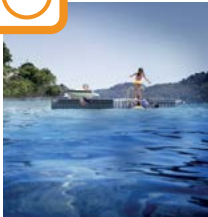


# AOTEA GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD PLAN 2014

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COVER IMAGE  
Children on pontoon in  
Port Fitzroy Harbour.

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This document is available as an accessible word document on request. Contact us on 09 301 0101 for a copy.



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan acknowledges that our people and our natural environment are inseparable and that our future well-being is linked to protecting and enhancing our island's ecology. You will see that we have modified the Auckland Council catch-cry of 'creating the world's most liveable city' to 'creating the world's most liveable island'. We have done this deliberately because funding the things we want to achieve in this plan will be helped if we can show that our island will deliver on some of the big ideas in the Auckland Plan. We believe that Aotea Great Barrier is better placed than anywhere else in the Auckland region to deliver on the Auckland Plan's 'A Green Auckland' goal. We will focus both on advancing this goal locally and obtaining the funding to do so because we think this is the key to our people's future well-being.

Our final local board plan has a few changes from the draft we consulted on. Some of these changes are the result of what you told us. We have been heartened by your strong support for the direction and approach we have signalled in our draft plan. It's great to know we are on the right track. Other changes reflect the funding constraints Auckland Council is facing as it develops its 10-year budget and these have meant we need to review some of our priorities.

You will see in this plan that we are setting some new goals around self-sufficiency, sustainability and protecting and enhancing our island's land and marine ecology. At the same time the plan is clear that the things which are so important to us all and which keep us living on this island must not be lost in the process.

We think that this approach is the key to addressing the issues we face in living and working here such as health, housing, education, communications, connectivity, funding, assisting our youth in going forward and addressing the needs of our elderly. Everyone needs to work together if we are to succeed. We will also work closely with the Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Trust Board on the aspirations we hold in common. The Department of Conservation is also a key partner in our island's future.

We are fortunate to have a community that is caring and resilient but we must not be complacent. The recent devastating storm in the north showed us that although we are resilient we are also vulnerable. For me it also demonstrated that climate change is real and our plan now includes a statement on this. There is still much work to be done and this board is committed to working alongside our community to achieve an even better place for us all. By working together and having a shared view of the future, our island can be even more amazing in every way and a place we are proud to call home.

Izzy Fordham  
Chair, Great Barrier Island

OUR PEOPLE AND  
OUR ENVIRONMENT  
ARE INSEPARABLE



# OUR VISION: CREATING THE WORLD'S MOST LIVEABLE ISLAND

He aha te mea nui o te motu Aotea. He moana, he whenua, he tangata.

What is the essence of Great Barrier Island? It is the sea, it is the land, and it is the people.

Aotea Great Barrier Island is unique within Auckland, a remote and beautiful island with a diverse, resilient and independent community with heart and grit. It is made up of Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea people, Māori, pioneer families, hippy settlers, new residents, bach owners and their descendants. We live an alternative lifestyle 'off the grid' with our own power, water, septic, and drainage systems. We value and are protective of our way of life. We face challenges not faced elsewhere in Auckland and are proud of our 'can do' and innovative approach to living on our island paradise.

Aotea Great Barrier Island will be a place where:

- the well-being of all our people comes first
- we have more residents and visitors but we won't lose our way of life
- young or old there is a place here for everyone
- our environment is clean, wildlife is abundant and we throw very little away
- we live in a way which has a low impact on our environment
- we can find work, catch a fish or start a business.

To deliver on this we will focus on the following three things:

- we will support our community to live sustainably, from the way we get around, the energy our homes and businesses use, what we eat and how we produce it, and what we do with our waste
- we will protect and enhance our island's ecology in ways we can all agree on
- we will promote creating a network of marine protected areas around our coastline.

We have chosen these three areas because we believe they are the key to making a real difference for our community. They also link perfectly to the Auckland Plan and this provides the best chance we have to obtain the funding we need to deliver on this plan's outcomes. This is expanded on further under the environmental outcomes section in our plan.



WE LIVE ON A REMOTE  
AND BEAUTIFUL ISLAND  
WITH A DIVERSE AND  
INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY



# OUR OUTCOMES

The Aotea Great Barrier Local Board Plan supports and takes into account the 30-year Auckland Plan vision and outcomes to create the world’s most liveable city, or in this case the world’s most liveable island.

### AOTEA GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD PLAN OUTCOMES



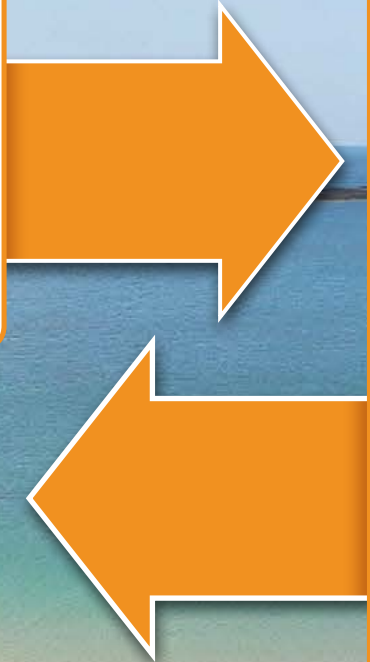
**1. The environment is at its best here**  
Our native wildlife and forests flourish, our streams run clean, and our coastal waters are full of life. We waste very little and our homes, businesses and cars run on renewable energy.



**2. Infrastructure that fits with our environment**  
As our island attracts more people and visitors, we will ensure new buildings, communications, and our transport network don’t compromise the special things that bring people here.



**3. We have more residents and visitors but we won’t lose our way of life**  
We want to attract more people to our island to create more jobs and opportunities and make our lives better. At the same time we must protect the special things we have and promote these as the reason to come here.



### AUCKLAND PLAN

#### VISION

To become the world’s most liveable city.

