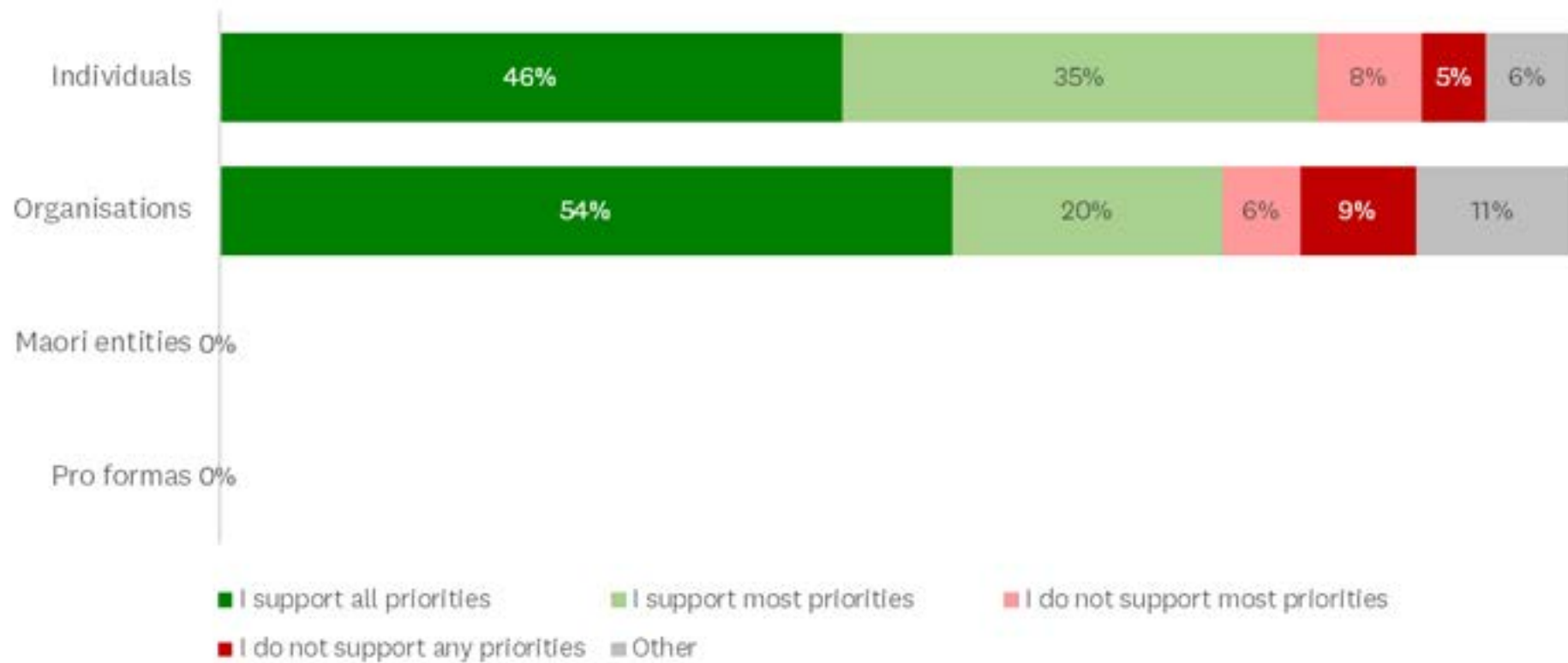
- Several suggested that the council should prioritize spending on climate action and sustainable transportation alternatives, such as walking, cycling, and public transport.
- There is a need for urgent, exemplary action on climate change.
- The council needs to invest in climate change solutions and infrastructure projects to improve the city's resilience to climate change and reduce congestion.

5. Affordable Housing and Jobs

- The community is concerned about the lack of affordable housing, jobs, and public transport.
- The council needs to invest in social services and public transport to create jobs and provide affordable housing options for the community.

Summary:

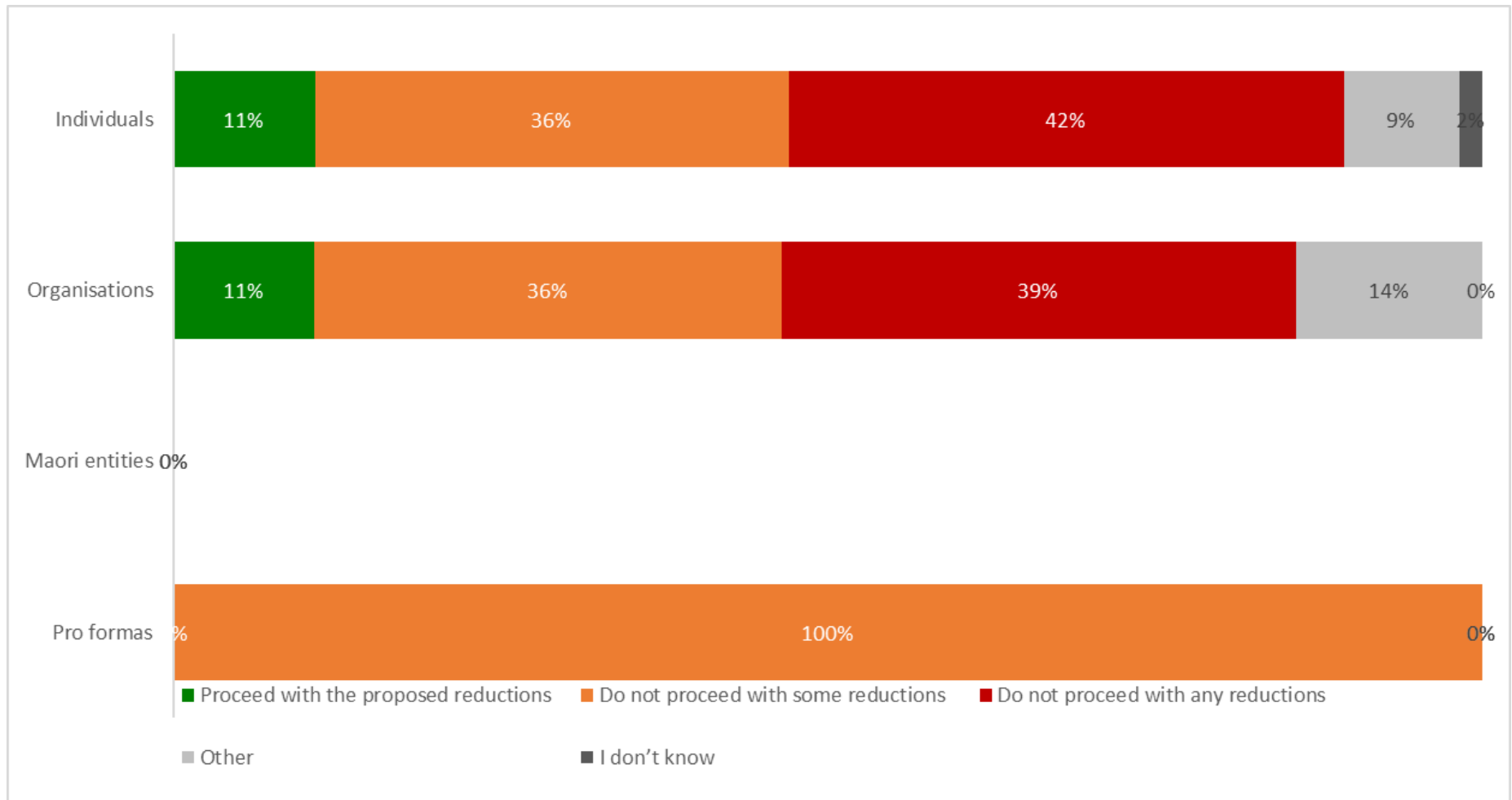
The people of the local board area are expressing various concerns about the budget and services provided by the council. Key themes include the need for improved infrastructure, including roads, waste management, walking, cycling, and public transport infrastructure, as well as increased transparency in how rates are spent and a more equitable taxation system. Another major concern is the need for community resilience, culture, the arts, and collective well-being, and the negative impact of budget reductions on community groups and services. Climate change mitigation and urgent action on climate change are also important issues. The community want efficient spending, transparency and accountability, and a focus on long-term planning for the city's infrastructure and wellbeing. Additionally, there is a strong sentiment that the city should not cut funding for community services, and that the importance of trained, qualified librarians and the need for community services to remain open should not be overlooked. Overall, the commenters prioritize environmental sustainability, community services, and infrastructure investment, while also seeking ways to reduce costs and increase revenue.



Q5A Tell us why		
Comments	1119	
Themes	Count	%
Q5 WTK Community services	195	17%
Q5 WTK Libraries	51	5%
Q5 WTK Parks, sport and recreation	137	12%
Q5 WTK Arts, culture and events	119	11%
Q5 WTK Local planning	130	12%
Q5 WTK Economic development	23	2%
Q5 WTK Environmental management	309	28%
Q5 WTK Governance and support	75	7%
Q5 WTK Other comment	380	34%
Don't know	10	1%

