



Submission of Civic Trust Auckland

Annual Plan 2026/2027

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1. Introduction

(a) Civic Trust Auckland (CTA) is a non-profit public interest group, formed in 1968, with activities and interests throughout the greater Auckland region. The aims of the Trust include:

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

(b) We are on Auckland Council's list of regional stakeholders and were identified by Council for the annual budget consultation as a group with region-wide interests. We have twice in the past brought international speakers to participate in the Auckland Conversations programme run by Council.

(c) We have submitted on Auckland Council's previous annual budgets, as well as numerous council plans and central government bills. Our submissions are available on our website: <https://civictrustauckland.org.nz/submissions> .

(d) We gave an oral presentation to Council's Budget and Performance Committee on 23 March.

(e) We have read the Consultation Document ("CD") for the 2026/27 annual budget, and the Local Board sections in the Supporting Information ("SD") document, as well as some other parts of the SD. We comment on a number of topics, then the Local Board plans, then the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Operational Plan.

2. Council's Vision

(a) We read in the message from the mayor (CD pg 4): "Auckland Transport will become a public transport service provider only, with the rest brought into the council so decisions are simpler, faster, making us more accountable."

(b) CTA looks forward to an improved public transport service. That said, we find that public transport in Auckland is already an excellent service. We note its recent improvements and additions, including providing for bus racks to take bicycles over

the Auckland Harbour Bridge, a service we have earlier proposed in several of our submissions.

(c) CTA supports Auckland Council's vision for an Auckland "that can be accessed and enjoyed by Aucklanders across the region." As mentioned in our comments on the Waitākere Ranges Board Plan, we support this local board's investigation of a trial bus service to Piha. This local board is also advocating for smaller buses, and we support this too, having suggested in earlier submissions that "AT investigate adding some smaller buses into routes when/where the demand is less." Smaller buses could be considered for all local board areas, and some solutions should be found to enable the public to get from the city centre to the city's botanical gardens.

(d) We note that "climate commitments" are mentioned on page 4 of the CD, and although there was a focus on them in the current three-year local board plans, there is not much mention of these in the local board sections of this year's annual plan. CTA considers that climate action should be a priority for all local boards, and we think it is important that Council meet its climate commitments.

(e) The Consultation Document distinguishes expenditure across several categories, including Transport, Water, Built Environment, Natural Environment, Community, Economic and Cultural Development, and Well-Managed Local Government, and it also identifies some particular major projects. CTA's submission addresses some of those below.

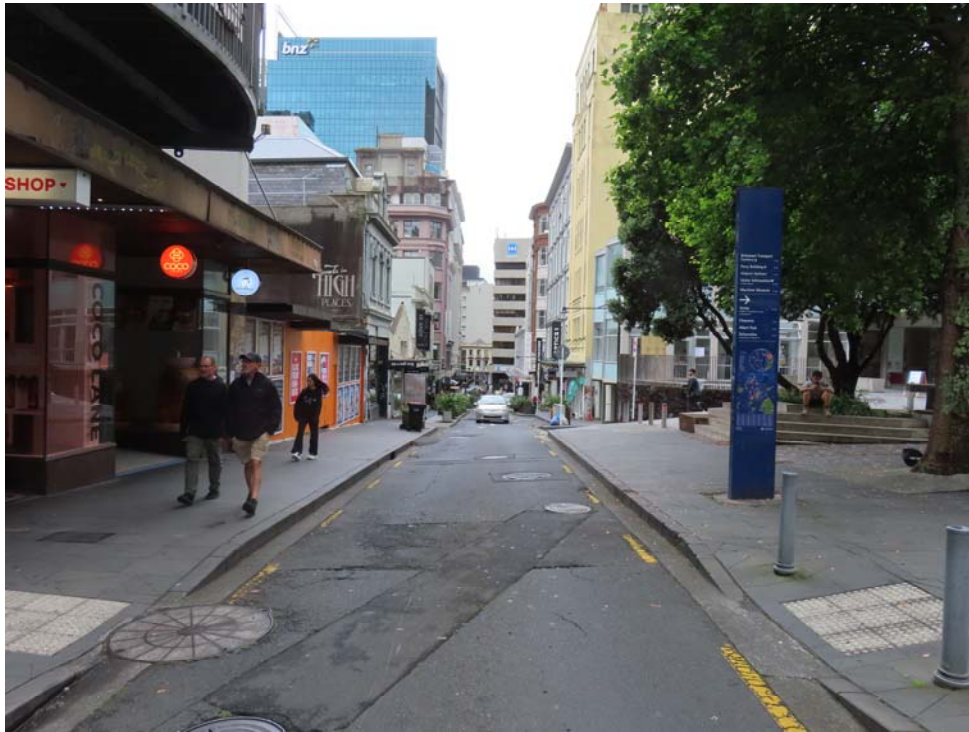
3. Built Environment

(a) CTA notes the Annual Plan's recognition of built heritage as a part of the city, and we strongly support this being provided for as an integral part of Auckland Council's vision (CD, pg 4). We note that the operational expenditure for the "built environment" of \$72 m (pg 8) is just 1.4% of total opex, and capital expenditure on the built environment of \$150 m is just 3.8% of total capex. While this appears small, a factor that may complicate matters arises when, for example, an historic heritage library may be accounted for under Community rather than Built Environment.

