



Submission of Civic Trust Auckland

Auckland Council Annual Budget 2017/2018

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Our submission is relevant to all the local boards.

We would like to receive the “Stakeholder Update” email from Auckland Council.

We take encouragement from the written assurance accompanying this consultation process that, *“Every piece of feedback is important and past consultations have shown that public feedback can and does change how the elected members make decisions.”*

Civic Trust Auckland

Civic Trust Auckland is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region.

The aims of the Trust include:

- Preservation of heritage, in all its aspects
 - Protection of natural landforms
- Encouragement of good planning for the city and region.

1. Built Environment

1.1 Heritage is a matter of national importance, pursuant to section 6(f) of the Resource Management Act. Council is *required* to recognise and provide for this, and, as such, this should be reflected in its planning and financial provisions.

1.2 Chapter 4 of the Auckland Plan, “Auckland’s Historic Heritage,” had as a target: *“Increase the number of scheduled historic heritage places by 100% from 2,100 to 4,200 by 2030.”* If this work is not proceeded with expeditiously, these places may not exist in 2030.

1.3 Council evidence in the Unitary Plan process acknowledges the haste of that process and the fact that there are still many buildings in Auckland about which

inadequate research has as yet taken place. Under “What will be Delivered” on page 27 in the Annual Budget consultation document, we note that one of the key performance indicators is “*protect 2180 historic heritage places in the Unitary Plan.*” The funds available for this are not specified in the Annual Budget, and therefore, in accordance with RMA section 6(f), the Auckland Plan *and* the Annual Budget target, we request that provision in the Annual Budget be made for the purpose of advancing this process of identification and protection, and that indication of this amount be clearly stated in the Annual Plan.

1.4 We do not see mention in the Annual Budget of the “Heritage Acquisition Fund.” We understand this was originally \$10 million and was to be increased by yearly contributions of between \$2 million and \$3 million. In addition to specification of this amount.

1.5 There needs to be inclusion in the Annual Budget of what if any provision Council is making for *financial incentives* for owners of heritage buildings.

1.6 We note that the Whau Local Board includes as one of its key priorities: “*Encourage awareness and protection of our local community heritage.*” We commend this local board and would like to see all local boards have as a key priority assessing their local heritage in order to protect it. This could include reviewing the resource consent applications relevant to their area to make sure that, where required, a heritage assessment has been carried out. They could refer their local heritage issues to Auckland Council’s Heritage Advisory Panel for advice. Financial provision needs to be made to enable local boards to adequately undertake consultation with their communities on such matters.

2. Natural Environment/Recreational & Public Space

2.1 Auckland Council continues to use the toxic sprays Roundup/glyphosate on most roadsides and parks. The European Chemicals Agency is undertaking a review into glyphosate and whether it should be classified as a carcinogen by the EU. Two-thirds of EU citizens support a ban. A number of countries, and many councils, have already banned it, including Malta, The Netherlands, Argentina and Sri Lanka. CTA asks that Auckland Council stops using these toxic sprays until and unless they are proved to be harmless.

2.2 We note that improving the quality of water in streams and harbours (page 27) is a deliverable in the Annual Budget. It is important for a healthy city to keep sewage out of our harbours.

2.3 CTA opposes the proposal to include progressing the implementation of the Chamberlain Park masterplan as a priority in the Annual Budget. The local board’s plans have been opposed by members of not only the golfing community but the wider community.

2.4 Chamberlain Park

2.4.1 Chamberlain Park is used by a diverse range of Aucklanders of all ages and ethnicities, as well as a significant number of tourists. As the only public golf course on the central isthmus, it is not just a local park within the Albert Eden Local Board area. It is a city wide asset, to be considered in the same light as the Auckland Domain and Auckland Zoo (which are not simply assets of the Waitemata Local Board). It has in excess of 50,000 rounds per year – the highest in the country.

2.4.2 It does not seem a good use of a well-established regional resource for “community use” when significant amounts of publicly accessible green space are in close proximity, some within the Albert-Eden Local Board area, and some in the neighbouring local board areas, which of course are also used by residents of the Albert-Eden Local Board area.

2.4.3 Club membership at Chamberlain Park is available at \$132 per year, as opposed to \$1,925 per year at the private Akarana Club, the nearest golf course. This makes quality golf affordable for both students and older persons on fixed incomes. The course is open at 6am and closes at dusk, 365 days a year. This allows a much higher hourly use rate as compared to sports fields, which are used in the weekends and some evenings only.

2.4.4 CTA supports the retention of a quality 18-hole public course for the benefit of all Aucklanders citywide who wish to experience golf that is easily accessible and affordable.

2.5 We support “*creating a vibrant Waterfront that attracts over 75% of Aucklanders to the Waterfront each year.*” The attraction of the waterfront will depend on what is created there, and in order to achieve this, proposals should be open for meaningful consultation, not only with commercial interests, such as the cruise ship industry, but also with the public. Notwithstanding submissions on the Unitary Plan, some provision should be made for consultation with the public about their aspirations. Some sort of public competition might be considered for this purpose, such as the “Harbourama” public competition undertaken some decades ago. We suggest that the process for development of the Wellington waterfront could provide useful guidance, since that has clearly been infinitely more successful than in Auckland.

3. Tree Protection

The removal of general tree protection has meant that many of the city’s trees can be easily removed. Notwithstanding the mayor’s pledge to plant a million trees in Auckland, CTA would like to see more protection for existing trees, and to this end, the Annual Budget should make adequate provision for assessment and scheduling of notable trees.

4. Transport

4.1 CTA fully supports proceeding with the SkyPath project and making budget provision in the Annual Budget and the Long-term Plan 2018-2028.

4.2 Extending and improving the cycling infrastructure is important to reduce car use. New cycling projects should not require any removal of trees.

4.3 CTA supports further progress towards light rail connection being made to Auckland Airport.

5. Waste Minimisation

CTA is pleased to see Council’s work to establish a network of community recycling centres and supports this work and the KPI of having four resource recovery facilities operational.

6. Notification

The RMA is based on the presumption that the best and fairest outcomes arise from proper participation. In accordance with this principle, CTA is of the view that people who may be affected by changes to the environment should be properly notified about proposals and resource consent applications.

Date of submission: 27 March 2017

Signature:



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Audrey van der Pijl".

Secretary, Civic Trust Auckland