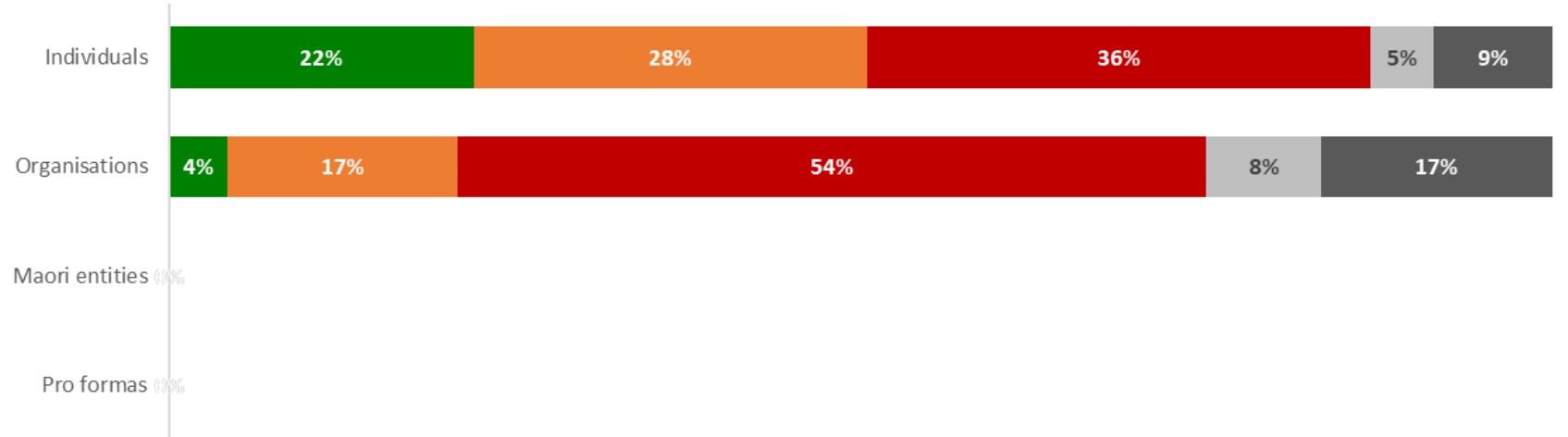
Q1 Operating spending reductions

Category	Count					Total
	Proceed with	Do not proceed	Do not proceed	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	183	613	719	150	30	1695
Organisations	3	10	11	4	0	28
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	67	0	0	0	67
	Percentage					
	Proceed with	Do not proceed	Do not proceed	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	11%	36%	42%	9%	2%	100%
Organisations	11%	36%	39%	14%	0%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	100%



Q2 AIAL Shareholding Policy

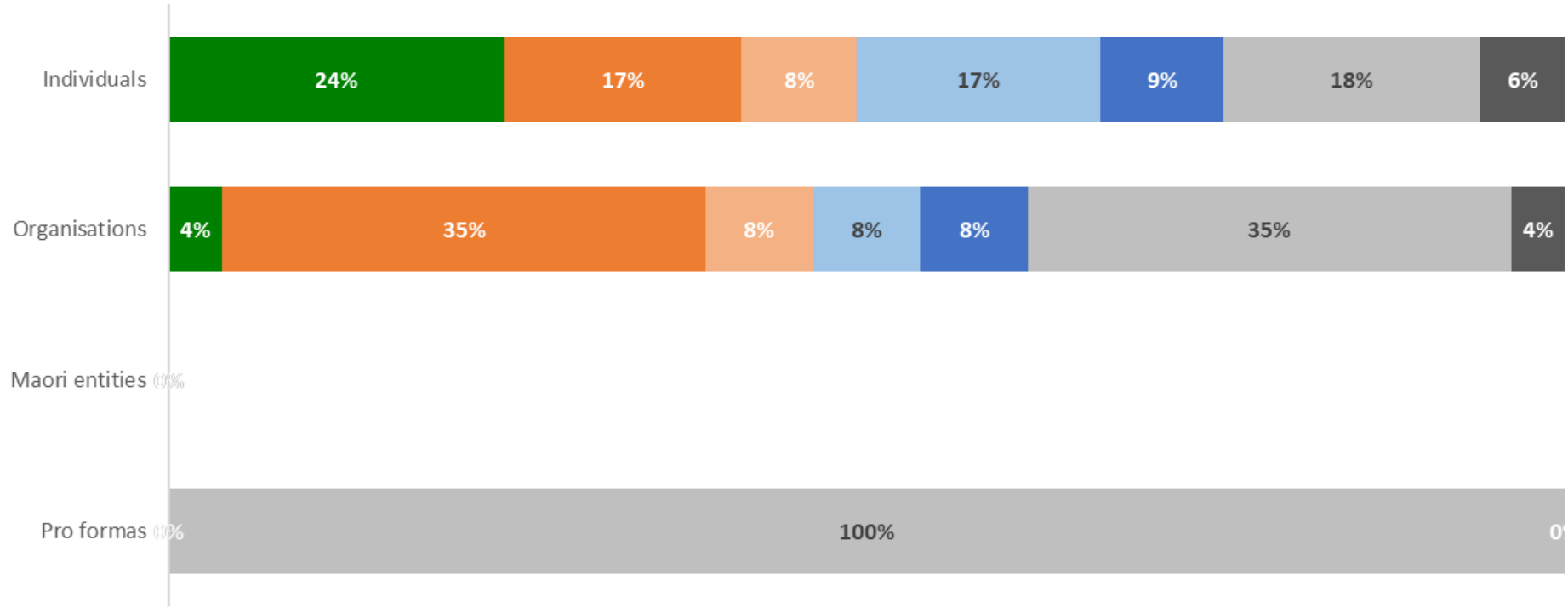
Category	Count						Total
	Proceed with	Enable a par	Don't change	Other	I don't know		
Individuals	367	474	607	76	143		1667
Organisations	1	4	13	2	4		24
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0		0
Pro formas	0	0	0	0	0		0
Category	Percentage						Total
	Proceed with	Enable a par	Don't change	Other	I don't know		
Individuals	22%	28%	36%	5%	9%		100%
Organisations	4%	17%	54%	8%	17%		100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%
Pro formas	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%