(b) We note that Council will be undertaking a Value for Money assessment of its own heritage properties in Q4 of 2026, and CTA encourages Council to make adequate financial provision for historic heritage it owns.

(c) We look forward to the opening of the City Rail Link and the completion of the public spaces around CRL stations, and the positive changes that are anticipated as a result, particularly for the city centre. CTA suggests that near the new Mt Eden station, Council should investigate the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison. Some creative flair could be used to appropriately modify the heritage building for alternative useful purposes.

(d) CTA does not support the currently proposed further expenditure on High Street in the city centre. As we said during our 23 March presentation, this expenditure is unnecessary, and, notwithstanding the supportive consultation results produced, the changes are, in fact, unwanted by many of the High Street businesses, which have had to bear several disruptions over the last couple of decades.



High Street currently

(e) Council does not have endless money and there is no demonstrable return for the level of investment envisaged for High Street. If a redesign does go ahead, however, it should be simplified. The existing road already provides good natural drainage, and so, rather than digging up the whole street, something like the CCMP vision (below left), perhaps just substitute different new kerbstones, like the ones Council has used successfully up in Karangahape Road (below right).



(f) Emily Place has \$10.5 million in line to be spent; however, there are other projects around the city that we consider are more worthwhile, for example, fixing the Ernest Davis steps, and other projects that would enhance the neighbourhood.



Ernest Davis steps (arrowed)

(g) CTA strongly supports Jan Gehl's 2010 proposal to make Hobson and Nelson Streets two-way:

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/plans/place/city-centre-masterplan-2012-print-version.pdf> (see pp 104-107). This would transform these streets from high-speed, one-way "motorway-focused" roads, which would slow traffic and improve local connectivity. Consideration might also usefully be given to retention of the level and southern-most span of the soon to be demolished Hobson Street on-ramp. It's an existing and potentially useful piece of urban infrastructure.

(h) We are not so sure about all aspects of the City Centre Masterplan. It should be subject to a more adaptable process of review and reprioritisation. Some of the visions in the original 2012 CCMP are still in the process of being delivered, despite changing circumstances since the document was originally envisaged. Council needs to be able to prioritise and not be bound to ideas that might have evolved in long-term plans conceived over four electoral cycles ago.

(i) We support Council's vision of a more compact city and focusing growth around well-connected centres and transport corridors; however, we do support high-quality building design. Aside from a small number of train stations around which areas of special character are almost certain to be demolished as a result of government legislation, CTA opposes the removal of character buildings and character/heritage protections simply to enable development.

4. Natural Environment

(a) Of Council's proposed operational expenditure \$752m and capital expenditure \$76m, CTA supports the following of Council's planned activities:

- Meet the council's obligations in the Regional Pest Management Plan 2020-2030 and increased funding and extension of the pest plan, animal and pathogen control and restoration activities
- Coordinate and implement the Kauri Dieback Management Programme to protect our kauri forests

- Undertake marine biosecurity education and engagement programmes, increased surveillance and monitoring of existing and emerging marine pests, such as the exotic caulerpa seaweed
- Expand the network of resource recovery facilities around the region, including Community Recycling Centres that receive, collect, repair and refurbish unwanted items from the public.

(b) We suggest that Council reconsider the inorganic collections rotating by ward area on a short-term periodic basis of a fortnight each year.

5. Community

(Operational expenditure \$967m, Capital expenditure \$367m)

(a) CTA supports the following activities:

- Progress urgent community asset renewals to safeguard our facilities from asset failure and support high-priority growth projects.

In our last Annual Plan submission, exactly the same planned activity was presented, and CTA commented: "CTA notes with concern that some Council buildings have not been looked after, e.g., Tadmor House and Hall in Manurewa, to the point where demolition is considered as the only option, so we trust that this plan will make adequate budgetary provision for such matters." Tadmor House and the surrounding land was gifted to the Borough of Manurewa in 1960 for community use and Council demolished both the house and the hall a couple of years ago because they did not look after them properly. We suggest that Council doubles its effort so that asset renewals are done on time to avoid the risk of asset failure, and provides adequate budgetary provision for this.

(b)

- Focus on education for responsible dog ownership, improving compliance, expanding animal shelter capacity, and controlling the dog population through increased desexing.

CTA does not support dogs living in apartment buildings, except for assistance dogs, as this is not a good life for the dogs, and noise issues for other residents are created by barking dogs.