#### OUTCOMES



A fair, safe and healthy Auckland



A green Auckland



An Auckland of prosperity and opportunity



A well-connected and accessible Auckland



A beautiful Auckland that is loved by its people



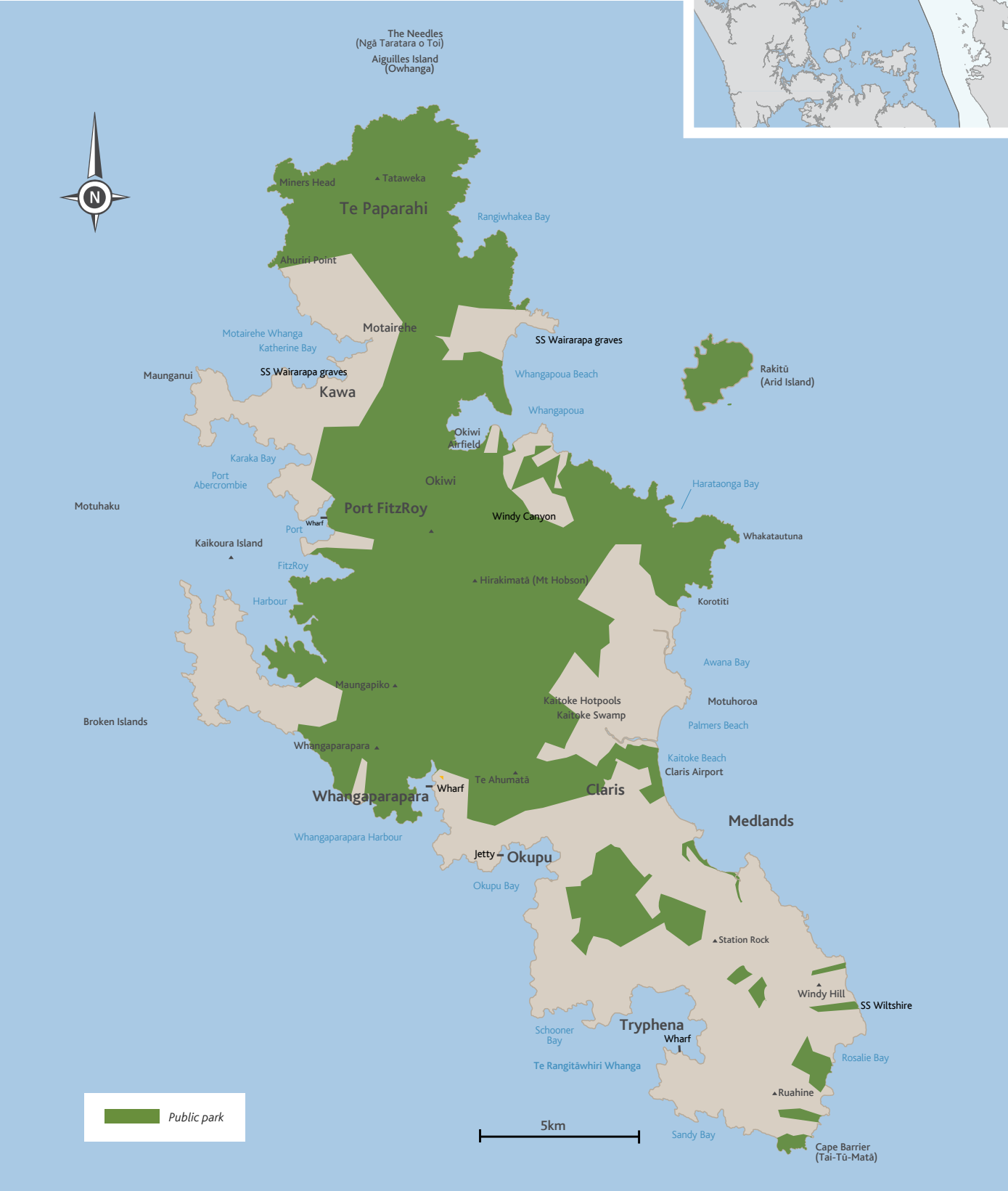
A culturally rich and creative Auckland



A Māori identity that is Auckland’s point of difference in the world



# GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD AREA





# ABOUT LOCAL BOARDS

Auckland Council has a unique model of local government in New Zealand, comprising the governing body (made up of the mayor and 20 ward councillors) and 21 local boards. The governing body focuses on the big picture and on Auckland-wide issues and decisions.

Local boards provide local leadership and make decisions on local issues, activities and facilities, such as local parks, libraries and community halls. Local boards can also fund other organisations through community grants and other funding arrangements, for activities such as events and community programmes.

Local boards engage with and represent their communities, provide important local input into Auckland-wide strategies and plans and work with others to build strong communities. Many council activities that are important to local communities are the responsibility of the governing body and council-controlled organisations (including Auckland Transport). Local boards act as champions and advocates for their communities when others have the decision-making role.

Local boards also play an important role in delivering at the local level on Auckland Council's commitment to Māori.

## Working with Māori

Auckland Council is committed to meeting its responsibilities under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and its broader statutory obligations to Māori. As part of this commitment the Great Barrier Local Board will develop a relationship agreement with mana whenua the Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Trust Board which will outline how we will work together to improve the lives of all those on Aotea Great Barrier. We will take an inclusive approach to supporting the aspirations of tangata whenua because we believe that what is good for tangata whenua is generally also good for our whole community. We will consider what is in this plan alongside the Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Trust Board's Hapu Management Plan and the Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Strategic Plan 2013-2018 and then from that seek to develop common outcomes for Aotea.

The local board's relationship with the Department of Conservation is also central to advancing outcomes for tangata whenua and we want to see the three parties working closely together. Developing a three-party relationship agreement is one option which the board is keen to explore.

WE BELIEVE WHAT'S GOOD FOR TANGATA WHENUA IS GENERALLY ALSO GOOD FOR OUR WHOLE COMMUNITY





# ABOUT LOCAL BOARD PLANS

This plan is about the Aotea Great Barrier Local Board area. It expresses what we have heard from you and what we believe is needed to make our island even better. The plan will guide our local decisions and actions over the next three years and be the basis of our input into regional strategies and plans. During this time we will continue to consult and work with our community to make sure we are on the right track.