- Proceed with the proposal to enable the sale of all our shares in AIAL and use the proceeds to reduce debt and therefore annual interest costs by around \$87 million per year
- Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt
- Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt
- Other
- I don't know

Q3 Managing rates and debt

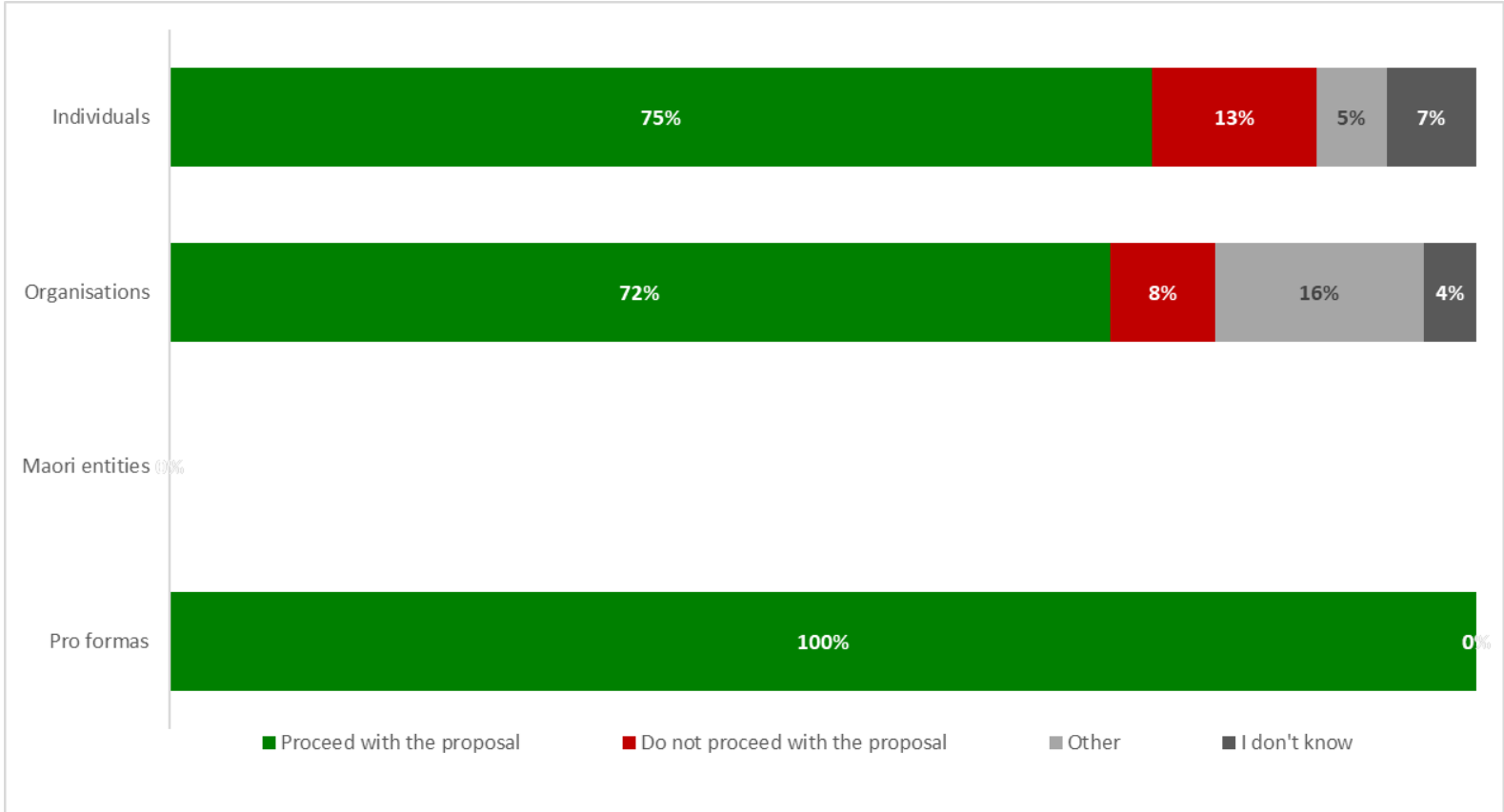
Category	Count							Total
	Proceed with	Set a higher	Make greater	Set a lower g	Set a higher	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	403	285	148	293	138	308	102	1677
Organisations	1	9	2	2	2	9	1	26
Maori entities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pro formas	0	0	0	0	0	67	0	67
	Percentage							
	Proceed with	Set a higher	Make greater	Set a lower g	Set a higher	Other	I don't know	
Individuals	24%	17%	9%	17%	8%	18%	6%	100%
Organisations	4%	35%	8%	8%	8%	35%	4%	100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pro formas	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	100%	0%	100%