(c)

- Improve community safety and reduce public nuisance through the use of safety and compliance wardens and community partners.

CTA does not support the proposed move-on orders, and considers them to be the wrong solution for the problem. If this becomes legislation, people experiencing homelessness will only be forced elsewhere, with nowhere safe to go.

(d) Council should make the necessary provision in any equivalent of a statement for Council's property arm, enabling it to task itself to provide, from its vast property portfolio, a number of small night shelters throughout the city (quite distinct from the solutions provided at Homeground in Hobson Street).

(e) Housing First was launched at an Auckland Conversation in 2017 and Council is very supportive of this initiative. However, many Aucklanders don't know about this programme. In our view, Council should promote it more, perhaps through local board newsletters and on bus shelters and the outside of buses, so that landlords

with rental properties become informed about the programme and its guarantee for rental payments and cover for property damage: <https://www.housingfirst.co.nz/for-landlords/>

(f) More rental properties in the Housing First programme could mean that many of the “ghost houses” throughout the city become inhabited by families in need instead of lying empty, some of them year after year. In regard to empty houses that are currently tenatable but untenanted, perhaps a better definition of “used” or “unused” is needed so there is an appropriate tool to consider a levy against an unoccupied property, as is the case in other cities/countries, including Vancouver, Ireland, France, Melbourne, Sydney, Kyoto, Spain and several states in Austria. In the two Australian cities, investors leaving properties unused for six months can face an annual “ghost house” charge.

(g) CTA submitted on NZTA’s recent Consultation on Lane Use Improvements to support Proposal 3 to “Allow people to ride e-scooters in cycle lanes.” We went further to submit that where a cycle lane has been provided, e-scooters *must* be ridden in the cycle lane. Walking down Queen Street, High Street or any street in Auckland in the city centre, or in the suburbs where there is a high density of pedestrians, e-scooters pose a danger to people on foot, especially those with hearing, sight, or mobility issues. Being passed closely by a scooter is a distressing experience for a pedestrian, and already many people have been injured by e-scooters. Nationally, between 2021 and 2023, there were over 7,000 ACC claims for e-scooter related injuries, with a 37% increase in 2023. There have been several deaths from e-scooters in Auckland and many serious head injuries.



Scooters “parked” on Wellesley Street

(h) We therefore submit that e-scooters be banned from footpaths, at least in places where there is a high density of pedestrians. We also submit that the current speed limit for commercial e-scooters (we understand it is 25 kph) is too high for when scooters are sharing the same space as pedestrians.

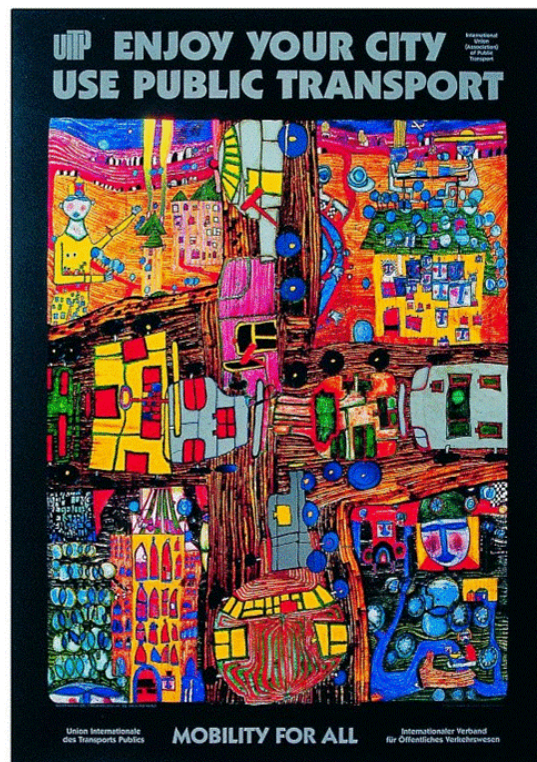
6. Major Projects

(a) CTA supports the major projects around the region listed on page 10 which align with the aims and objectives of CTA.

(b) We strongly support the Leys Institute comprehensive redevelopment, having submitted for this through a number of Council processes. As a Category I Building, the building is of regional significance, and Council should commit an appropriate level of funding to the retention of the built heritage across the city.

(c) We support acquiring land for parks and open spaces to contribute to Aucklanders' quality of life, as well as make better use of the parks we already have.

(d) We support developing safe, effective and low-emission travel solutions. We support improving public transport that is safe and reliable, and, as proposed during our presentation on 23 March, we suggest that a public transport champion could be appointed to spread information and stories about public transport that works. There could perhaps be a persona like the "Food Fairy" or simply a particular person who becomes recognisable (e.g., wearing a cap that says "I get around on public transport"). The current ads that read, "Turn travel time into me time" are effective in this regard. Hundertwasser's artwork celebrating public transport would surely appeal.