## About local board funding

The local board's funding policy in the long-term plan (LTP) sets out how local boards are funded.

Some local board funding relates to local assets and facilities. The governing body makes the initial investment decisions and then local boards oversee the budgets and operations. Local boards are also allocated funding to deliver local programmes and initiatives. The actual budget for each year is agreed with the governing body as part of discussion on the annual local board agreement.

This local board plan contains indicative budget tables for the next three years. This budget is based on the LTP 2012-2022, with adjustments to reflect annual plans and other budget changes since then.

The actual budgets for the next three years will be different. This is because they will reflect recent amendments to the local boards funding policy, and because the council is preparing the draft LTP 2015-2025. This preparation includes a review of funding for all projects, which may affect some local board plan projects that are currently funded.

Our draft local board plan showed the funding status of key initiatives to deliver each plan outcome. This funding status is not included in this final local board plan, because it could change as the LTP 2015-2025 is developed.





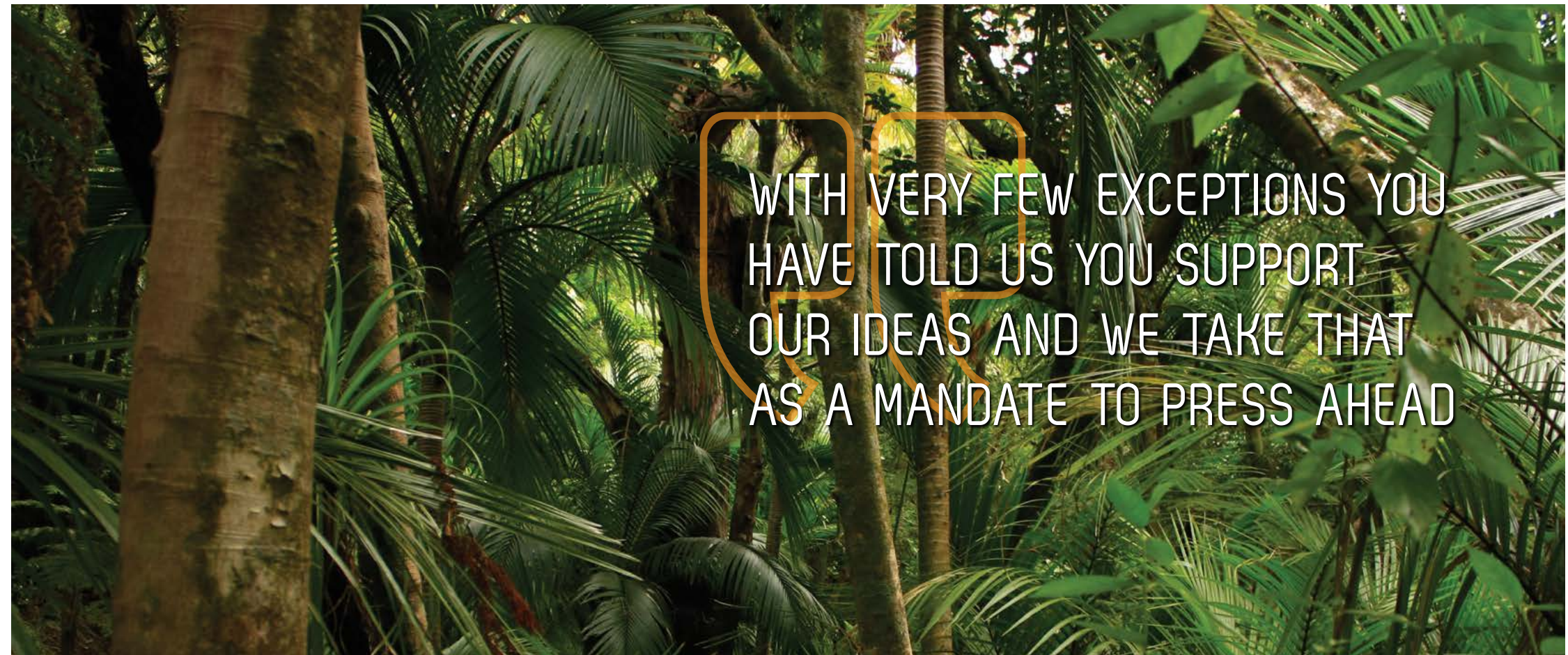
# OUR ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Great Barrier residents are a very engaged community. Your turnout at the last local government elections was double the average for Auckland as a whole. In developing this plan, we held an intensive series of meetings and gatherings in February 2014. This included four community meetings over three days in the north, centre and south of the island and for the first time ever we also met with our part-time residents in Auckland.



Ninety five people came to these four meetings. That represents almost a quarter of our on-island adult population.

We also held 'cul-de-sac' meetings with smaller local groups which were well attended and board members met one-on-one with many different people. We also met with all the island's main community groups, the Department of Conservation and our airline and ferry service providers. Discussions are continuing with Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea on a range of areas where we have common interests and can help each other achieve these, and we continue to seek ways to strengthen our relationship.