- Proceed with the proposed increases to rates and debt
- Set a higher general rates increase
- Set a higher general rates increase and make less use of debt
- Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt
- Make greater use of debt
- Other
- I don't know

Q4 Storm response

Category	Count					Total
	Proceed with	Do not proceed	Other	I don't know		
Individuals	1258	210	90	115		1673
Organisations	18	2	4	1		25
Maori entities	0	0	0	0		0
Pro formas	67	0	0	0		67
	Percentage					
	Proceed with	Do not proceed	Other	I don't know		
Individuals	75%	13%	5%	7%		100%
Organisations	72%	8%	16%	4%		100%
Maori entities	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%
Pro formas	100%	0%	0%	0%		100%



Q6A Changes to other rates, fees and charges

Q6A Changes to other rates, fees and charges					
INDIVIDUALS					
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	TOTAL
Cost changes in waste management	868	386	60	262	1576
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	1093	301	31	149	1574
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year ²	1010	310	32	213	1565
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	1056	326	23	180	1585
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	788	421	29	332	1570
ORGANISATIONS					
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	TOTAL
Cost changes in waste management	13	5	0	6	24
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	17	3	0	4	24
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year ²	15	4	0	6	25
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	17	3	0	4	24
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	9	8	0	7	24

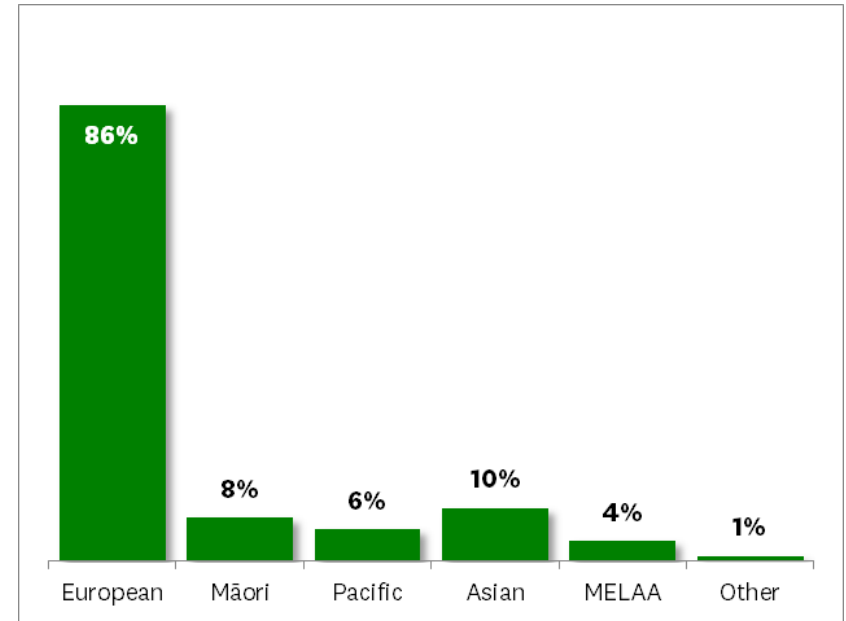
Māori Entities					
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	TOTAL
Cost changes in waste management	0	0	0	0	0
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	0	0	0	0	0
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year ²	0	0	0	0	0
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Pro Forma					
Waste Management Rates Change	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	TOTAL
Cost changes in waste management	0	0	0	0	0
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	0	0	0	0	0
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year ²	0	0	0	0	0
Changes to other rates	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know	
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0	0
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0	0