(e) PC120 that is now being mandated by Government is probably the greatest ever single increase in the level of intensification that will happen for generations. Council should consider the feasibility of "betterment charges" to take a small but fair share of the increase in land values that will occur. As evident from information provided during the Unitary Plan process to Auckland Council by the City of Vancouver shows, such a betterment charge could usefully fund such things as infrastructure, heritage protection and affordable housing:

<https://council.vancouver.ca/20120612/documents/cfsc-1b.pdf>

7. Targeted Rates

(a) CTA supports many of the targeted rates, including the following:
Water Quality Targeted Rate

Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate
Business Improvement District (BID) Targeted Rate
City Centre Targeted Rate (Some CCMP projects need expediting, like the two-way boulevarding of Nelson and Hobson Streets, and others should be subject to review and reprioritisation.)
Natural Environment Targeted Rate

(b) CTA also supports other targeted rates, for example, a Built Environment (Historic Heritage) Targeted Rate and the Retro-fit Your Home Targeted Rate.

(c) CTA greatly supports the food scraps collections, which seem to have been embraced by the majority of households across Auckland.

8. Local Boards

(a) CTA strongly approves of the fairer funding approach for local boards, having supported this in our submission on the Long-term Plan 2024-2034.

(b) CTA is of the view that most local boards know which activities and projects to prioritise for their area, and we generally support them in their choices. However, sometimes, community voices are absent, and outcomes have therefore not taken various needs and/or viewpoints into consideration. We note that the Kaipātiki Local Board had a huge response to its consultation on the future use of recreation at A.F. Thomas Park (5,000 responses). Perhaps lessons learned here can be conveyed to other local boards. We support robust consultation so that decisions are based on what the community wants.

(c) CTA appreciates the support that local boards provide for community groups and environmental initiatives.

Most of our comments that follow are supportive of stated priorities and projects, and we also provide some further suggestions and critique on activities/projects which align with our aims and objectives.

Albert-Eden:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Restoration planning for Waitītiko / Meola Creek
- Investigating how to respond to future growth expected as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience, the opening of the City Rail Link and development areas like Te Kukūnga Waka (Carrington residential development) and any future changes at the ex-University of Auckland, Epsom Campus

As part of this investigation, CTA suggests that the local board advocates to Council for the repurposing of the old Mt Eden Prison. We also suggest the local board takes any action available, including enforcement orders, to halt and remedy what appear to be intentional actions that will harm the main building of Oakley/Carrington Hospital at the Unitec campus. The building is Category A Scheduled Heritage within the Auckland Unitary Plan (Item 1618), excluding the additions made after 1905, and is a Category 1 Historic Place on the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

(HNZPT) List / Rārangī Korero (Item 96). [https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/96/Carrington%20Hospital%20\(Former\)](https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-details/96/Carrington%20Hospital%20(Former))

The photo below shows a row of missing tiles from the roof of this building.



Aotea/Great Barrier:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Partnering with mana whenua and community on moana ora (marine wellbeing) projects such as island fisheries management and local Ahu Moana marine projects

Devonport-Takapuna:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Working with Council to support people impacted by flooding events
- Advocacy to the Governing Body or other entities for support, including the Lake Road upgrade, the development of the Francis Esmonde link and a new ferry terminal at Bayswater
- Completion and adoption of the Devonport -Takapuna Local Parks Management Plan to help guide decisions and investment in parks and open spaces

Franklin:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Continue to invest in community-led pest management and environmental restoration programmes, with an emphasis on initiatives that engage Māori and youth
- Local and community leadership in the delivery of initiatives and programmes where appropriate
- Progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan
- Investigate and develop options that will address community safety and environment at Karioitahi Beach so that this special place can be enjoyed by locals and visitors and the unique environment is protected
- Commence work to progress delivery of the Paparata Local Purpose Reserve (Bombay) concept plan , ensuring that the local community has the opportunity to partner in delivery where feasible.

- Continue to seek options for the development of Clarks Beach Reserves in line with future need so that the board is able to invest in improvements that align with both future need and existing community aspiration.

CTA commends the Franklin Local Board for its intention to engage with the community in order to garner their ideas and input.

Henderson-Massey:

We cannot comment on this local board's plans, as there was no "What we plan to deliver" or "Key projects" section for this local board (CD pg 19 and SD pg 23).