**Seventy seven of you formally submitted on our draft local board plan and nine of you came along to the hearing.**

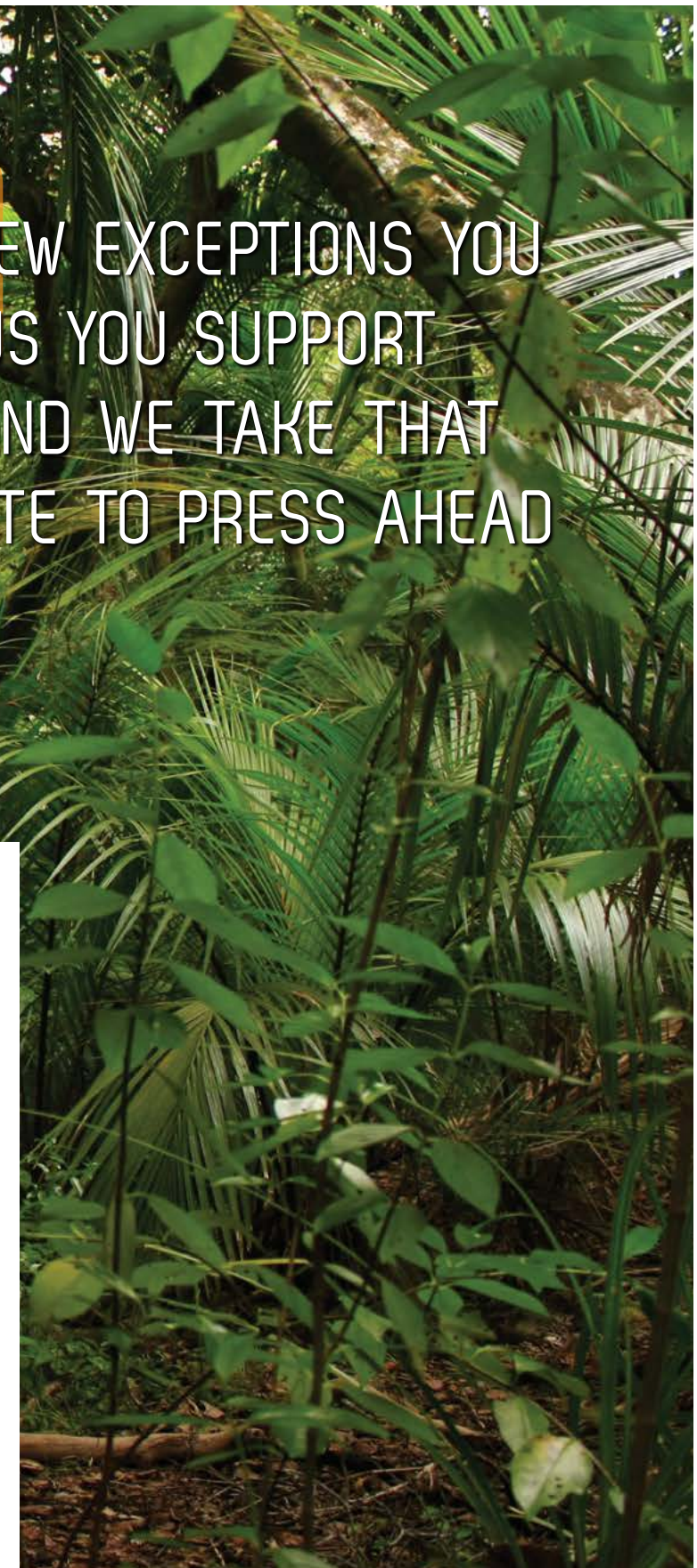
Through the process of developing our plan we heard many ideas about many issues, some new but most were what we already knew you are concerned about. In relation to our community, we heard about the high cost of living, the lack of jobs and the challenges faced by all of you in living here. At the same time you told us how much you love the Barrier way of life, how privileged you feel to live here, the way people look out for each other, and the island's strong community spirit.

The island's natural environment is recognised as the island's real treasure and is the main reason why you live here and why visitors come. Most of you think it can and should be improved and many of you see alternative energy as the way forward.

While you like things the way they are, you would also like key problems addressed.

You want our unsealed roads to be well maintained, some form of public transport, and lower freight costs and airfares. Some of you want broadband coverage to be extended but you don't want towers everywhere. Many community facilities are getting on a bit and you want help to look after them.

With a very few exceptions you have told us you support our ideas and we take that as a mandate to press ahead with what we are planning.





# HOW WE WILL FUND OUR IDEAS

The Great Barrier Local Board's funding isn't enough to pay for the big ideas we have in this plan. Unlike other local boards we do not have existing budgets for projects that we can remove or defer to pay for new ideas. This means that our plan more than anything, is an advocacy plan.

We see the ideas in our plan as so critical to our island's future that we will need to find money for them from a number of different places. Nationally and internationally there are funding agencies, charities and foundations, as well as philanthropic organisations and individuals that we know share our values and we expect to work with them to bring partners on board.

The ideas in our plan are also aimed at increasing our population, bringing in more visitors, and creating economic sustainability. This will provide revenue to help to fund our ideas over the medium to longer term. Being part of the council, the local board may not be able to receive some types of funding so we have been exploring opportunities to establish social enterprises to advance some of these ideas. Given how hard it is for companies to operate profitably here, this may be the only way some of our ideas can get established.

We are hoping the council's new 2015-2025 10-year budget will provide us with sufficient funding to advance many of the smaller ideas in this plan and also provide seed funding for things such as feasibility studies to kick things off. At the time of confirming this plan that is not yet clear. With the budget constraints Auckland Council is facing we will need to review our priorities and perhaps reduce spending on some areas we have traditionally funded. For example, over the past three years, Great Barrier community groups received over \$300,000 each year in grants from the local board's budget and we think that might be more than we will be able to afford in future. We will develop guidelines and criteria that will target funding to areas that support the priorities in this plan and ask for help to fund local community facilities.

Much of the island's key public infrastructure such as roads and wharves is funded by Auckland Transport. It is also facing major funding cuts and while we will continue to advocate for funding, we will also look at ways to reduce costs and find cheaper alternatives.



THE IDEAS IN OUR PLAN ARE ALSO AIMED AT INCREASING OUR POPULATION, BRINGING IN MORE VISITORS, AND CREATING ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY



# OUTCOME 1: THE ENVIRONMENT IS AT ITS BEST HERE

We lead the way in the Auckland region as a place where the environment is at its best. Pests are so few that our native wildlife and forests flourish. Our streams run clean and free from septic tank waste and our coastal waters are full of life. We dump only what cannot be reused recycled or composted. We remain off the grid and our island is a showcase of the very best in environmental practice. This is how we see our future.