YOUR LOCAL BOARD RESIDENTS RESPONSES TO OTHER REGIONAL THEMES

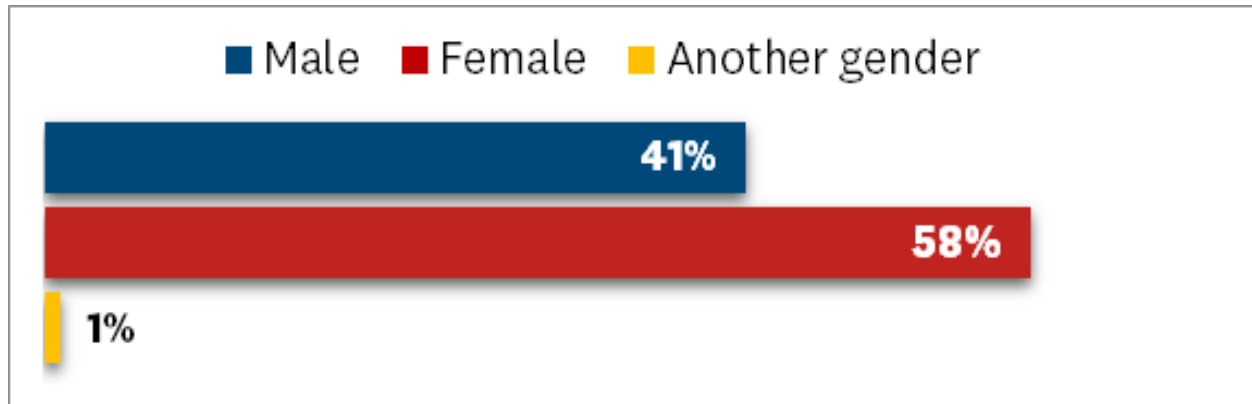
Q7 - Other feedback	Individuals	Organisation	Maori entities	Pro forma
Themes				
Q7 General financial strategy	80	1	0	0
Q7 Other rating policy	12	0	0	0
Q7 APTR (Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate)	0	0	0	0
Q7 Climate Action Targeted Rate (CATR)	2	0	0	0
Q7 Rodney Drainage Districts Targeted Rate	0	0	0	0
Cemetery fees	3	2	0	0
Q7 Changes to other fees and charges	1	0	0	0
Q7 Business Improvements Districts (BIDs)	0	2	0	0
Q7 Strategic assets	26	0	0	0
Q7 Local Board Funding policy	18	2	0	0
Q7 Contributions policy	0	0	0	0
Q7 Grants and Subsidies	4	2	0	0
Q7 Other rating and funding	9	0	0	0
Q7 Transport (roads and footpaths)	61	2	0	0
Q7 Transport (public transport)	97	2	0	0
Q7 Transport (walking and cycling)	43	0	0	0
Q7 Transport (parking and enforcement)	8	0	0	0
Q7 Transport (other)	17	0	0	0
Q7 Water supply	12	0	0	0
Q7 Wastewater	11	0	0	0
Q7 Stormwater	28	2	0	0
Q7 Regional community places and services	156	7	0	0
Q7 Regional libraries	46	5	0	0
Q7 Regional parks, sport and rec	47	5	0	0
Q7 Regional arts, culture and events	117	7	0	0
Q7 Regional planning	29	1	0	0
Q7 Housing	21	0	0	0
Q7 Bylaws	1	0	0	0
Q7 Regulatory services	8	0	0	0
Q7 Cultural and built heritage	5	2	0	0
Q7 Solid waste services	13	1	0	0
Q7 Environmental services	169	8	0	0
Q7 Governance and support	68	0	0	0
Q7 Organisational support	41	1	0	0
Q7 Maori outcomes	4	1	0	0
Q7 Emergency management	9	0	0	0
Q7 Tupuna Maunga	36	0	0	0
Q7 Panuku Development Auckland	7	1	0	0
Q7 Auckland Unlimited	35	2	0	0
Q7 General comments about the plan	108	3	0	0
Q7 General comments about the process	22	3	0	0
Out of scope	24	1	0	0