Hibiscus and Bays:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Supporting further protection of our sea, soil and fresh water from contamination and sedimentation, through increased monitoring and extending projects such as local stream restoration including the Weiti River
- Continuing our commitment to protecting our natural environment - such as advancing restoration efforts along the Weiti River and strengthening monitoring to reduce contamination and sedimentation in our waterways
- Ensuring Hibiscus and Bays is welcoming and supportive for all through collaboration with a broader range of local residents and an increased focus on inclusive design, so it is accessible and usable for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds

CTA strongly supports this Local Board's focus on inclusive design, and would like to see other Local Boards focus on this as well, and for it to be included in Auckland Council's vision. CTA submitted on inclusive design in our submission on the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan on 28 February 2014 (using the descriptive term "universal design"), which included the following points:

- "Universal Design principles need to be incorporated into new builds and modifications of existing residential buildings in order to cater not only for people with disabilities but others who can benefit from improved access, including the ageing population, those using pushchairs, moving house or office, injured people and people carrying loads. This will ensure access to housing, jobs, public transport, businesses, community and recreational facilities throughout Auckland for all Aucklanders and increase the choice of where people can live, work and play.
- Incorporation of Universal Design principles will improve the quality of life for people who currently face significant barriers in terms of physical access. The economic benefit is that such people will be able to live in independent accommodation and those of working age will have more opportunity to work and thus support themselves and contribute more to the economy. These barriers include stairs and showers with lips.
- Solutions to these barriers include open plan houses with open plan bathrooms with wet shower areas, limited stairs, hand rails. A percentage of new housing stock should cater for these needs. This would open up options in the private rental market, taking away the current reliance on Housing New Zealand houses and enable people with access barriers to buy or rent houses without the need for extensive and costly modifications. Council needs to

ensure this happens by including some requirement in policy and rules for the creation of accessible housing.”

Howick:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Run regular seminars for community groups/organisations on the local grant's application process
- Continue advocacy of the Tāmaki Estuary on water quality and coastal erosion
- Support our volunteer groups with resources needed for ecological volunteering, such as stream clean-ups and pest plant weeding
- Tackling the challenges of environmental protection and restoration remains a high priority
- Continue to support environmental groups and explore new initiatives

Kaipātiki:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Support environmental groups, community volunteers, and our diverse communities to carry out environmental restoration projects, including stream clean-ups, habitat improvement, native riparian planting, and pest control
- Improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve
- Healthy Waters Ngā Wairau project, working alongside that project to ensure the parks, sport, and recreational outcomes are being suitably included and considered
- Invest in maintenance and renewal of our parks, playgrounds, community buildings, recreation facilities, and other public spaces so they continue to meet our communities needs
- Support a community-led approach for the delivery of relevant and diverse services that develop and connect the community
- Make substantial progress on the planning and delivery of major local projects, including the Beach Haven Coastal Connection (Stage 3), Birkenhead War Memorial masterplan implementation, and improvements to Little Shoal Bay / Wai Manawa Reserve

CTA endorses the Kaipātiki Local Board's community-led approach, and congratulates this local board on the huge response (about 5,000 people) to its consultation on the future use of recreation at A.F. Thomas Park. However this consultation was done, it clearly worked, and perhaps lessons can be learned by other local boards.

Māngere-Ōtāhuhu:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Deliver coastal and storm -water resilience work in the Manukau Harbour - adjacent suburbs (such as improvements to seawalls or planting buffer zones) to support long -term climate adaptation
- Continue the native tree planting and understory restoration programme across key reserves and corridors (for example around waterways in Māngere East and Favona
- Roll out community -led waste -minimisation and resource -recovery initiatives — supporting local groups to divert material from landfill

- Work with Auckland Transport and Economic Development Office to support our transport and economic aspirations

CTA supports the efforts of Respect Mount Richmond Ōtāhuhu to save the trees on their local maunga from felling by the Tūpuna Maunga Authority. This group is having to raise community money to defend itself in court against the TMA, which is funded by Council (ratepayer) money. We do not think that removing trees from the maunga aligns with Auckland's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy. This strategy states that it will have been successful when (amongst other aims) it has:

- increased canopy cover to 30 per cent across Auckland's urban area, and at least 15 per cent in every local board area
- increased the network of green infrastructure on public land
- improved links between green spaces by establishing ecological corridors
- instilled a sense of pride in Aucklanders for their urban ngahere.

The strategy also states that “Protecting existing ngahere is crucial to safeguarding the added values and benefits mature trees provide (pg 42). The benefits provided by trees become exponentially greater as they mature. It’s also more cost effective to care for mature trees.... People often have strong emotional connections to landmark, mature trees in their neighbourhoods, and are more likely to mourn the loss of a large tree. Additionally, some native species, such as kākā, and bats, prefer taller trees and their presence can significantly improve the biodiversity value of an area (pg 45).”

CTA submits that there needs to be better alignment between the Urban Ngahere Strategy and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority’s Operational Plan, and that the views of all Aucklanders need to be taken into account.

Manurewa:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Continue to support ways to plant and retain more trees on public and private land and suburban streets
- Deliver a new neighbourhood park at Glenveagh Reserve.
- Continue to invest in our two illegal dumping pilot programmes: a proactive illegal dumping collection initiative and an illegal dumping enforcement programme

Maungakiekie-Tāmaki:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Partnering with mana whenua and community groups on restoration, food resilience planting, and environmental education
- Exploring increased compliance resourcing and enhancing community emergency preparedness
- Continuing work to improve our parks and open spaces, including progressing plans for Waikaraka Park, focused on making sure local facilities, parks and green spaces keep pace
- Advancing important environmental restoration projects like Ōmaru Creek, continuing to care for our natural environment guided by shared values.