## Creating the world's most liveable island environment

Our natural environment is a big part of our community's reason for living on the island and the main reason visitors come here. You have told us clearly that you value the island's great natural environment and would like to see it enhanced. You recognise there are numerous issues to be addressed but you aren't seeing any coordinated plan.

we are focusing on the Auckland Plan outcome of 'A Green Auckland' and one of its goals which is to strongly commit to environmental action and green growth. We want our community to live sustainably and we need to bring our community along with us if our ideas are to succeed. We also need to work in partnership with Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea and the Department of Conservation, both of which have major roles to play in our island's environmental future.

## More renewable energy

Two of 'A Green Auckland's' goals are: 'an energy supply which is sustainably sourced' (and) 'developing new industries in leading edge green technology'. We are the only community in Auckland with a permanent population that is not on the national grid and most of our 459 households get at least some of their power from diesel generators. With our fuel prices being much higher than in Auckland, there is a real need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. These factors create an amazing opportunity to make a wholesale change to how we live our lives if we can bring in the investment and the incentives to do so.

We think enhancing our environment is the key to our future well-being and linking our ideas to the Auckland Plan is the key to obtaining funding for these ideas. In particular

## Helping limit climate change

Climate change is real and we can all see its impacts. Although our community is small there is strong support for protecting and enhancing our environment and climate change is a huge threat to this goal in many ways. We want to lead by example and are sure that many of the ideas in our plan do just that. Reducing reliance on fossil fuels is just one. If we walk the talk we will be better placed to advocate to the rest of the Auckland Council and our community to treat this as the serious issue needing action that it is.

At the big picture level, we want to establish Aotea Great Barrier as a world leader in alternative, renewable technologies and we aim to set up a centre of excellence on the island to undertake research in this area. At a more modest level, we will use our community grants funding to financially

support community groups to stop relying on diesel generator power and use alternative clean energy.

We want to progressively move the reliance of council facilities on the island from diesel generator power to increasing use of alternative energy. We will investigate installing solar panels in the council's Claris service centre and the local board office and longer term look for systems that can generate surplus electricity. One idea is that in future the council's vehicle fleet might be electric, and powered by the system.

This isn't pie in the sky; the solar panels on the new Wellsford Library are connected to electric vehicle charging points on the library walls. We will explore funding for these ideas as they will deliver on the council's Climate Change Mitigation Strategy.







WE WANT TO ESTABLISH  
AOTEA GREAT BARRIER  
AS A WORLD LEADER IN  
ALTERNATIVE, RENEWABLE  
TECHNOLOGIES



Enhanced biosecurity and biodiversity

We are also very well placed to realise a further 'A Green Auckland' goal: 'a place where biodiversity is abundant on private land, parks, protected areas of native bush and wetlands'. The council undertakes a range of environmental monitoring and its latest State of Auckland Report Cards show that 88 per cent of our island is in bush or scrub.

With two thirds of Aotea Great Barrier Island being Department of Conservation native forest and lots of other private land in regenerating native forest, Aotea Great Barrier Island is the largest single area of native forest in the Auckland region. We are home to three plant species found nowhere else on earth (Sinclair's Kanuka, Great Barrier Tree Daisy and Great Barrier Koromiko), a quarter of New Zealand's bird species are found here and 40 per cent of these are endangered elsewhere in New Zealand.

The score cards show that ecologically compared to elsewhere in Auckland we are doing well although as a habitat for these threatened species and in terms of the vulnerability of our ecosystems we are going backwards.

Aotea Great Barrier Island is the only place with a permanent population in the Auckland region without possums, goats and mustelids. Rats however are a different story. The Great Barrier Island Environment Trust has estimated we have 280,000 rats which kill 85,000 eggs and chicks every year. Windy Hill Sanctuary, where a comprehensive and ongoing rat eradication programme is in place has trapped

over 44,000 rats in the past 15 years. There is no widespread pest control programme operating on Department of Conservation (DOC) administered land on the island. Instead DOC undertakes targeted pest control to protect iconic and endangered species as its funding permits. In contrast, predator control at Glenfern and Windy Hill sanctuaries is estimated to have reduced this destruction by 85-95 per cent.

We know that rat eradication if it could be achieved on Great Barrier would make a massive difference to our natural environment but we also know that the current tools available for this are not supported by everyone. Maybe there are other options, maybe it's one step at a time? We propose to begin discussions with our community, both full and part-time residents, to see if we can establish wide agreement on what kind of ecological future everyone wants for our island and how we might get there. These discussions must start without any predetermined outcomes, be held openly and honestly and be independently led.

Rabbit numbers this season are some of the highest ever seen and the contractor in charge of operations shot 1754 rabbits at five sites during March/April 2014. Pre- and post-shoot counts showed an average reduction of 67 per cent. We have increased funding for rabbit control in the Okiwi area and recognise that an ongoing comprehensive control programme using a range of available tools is needed if rabbit numbers are to be permanently and significantly lowered. Now that we have started we have to keep going if this funding is not to be wasted.

AOTEA GREAT BARRIER ISLAND IS THE ONLY PLACE WITH A PERMANENT POPULATION IN THE AUCKLAND REGION WITHOUT POSSUMS, GOATS AND MUSTELIDS



The alternative energy centre of excellence could also be the place where research is conducted on enhancing our natural environment, including pest eradication. If we can link leaders in these areas from Aotea Great Barrier and around the world, it may be possible to find acceptable solutions to our island's pest problems that everyone can live with. We note that Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea has a resource management centre at Kawa Marae which holds extensive data and research. So too do groups such as the Great Barrier Island Environment Trust. The work of all these groups would be able to feed into the proposed discussions and enable scientific and cultural evidence to be brought to the table as needed. Our aim is that these discussions would lead to an agreed action plan for our natural environment for the next 10 years.