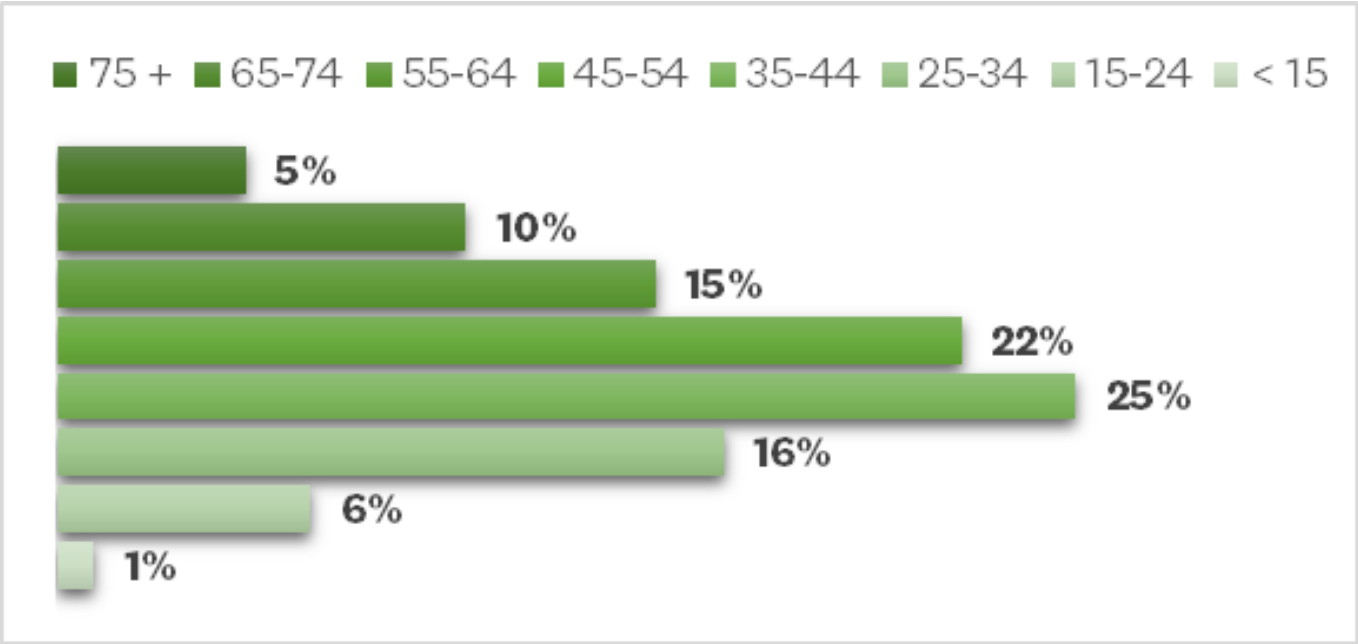
Information on submitters

Ethnicity		#	%
European		1460	86%
	Pākehā/NZ European	1258	75%
	Other European	202	12%
Māori		138	8%
Pasifika		101	6%
	Samoaan	57	3%
	Cook Islands Māori	13	1%
	Tongan	10	1%
	Other Pasifika	21	1%
Asian		169	10%
	Chinese	57	3%
	Southeast Asian	37	2%
	Korean	7	0%
	Indian	50	3%
	Other Asian	18	1%
African/Middle Eastern/Latin		64	4%
Other		16	1%
Total		1688	115%



Demographics		Count
Gender		1671
	Male	688
	Female	968
	Another gender	15





Age		1628
	Under 15	15
	15-17	30
	18-24	76
	25-34	279
	35-44	427
	45-54	379
	55-64	251
	65-74	171
	75+	79

Tamaki Makaurau Recovery – Piha and Karekare

Waitākere Ranges Local Board briefing

Simon Fraser – Community Liaison lead – Piha and Karekare

Mace Ward – Deputy Group Recovery Manager

4 May 2023



Extreme weather event impacts at a glance



\$25.6m Civil
Defence payments



7,000 rapid
building
assessments



150+ water &
wastewater
infrastructure issues



721 community
facilities & parks
damaged



\$2.47 billion
insurance
claims



2,800+ red &
yellow placards
issued



6,000+ tonnes of
storm related
waste removed



8,500 flood
damaged
vehicles



1300 slips on
roading network



6,190 trees
damaged



Current situation

Piha

Placards

Red – 17

Yellow – 23

White – 154

Road closures

Rayner Road – hard cordon

Marine Parade South – soft cordon

Glenesk Road – soft cordon

Karekare

Placards

Red – 12

Yellow – 17

White – 100

Road closures

Karekare Road – hard cordon

Lone Kauri Road – soft cordon

Community engagement

Established community update newsletters – currently separate for Piha (2 updates) and Karekare (1 update)

Initial update was intended as a collated source of information, updates and clarifications

Future updates as required – aiming for approximately fortnightly

Public meetings – Piha and Karekare



Cordons

Anawhata Road 'outer cordon' to be removed from Friday 5 May

Restrictions still to remain:

Rayner Road – hard cordon

Marine Parade South – soft cordon

Glenesk Road – soft cordon

Karekare Road – hard cordon

Lone Kauri Road – soft cordon





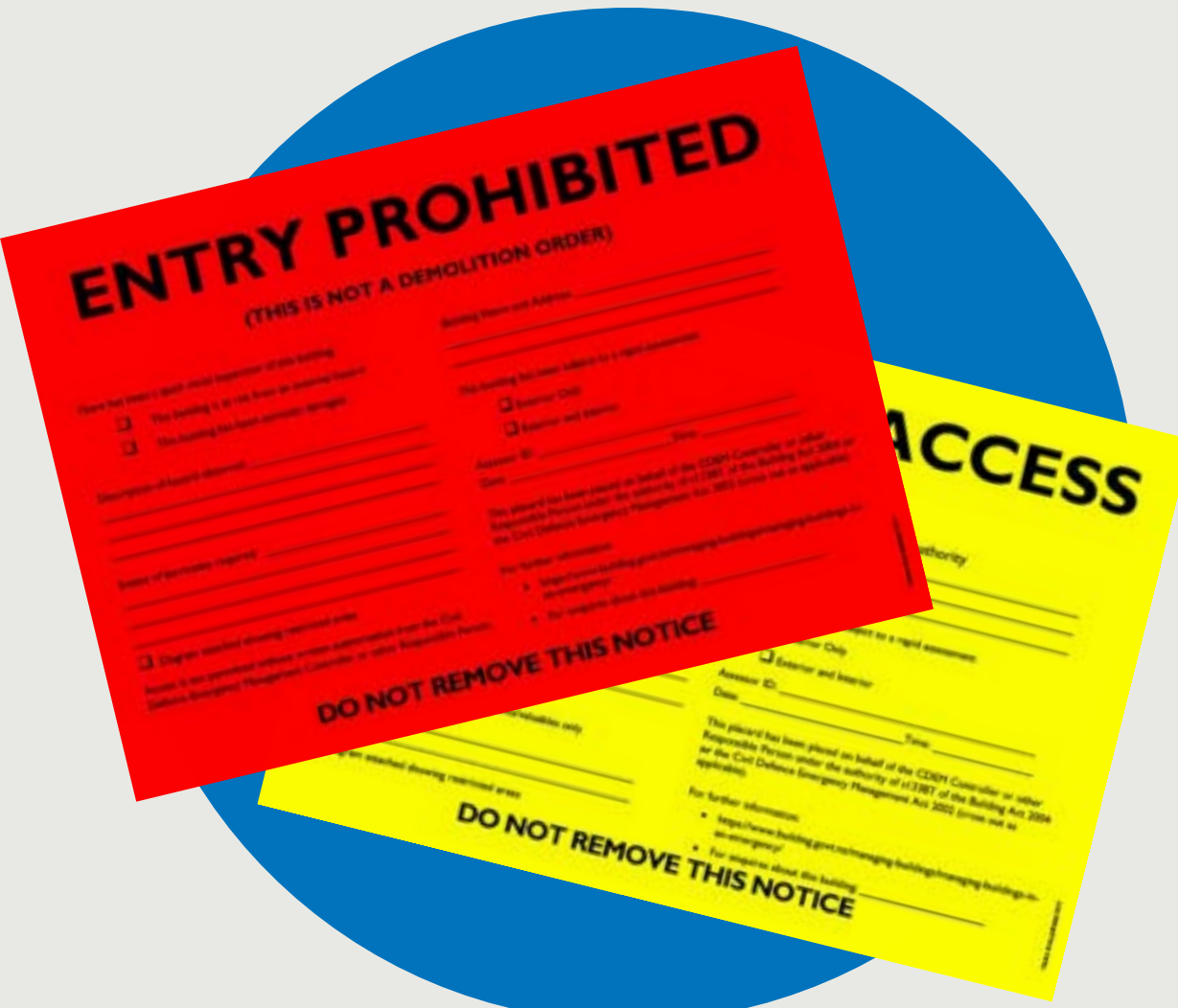
Buildings and property

All red and yellow placarded properties are being assigned a RBA case manager

Red properties contacted 1 May, yellow ongoing

RBA case manager can assist with:

- The government's rapid building assessment and placarding process
- Advise on the process for making safe or repairing damage to a property
- Any legislative requirements in relation to the Building Act 2004 and Resource Management Act 1991



Roading

Piha

- Contract awarded to Downer
- 3-4 months for design, planning, technical assessments
- 1-2 months construction for Piha Rad
- Construction on Rayner, Glenesk to follow

Karekare

- Contract awarded to Fulton Hogan
- Three phases to work
 - Clearance of slip material – 2-5 weeks
 - Minor road repairs (drainage, stabilisation, embankments, culverts) – 2-6 weeks
 - Large slip remediation – investigation work underway



Parks and environment

Regional Park tracks closed – signage in place

- Assessment of tracks complete
- Remediation work programme being established

Piha Domain

- Was used as clean fill dump site – being cleared and remediated
- alternative options for stickered residents being explored

Beach valley road tree

- Assessed by AC Arborist team
- Engagement on removal underway



Community Resilience Planning

Karekare resilience group undertaking review

Plans to revive Piha community resilience plan

Both to be supported by AEM and Recovery Office



Next steps - roadmap

Collating issues from across the community

Intention is to publish longer-term road map to communicate what to expect over coming months, align with Recovery Plan

Urgent/pressing issues have been prioritised ahead of this

Aiming to finalise this month – including engagement with community



Pathway to Recovery



WE ARE HERE!