CTA congratulates the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board on the completion of the Te Kōpua o Hiku bridge at the Panmure Basin, which will mean safer, easier walking and cycling.

Ōrākei:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Increasing investment in restoration and pest-management programmes to grow and protect your natural environment. Our reserves and open spaces are one of the most vital resources in Ōrākei
- Continued investment in growing and protecting our parks and playgrounds.

CTA endorses efforts by this board to work with the neighbouring Waitemātā Local Board on matters regarding the health of the Waitemātā Harbour that connecting those board areas.

Ōtara-Papatoetoe:

CTA does not support this local board changing garden edging to chemical application, as this is an environmental risk, with chemicals running into waterways, killings beneficial insects and disrupting the natural soil balance. We note that weeds can build up resistance to the chemicals.

We do support this local board's seismic strengthening of Papatoetoe Town Hall, a 1917 heritage hall which is still in frequent use for community events.

Papakura:

CTA does not support discontinuing funding for the following: ecological and environmental volunteers; Pest Free Urban South; Papakura Stream restoration; Wai care water quality education programming; Manukau Harbour Forum; and Finding Papakura Bats initiatives.

We do support the reduction of the number of public rubbish bins in public spaces as long as this leads to less rubbish, not more.

We also support the following:

- Progress a refresh of the greenways plan and other pathway opportunities (in particular , the McLennan Memorial Park pathway , plus connecting Kauri Flats School to Pulman Park , as well as connections around Hingaia to Drury)

Puketāpapa:

CTA supports the following project proposed by this local board:

- Investigating how to respond to the future growth expected in our area as a result of Proposed Plan Change 120: Housing Intensification and Resilience
- We also support the following projects, particularly the community informed vision:
- Deliver new neighbourhood park at 3-7 Howell Crescent, Roskill
 - Wairaki Stream Ecological Enhancement and daylighting projects
 - Developing a Monte Cecilia Master Plan, providing us with a community informed vision, and enable us to strategically invest in the park in the years ahead.

- Focusing our environmental restoration work along the awa and coastline. In particular control of pest plants and animals, protection of native species and the restoration of walking tracks so they feel safe and accessible to the community again.

Rodney:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Progress reserve and playgrounds projects, enhance greenways, increase rural roadside weed control, and maintain heritage sites

We particularly support this local board's aim to maintain heritage sites.

- Support volunteers to restore biodiversity through planting, pest plant and animal control, species protection, and local education
- Provide waste education, school freshwater programmes, and community-led stream restoration and catchment management plans to improve waterway health
- Supporting volunteers and environmental groups with planting, pest control, and clean-ups to protect biodiversity and create safe habitats for wildlife.

Upper Harbour:

CTA does not support reducing discretionary funding across all programmes and projects including environmental outcomes, events and activations, cycling initiatives and community outcomes.

We do support reducing maintenance like bollard and post and rail repairs and some garden maintenance, cost savings that most local boards are considering.

We do not agree with the proposed Option 2: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee at Albany Stadium Pool by \$1 (Fees will become \$2), and certainly not Option 3: Increase spectator fee and supervising adult fee by \$ 4 (Fees will become \$5).

We suggest that an alternative to increasing those fees would be to better monitor and enforce other existing regulations, e.g., implement the already existing fines (\$300) for walking a dog off-leash in an on-leash area. Such infringements could perhaps be attended to by compliance officers who are already looking at issues of non-compliance by members of the public.

We do support the following:

- Prioritise support for initiatives that deliver outcomes for our environment including community-led ecological initiatives, construction waste education, and the restoration projects.

Waiheke:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Deliver investment in key areas, specifically:
- programmes which protect, restore, and enhance the island's natural environment
- Deliver actions within the Waiheke Local Carbon Action Plan

- Create connection to places and heritage through the installation of historical and cultural markers and dual naming of parks
- Improve walking/cycling network connections as outlined within the Waiheke Pathways Plan
- Ecological restoration and pest management programmes remain a high priority and the increase in birdlife and improved eco -systems is a testament to the on-going investment in this space
- Delivering actions from our Climate Action Plan remains a priority . To support resiliency on the motu, solar panels will be installed at Onetangi Sports Pavilion and Ostend Hall, and we will investigate development of community microgrids.

CTA notes that many local boards had planned the dual naming of parks and we hope that these plans have either already been carried out or will soon be underway.

We suggest that learnings from investigating the development of community microgrids could inform other local boards.