We are supporting the public purchase of Glenfern Sanctuary if enough money can be raised by other parties, and have allocated up to \$200,000 to this. Some submissions to our draft plan opposed this while in conversations with our community we also heard considerable support. We firmly believe educational and research opportunities would result from the purchase. Visits by experts and people interested in ecology would be a major step forward for our island's ecological future. Discussions are continuing.



Auckland Council has a full-time island based biosecurity officer and we think there is a strong case for at least a part-time biodiversity position to be established to complement that role. Biodiversity specialists are regular visitors to our island be they council or DOC staff, other agencies doing research or individuals coming just because of how unique we are. Establishing such a position would lift existing efforts to a new level and go a long way to advancing our ecological goals.

There has also been much talk about a 'biosecurity ambassador' position being established, particularly to reduce biosecurity risks accompanying freight coming to our island. This has been trialled under the 'Treasure Islands' brand with a limited council officer presence at mainland wharves and on boats. We want to see this role become more proactive and include inspections of cargo as well as raising the awareness of residents and visitors to our island.

### Clean streams and coastal waters

Our island is also very well placed to achieve another 'A Green Auckland' outcome of 'waterways and coastlines which are clean and full of life'. Council freshwater quality testing shows that by Auckland region standards our waterways are in pretty good shape. This isn't the case everywhere however, and during the period 2003-2009, tests in the Tryphena catchments showed e-coli exceeding levels where action is required 30-60 per cent of the time. We want the current freshwater testing programme which only covers six island sites, to be expanded so we have a better basis to say whether our streams are healthy or not. This will also help answer persistent claims that some of our streams are polluted either by farming practices or from septic tanks.

This will also provide data on the likely health of our coastal waters. Very little is known about the health of the marine environment around the island. The council undertakes weekly Safeswim beach water quality testing over summer at 69 sites regionally, five of

which are on Great Barrier. In the 2013/2014 summer season enterococci levels triggered action and alert level responses at six beaches around the region and two of these were on Great Barrier; Mulberry Grove and Pah beach. This is not a good result given our island's clean environment reputation and our proposed testing programme aims to get to the bottom of what is causing this.

Over the past two years a study was undertaken into microdictyon algae which have appeared on Tryphena Harbour beaches and just offshore. Test results point to a number of possible sources including land based contributors.

### Marine protection

In relation to 'coastlines which are clean and full of life', the big topic of discussion has been commercial fishing. We have heard strongly from you that you think our coastal waters are being plundered and you want something done about this. In 2013, the previous local board surveyed residents and held a hearing to get your views. As a result that board proposed that fishing for the table by locals and visitors at reduced limits be introduced, that commercial fishing be banned from inshore waters, and that a network of marine protected areas be established.

Since then the Auckland Marine Spatial Plan project known as Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari has been started and its aims, if realised, should enable some of what we are seeking to be achieved or at least advanced. We therefore support our local marine protection initiative being progressed as part of Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari provided our community is meaningfully included in the process.

Ultimately, we think that legislative change may be needed to achieve our outcomes and we will discuss options around this with the Ministry for Primary Industries, the Department of Conservation and iwi. The last local board formally partnered with Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea on marine protection and we plan to continue with this approach.



MANY THINK OUR COASTAL WATERS  
ARE BEING PLUNDERED AND WANT  
SOMETHING DONE ABOUT IT



We will also continue to input into the work of the Hauraki Gulf Forum which has just completed its second State of the Hauraki Gulf report. This report unfortunately shows that the health of the waters of the Hauraki Gulf in general is continuing to degrade.

### Wasting less

Our plan also focuses on what we throw away and what we reuse or recycle in response to you asking that we recycle more and waste less.

The Claris landfill is the only landfill owned by the council and it has been filling up too fast. Recent rubbish collection and landfill management changes appear to be paying off with the volume of material dumped being down significantly in the last six months.

The employment last year of a waste educator for the island linked to the new kerbside rubbish collections programme also seems to be making a big difference.

Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea has been funded to undertake a waste recovery study and has aspirations for a resource recovery facility at Claris. These aspirations align well with those in this plan and it is proposed that all parties with an interest in these areas collaborate to achieve the best outcomes for this island.

