



To: Auckland Council

Submission on: **Annual Budget and TMA Draft Annual Plan - 2020/21**

Name of submitter: Civic Trust Auckland

Date 22 March, 2020

Introduction

- 1.0 Civic Trust Auckland (**Civic Trust**) is a non-profit public interest group, incorporated in 1968, with membership, activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region. Its aims include the protection of natural landforms, the preservation of heritage in all its aspects, the encouragement of good planning for the city and region, and the promotion of public interest in the environment.
- 2.0 Amongst the following key issues and challenges. Auckland Council (**Council**) identified the following:

2.1 Transport.

Key public transport initiatives being progressed in the 2020/21 year include the City Rail Link. Civic Trust support a review of the design for the Karangahape Road station at Beresford Square. This matter is addressed in our submission on the priorities for the Waitematā Local Board.

2.3 The Environment

Council's role is to look after and monitor our environment and protect it from both natural and human-generated threats. In the 2020/21 year, Council will help protect our natural environment, including tackling pests, weeds and diseases that threaten many of our native species.

Council's duty is to recognise and protect the built environment as well as the natural environment. Through the formation of the Unitary Plan, Council acknowledged the extent to which the city's historic heritage has not been adequately assessed. That remains the situation and Civic Trust submits that this be remedied as a matter of urgency. We have made representations directly to Waitematā Local Board to reinstate previously budgeted for provision for the identification of heritage buildings in the city centre. The need for such budgetary provision extends beyond the city centre, right across the entire city, particularly around Auckland's many town centres.

2.4 Climate change

Council considers climate change is Auckland's biggest emerging challenge and in response, it has formally declared a Climate Change Emergency as well as progressing a Climate Change Action Framework. In recognising the people of Auckland feel a strong connection to, and guardianship for their local natural environment, a key move of that action framework is to enhance, restore and connect our natural environments. Civic Trust consider that the Integrated Management Plan of the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority, which envisages the removal of scores of mature exotic trees should be reviewed. Our views on that matter are addressed further in our submission on the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority Draft Operational Plan 2020/21.

3.0 **Rates, Fees and Charges**

Auckland Council has a Natural Environment Targeted Rate which is used to help fund capital and operating costs of investment to deliver enhanced environmental outcomes. Just as there is need to pursue enhanced outcomes for the natural environment, so too there is an imperative to adopt a Built Environment Targeted Rate to assist with the earthquake-strengthening of qualifying buildings in the physical environment.

4.0 **Submission on Waitematā Local Board Priorities**

4.1 **Leys Institute and Gymnasium**

Local Boards are meant to maintain communities local libraries and halls and so Civic Trust is saddened to see the Leys Institute and Gymnasium closed recently due to seismic issues. It is a building of local and regional, as well as national heritage significance. The plight of this building is similar to many in both Auckland and around the country. The financial impact of upgrading the country's earthquake-prone buildings is likely to exceed the impact of the so-called 'leaky building crisis'. Though remediation of the problem will need to be facilitated by Council, the Waitematā Local Board could usefully make budgetary provision for investigation of options for the site.

4.2 **Heritage Identification**

As referred to in 2.3 above, Civic Trust recognises that the WLB area is the crucible of much of the city's early heritage. Since much of it remains unassessed, we submit that the previously provided-for but unutilised budget of \$0.5m be reinstated. Historic heritage is a fragile and irreplaceable asset and it should be protected before what little remains is demolished.

4.3 **CRL Karangahape Station at Beresford Street**

Since the CRL was developed, the Karangahape Road Area was elevated from a mere 'precinct' to a formally recognised Historic Heritage Area in the Unitary Plan. As such it warrants a review of the design for the Karangahape Road station at Beresford Square.

3. Summary of the draft Tupuna Maunga Authority - Operational Plan 2020/2021

- 3.1 The Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014 (the *Redress Act*) sets out the functions and powers of the Tūpuna Maunga o Tāmaki Makaurau Authority (the *Maunga Authority*).¹
- 3.2 For the benefit of Mana Whenua, the *Redress Act* states the *Maunga Authority* must have regard to the spiritual, ancestral, cultural, customary, and historical significance of the maunga to Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau.² For those other than Mana Whenua, the next clause³ further states that the Maunga Authority must have regard to section 41(2), which states that the maunga are to be held as reserves for the common benefit of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and the other people of Auckland.⁴
- 3.3 The Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the maunga In The Maunga Authority has been prepared in accordance with The Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014⁵. The Redress Act states that the Reserves Act 1977 (*Reserves Act*) applies to the IMP⁶
- 3.4 The Reserves Act states the Maunga Authority shall keep its management plan under continuous review, so that, subject to subsection (3), the plan is adapted to changing circumstances or in accordance with increased knowledge.⁷
- 3.5 The Maunga Authority should review its decision to remove what it refers to as inappropriate exotic trees, firstly in light of the climate change emergency, and secondly because it has become apparent that their retention is desired by many of the people of Auckland other than Mana Whenua, and that is a salient fact given that notwithstanding Mana Whenua ownership of the maunga, their administration is required to be undertaken for the common benefit of Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and the other people of Auckland.

Signature of person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter



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¹ Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Redress Act 2014 - section 109

² *Ibid* - section 109 (2)(a)

³ *Ibid* - section 109 (2)(b)

⁴ *Ibid* - section 42 (2)

⁵ *Ibid* - section 58(1)

⁶ *Ibid* - section 58(3)

⁷ Reserves Act 1977 - section 41(3)