Waitākere Ranges:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Mobility scooter, walking and cycling connections, particularly through parks
- Continue to invest in environmental restoration programmes with a focus on the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area and our waterways
- Deliver park development, including play and amenity improvements in Swanson, Te Henga and Titirangi
- Provide tree planting and shelter to provide shade and amenity in parks, as well as berm planting in streets with low tree cover
- Continue to invest in local climate action to increase resilience and decrease emissions
- Working on fit-for-purpose transport improvements like investigating a trial bus service to Piha, advocating for smaller buses, and creating safer local connections
- Improve Glen Eden town centre, and protect and enhance the nationally significant Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area
- Support the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Forum work programme, particularly community engagement
- Review maintenance of local parks and facilities to ensure they are well maintained while looking for savings

Waitematā:

There were no key projects planned for 2026/2027 listed for this local board, or “what we plan to deliver in 2026/27. The only information provided in the plan was about funding.

We strongly support the restoration of the Leys Institute buildings, on which we have submitted several times (as mentioned previously in this submission on pg 6). In the absence of any other planned projects, CTA suggest the following projects for this local board’s consideration:

- Support owners to encourage better maintenance and enhancement of their buildings
- Approach the owners of Carlile House in Grey Lynn to discuss frankly the state of this building and take urgent steps to prevent this Category A, Category I <https://www.heritage.org.nz/list->

[details/9584/Costley%20Training%20Institute%20\(Former\)](#) building from reaching an irreversible state of disrepair.



Carlile House, c 1886



Carlile House 2026

- Ensure that, as part of council's Value for Money Committee review to be undertaken in Q4, proper provision is made for the recognition of both heritage and community values of the Grey Lynn Public Library, and the potential of that building and site to provide the range of community services in any possible future rationalisation of community facilities in the locality.



Grey Lynn Library

- Develop a small pocket park at the foot of the Ernest Davis Steps, next to the Station Hotel and Beach Road (see pg 4 of this submission).
- Develop the small natural amphitheatre at the southern end of Myers Park (by the steps adjacent to the Espano flats building) into a useable space.



Myers Park by Espano

Concept for amphitheatre



Whau:

CTA supports the following activities/projects proposed by this local board:

- Improve water quality and flood resilience of Whau streams and rivers through collaboration with volunteers, local schools, community hubs, organisations, and neighbouring local boards
- Develop a Local Parks Management Plan to guide decisions on managing use, development, and protection of all 146 parks, reserves and open space within the Whau
- Plan and design a local park in conjunction with the stormwater pond construction at the old Crown Lynn Pottery site

- Improve coordination for community resilience and emergency preparedness across Whau hubs, houses, and other community spaces
- Progress Whau heritage initiatives including to renew and provide interpretation for existing Pou and to install physical markers along the historic portage route that links the Waitemata and Manukau harbours.
- Aim to improve the water quality and flood resilience of our waterways and fund a coordinator to support emergency preparedness.
- Advocate for the acquisition of a significant proportion of Avondale Racecourse to remain open space.
- Construction of Te Hono library and community centre, design of a pool and recreation centre in the Whau area and a park at Crown Lynn Place.
- Aim to deliver initiatives that recognise the rich heritage in our area.

9. Tūpuna Maunga Authority Operational Plan

We would appreciate Council passing on this section about the TMA Operational Plan for the Authority's consideration.

(a) We were unable to access the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) at the link stated twice in the SD as www.maunga.nz, receiving the message "Your file was not found. It may have been moved or deleted." We discovered that the correct link is <https://maunga.nz>. However, we could not find the IMP on this site either. The link here also does not work: "A copy of the Operational Plan can be found at www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz." We managed to eventually find it via the Auckland Council website.

(b) We note that this Annual Plan is the operational implementation of the IMP, which provides for continuous review. The Reserves Act states the Maunga Authority shall keep its management plan under continuous review so the plan is adapted to changing circumstances and in accordance with increased knowledge.

(c) We acknowledge and endorse the values in the IMP under TAKOTORANGA WHENUA / LANDSCAPE and the pathways, but not including "removing inappropriate exotic trees and weeds." In CTA's view, such trees should be left to live out their natural lives, with pruning or felling only carried out for safety reasons.

(d) In CTA's submission on 29 September 2022 to the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's proposed amendments to its IMP, we noted that "the IMP appears to not adequately recognise or reflect the diversity of connections and histories of Aucklanders other than mana whenua, and as a consequence, it fails to adequately provide for the relationship all peoples have with those maunga."

(e) We submit that mass felling of trees would cause an inappropriate level of damage and destruction to habitats within the natural features of the maunga and across those landscapes, and we contend it would be contrary to the purpose of the Resource Management Act 1991. We submit that the Maunga Authority should review and reverse its decision to remove what it refers to as inappropriate 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. The need to retain trees is understood widely today in view of the threat of climate change. All trees contribute to the environment.

(f) Members of several communities have been distressed by the felling of large numbers of exotic trees on their local maunga and have engaged in court cases to

protect their trees. While these groups have had to fundraise to enable them to be represented in court, the TMA is funded by Auckland Council to respond to these members of the public. We request that Council cease funding these court cases.