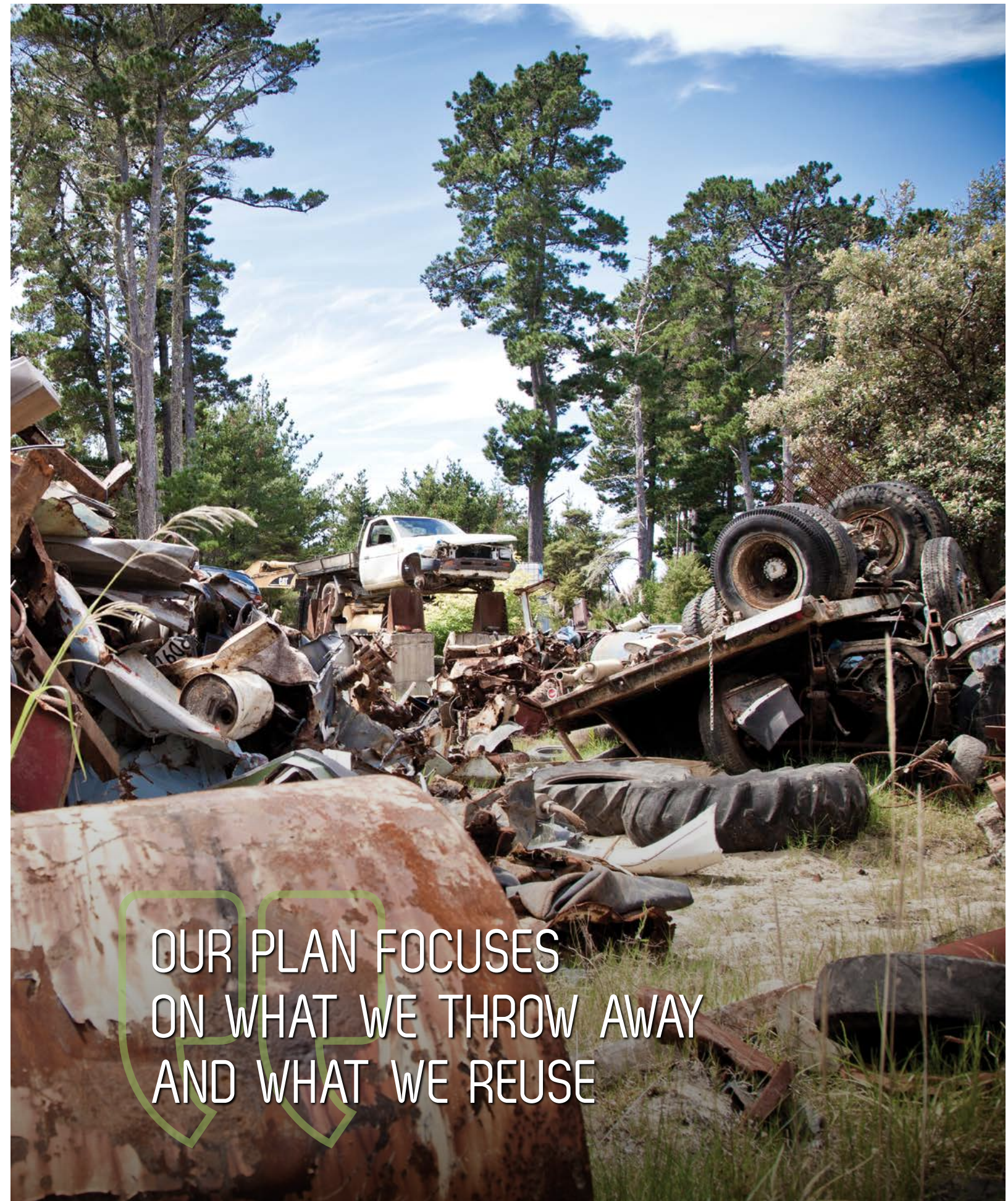
There has been quite a lot of discussion about the sludge dump at the Claris landfill, its sand filter and whether it can handle the volumes of septic tank waste that we generate. There has also been discussion about the new Auckland Unitary Plan requirements restricting boat discharges to the marine environment and the numbers of camper vans now coming to the island needing pump out facilities. Council figures show there is plenty of capacity if deliveries of septic tank waste are spread out.

Waste oil disposal has also been raised as a concern with a recent issue highlighting that waste oil is being stored all over the island and where it is taken to the landfill, it is expensive to ship back to the mainland. We will investigate local solutions to this issue which may involve the purchase of equipment to purify and reuse this oil.

The Auckland Unitary Plan will also introduce a requirement for some form of septic tank management for island premises. No one knows how many septic tanks there are on the island or what condition they are in as there are no pump-out requirements. Recent incidents have highlighted the poor state of knowledge of our sewage systems but it is clear that if a pump out programme is introduced, changes to the sludge dump will be needed.

We propose to undertake a study into how sludge and septic tanks are managed and what if any changes might be needed based on the issues and regulation changes we are facing. Options such as encouraging more people to install composting type toilets or to use waste to generate energy are worth investigating given this plan's emphasis on alternative energy. Our long-term goal is that most properties won't need to take their waste off-site.

Overall, we believe that Aotea Great Barrier could tick all of the Auckland Plan's 'environmental action and green growth' boxes. The environment is our point of difference and with a concerted effort and community support this can be THE place in the Auckland region where the care of the environment is world leading.





THE ENVIRONMENT IS AT ITS BEST HERE

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	KEY INITIATIVES	LOCAL BOARD ROLE	OTHER KEY AGENCIES	POTENTIAL COST
Agree a plan with our community for our island's ecological future	Fund independently-led community engagement	Support and assist the conversations	DOC, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea, Island environmental groups, other experts	\$150,000 over 3 years
	Research new solutions to pest eradication	Lead and coordinate experts and community input	Scientists and specialists from NZ and overseas	\$50,000 annually
	Supply rat traps to everyone who wants them	Fund	Local groups to supply or distribute	\$5,000 annually
	Fund community-led pest management programmes	Fund and coordinate	DOC, Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Island	\$10,000 annually
	Maintain a comprehensive annual rabbit control programme	Lead		\$10,000 annually
	Establish a freshwater quality monitoring programme	Lead		\$20,000 annually
Lead the Auckland region on ecological enhancement, sustainability, and renewable energy use	Hold a conference to bring leaders together to begin planning for the islands future	Lead	Universities, DOC Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea, Other agencies and interest groups	\$50,000
	Establish a research and education centre on the island. Allocate up to \$200,000 towards the public purchase of Glenfern Sanctuary as a possible site for this centre	Lead on bringing interested parties and funding together	Local and international agencies, DOC, Nature Heritage Fund, ASB Community Trust	\$3 million
	Establish an island based part-time biodiversity role	Lead (part fund), and advocate for regional funding	DOC, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwa ki Aotea, Island environmental groups, other experts	\$30,000





THE ENVIRONMENT IS AT ITS BEST HERE

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	KEY INITIATIVES	LOCAL BOARD ROLE	OTHER KEY AGENCIES	POTENTIAL COST
Develop an alternative energy strategy for the island	Retrofit all council buildings to run on alternative energy	Advocate		\$100,000
	Investigate the feasibility of a solar powered electric vehicle charging station	Lead		\$5,000
	Over time, replace the council's vehicle fleet with electrical vehicles	Advocate		\$50,000 annually
	Add solar-powered water heating to Retrofit Your Home Programme	Lead	Government agencies	\$10,000
Develop a waste strategy for the island	Support the establishment of a waste-recovery centre	Support	Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	
	Carry out a feasibility study on sludge and septic tank management options	Lead		\$50,000
Establish a network of marine protected areas around our coastline	Use the Sea Change - Tai TimuTai Pari process approach to identify agreed local marine protected areas	Lead	DOC, Ministry for Primary Industries, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea, Commercial and recreational fishing interests	\$10,000
	Seek legislative change to ban commercial fishing within our harbours and bays and key inshore recreational fishing areas	Advocate to government	Ministry for Primary Industries Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$100,000





## OUTCOME 2: INFRASTRUCTURE THAT FITS WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

All our villages have a park and community building that we love and look after, connected by walkways and cycle trails so we don't have to walk on the roads.