Tree on Mt Richmond/Ōtāhuhu

(g) We note the following values and pathways from the IMP:

- *Tread gently*
This does not align with cutting down non-native trees growing on a maunga such as on Mt Richmond/Ōtāhuhu (443 trees) and Ōwairaka / Mt Albert (345 trees), and across all the maunga, amounting to up to 3,000 trees.
 - *Recognise European and other histories, and interaction with the maunga*
We submit that this recognition should include, on Ōwairaka, the olives grown from seeds sent by a soldier from Palestine, the Sadgrove Macrocarpa, about 150 years old; eucalyptus planted in the 1950s by schoolchildren to stabilise slopes; and Japanese cherry, with an avenue planted in remembrance of a local family member.
 - *Protect and restore the biodiversity of the Tūpuna Maunga*
In protecting biodiversity, their habitat, which for some of them includes exotic trees, should not suddenly be removed.
 - *Actively nurture positive relationships*
This should include discussions with the local community about their maunga and what aspects of it they value
 - *Foster partnerships and collaboration*
As above.
 - *Encourage informal inclusive recreational activities*
 - *Promote health and wellbeing*
- Both of the above include walking on the maunga, relying on the trees for shade.

(h) As stated above in our comments for the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board, CTA submits that there needs to be better alignment between the Urban Ngāhere Strategy and the Tūpuna Maunga Authority's Operational Plan.

(i) CTA is supportive of the following in the IMP:

- Pest control on all Maunga in line with Auckland's plan to be pest free by 2050.
- Researching options to achieve efficient and effective animal and pest control methods, which includes a phased reduction in the use of herbicides and pesticides on the Tūpuna Maunga.
- A future UNESCO World Heritage bid for the Tūpuna Maunga.

CTA has previously submitted in support of the recognition of the maunga as significant heritage items.

(j) We are in principle supportive of the TMA's desire to "Preserve the visual and physical integrity of the Maunga as landmarks of Tāmaki," including the removal of redundant infrastructure and returning areas to open space.

(k) We support restoration of indigenous native ecosystems, reintroducing native plants, and attracting native animal species.

(l) We support "Native trees to be protected and retained where appropriately located in relationship to other features" (pg 21 of the Integrated Management Plan Strategies).

(m) CTA supports this principle: "Restore areas of the Tūpuna Maunga with indigenous ecosystems, reintroduce and attract indigenous species and culturally appropriate species, recognise that restoration objectives may be a range of outcomes including different periods of occupation as well as pre-European and pre-human states."

(n) We support this principle: "Restoration will incorporate traditional indigenous flora and fauna, with the intention of providing for increased biodiversity, cultivation and cultural harvesting of kai, medicinal, textile materials, and other cultural requirements. Propagation and captive management of flora and fauna may be a component of the strategy for some Maunga. Vegetation restoration should be tailored to achieve the specific outcomes and purposes proposed for each individual Maunga."

(o) We support the removal of exotic pest animal species, with campaigns to encourage people to keep their domestic cats off the maunga, and the use of efficient, effective, humane and ERMA approved animal and pest control methods, including live capture traps and a phased reduction in the use of herbicides and pesticides.

(p) CTA joined the campaign to make maunga car free, and we support banning motorised vehicles from maunga, while allowing some vehicles access to cater for those with mobility issues.

(q) The installation of boardwalks and the opening of the café on Maungawhau we see as very positive, and we support appropriate commercial uses on other maunga as well.

(r) CTA strongly supports the maunga being smoke-free and alcohol-free, smoke-free parks and public open spaces being something for which we have advocated for many years.

(s) CTA is not able to understand from the TMA's operational plan and budget what funding is allocated for planting and what is for felling trees, and submit that these budgets could be made clear for the public to understand. Of the funding allocated to

the TMA, CTA is of the view that Council should not provide that portion that would go to unnecessary tree removal.

10. Conclusion

(a) CTA appreciates the time and thought that councillors and local board members put into serving the Auckland community.

(b) We know that there is much expertise and experience acquired by local boards and encourage them to share this as much as possible with other local boards and the wider Council family. We would also suggest that local board newsletters are a good opportunity for disseminating information to the general public and could include more than the usual prescribed 10 or so items. We suggest that Council make adequate provision in its Annual Budget for this level of communication.

(c) We understand the cost pressures Council is currently under and that some projects as well as funding to community groups may need to be deferred or reduced. However, in our view, there are certain projects that could be scaled down or even discontinued, and the funding allocated to them diverted towards more urgent needs.

(d) CTA appreciates the opportunity to submit on Council's annual budget and also the opportunity to present in person as a regional stakeholder.

Date of submission: 29 March, 2026

Signature:



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Audrey van Ryn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Audrey van Ryn,
Secretary, Civic Trust Auckland