Our roads are safe, usable all year round and well maintained. They won't wreck car suspensions, fill our houses with dust or our waterways with silt. Our air and sea services and our wharves and airfields meet the needs of locals, visitors and businesses in most weather conditions. Freight costs don't break the bank and fuel and transport costs are only a bit more than in town. We have modern communications but our ridgelines are not dotted with cell phone towers. We welcome investment and the positive things modern life brings provided they don't ruin what we have. This is how we see our future.

### Creating the world's most liveable island infrastructure

We need community buildings, roads, airfields, wharves and communications systems to get around and meet with each other. Residents and visitors also want recreation opportunities created by local parks, short walks and longer hiking and biking trails. While you expect all these things, you have also made it clear these must fit with your largely natural environment and not spoil it. You definitely don't want your island urbanised or looking too much like mainland Auckland.

Our plan is that over time our remaining unsealed roads should be sealed and we will work with other local boards that want their rural roads sealed to increase the overall road seal pot so we can all get our share. The recent devastating storm and the Auckland Council

### Better Roads

Your major complaint is about unsealed, unsafe or poorly maintained roads. You are tired of these and want them sorted, ideally sealed but if that's not possible just able to be safely negotiated year round.

This is particularly the case for our northern communities. The last few bits of our main highway were only sealed last year and it's made a huge difference for the north. Auckland Transport came to the party to do that but as they only have funding for a few kilometres of seal annually, it's pretty unlikely we will get more seal ahead of the hundreds of kilometres elsewhere in the region that are waiting. Sealing our highest priority roads, around 20km, would cost around \$10 million which is way more than the entire regional road seal budget.

budget cuts mean that realistically we won't get our roads sealed any time soon. So for now we will focus on getting the unsafe bits addressed and looking at alternative ways of addressing your concerns. These might be applying products that reduce dust where our houses are close to the roads like Sandhills Road, or techniques to reduce silt runoff into our harbours and waterways.

Over time we have built up a network of roadside view shafts where visitors can enjoy the breath taking views available along our



YOU DEFINITELY DON'T WANT YOUR ISLAND  
URBANISED OR LOOKING TOO MUCH  
LIKE MAINLAND AUCKLAND

roads. We have 50 view shafts and want to develop more until great views are available all over the island. Maintenance is critical as vegetation grows fast and views can easily be lost. A proposal to create a much larger viewing corridor along Hector Sanderson Road adjoining the Kaitoke wetland is also being investigated so the views opened up by last year's fire are not lost again.

### Fish passage at culverts

A recent survey of our waterways has made us aware that many of our culverts create significant obstacles to the natural migration of our fish species. After completing their oceanic life stage and entering freshwater, most native freshwater fish species including inanga (the species that make up the majority of the whitebait catch) and adult eels move upstream to reach their habitat. However, poorly sized and situated culverted stream crossings and fords block fish passage and prevent fish from completing their life histories. Of 75 culverts associated with the Island's roading network,

34 per cent had developed perches after streambeds had scoured and fallen away from outlets. Many culverts also cause water to pass through at such high speed that, even if fish are able to enter the culvert outlet, they can't swim up against the flow.

We undertook remedial work (just before the storm in July 2014) on the 24 worst culverts which will regain just under 40km of upstream habitat, habitat that in many instances has been off limits to fish for decades. Thankfully the great majority of fish passes survived the storm and those that didn't will shortly be repaired. Now that we know about this issue, we want to continue the work to restore fish life to our streams and help bring eels and inanga back from their threat ranking of "in decline".

A lack of spawning habitat for inanga is widely acknowledged as a bottleneck to the whitebait fishery so we also investigated the spawning potential for inanga in some key streams on the Island.



## Wharf and airfield development

Our wharves and airfields are a vital link to the mainland. So too, are the companies that bring people and freight to the island. We are told Sealink's Barrier operation isn't profitable, so what would happen if it stopped running? Equally our two airlines fleets are old and will need replacement at some stage in the not too distant future. What if that wasn't economic?

We will do what we can to ensure our community has the connections and services it needs. Sealink's new fast ferry service needs a new commercial pontoon at Whangaparapara and we are committed to working with Auckland Transport to provide that. Stages two and three of the Shoal Bay wharf development (the breakwater and wharf building redevelopment), are unlikely to be funded in their current form. We will work with Auckland Transport to find cost-effective solutions that can enable the key outcomes sought by this project to be achieved. We will also work with the North Barrier Residents and Ratepayers Association on what might be needed to ensure freight ferry services still come north, and potentially the fast ferry.

We have also looked into how well Claris airfield is meeting the island's needs. We all know the disruption caused when the weather packs in and planes can't fly. Although many of you are used to that, visitors aren't and it's not good for business or our visitor industry. With both airline fleets getting long in the tooth, we need clear advice from both the airlines and specialists as to whether the airfield is long or wide enough to meet future needs. With the cost of any such project running into the millions, we are not currently convinced that the case for expansion has been made.

If more land was needed from DOC for this, discussions with Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea would be needed given this land's potential role in a treaty settlement and we would work with DOC and Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea to ensure the best interests of all parties are achieved.

The same principles of working together apply to Okiwi airfield. With the runway now sealed, our attention turns to working with the airlines and northern residents, businesses and other operators to get regular and affordable air services using Okiwi. Everyone needs to play their part if this is to succeed. At the recent airfield opening many people talked about this project as a new beginning for the north. The crown land surrounding the airfield is also expected to go to Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea as part of its treaty settlement. Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea is interested in making this the gateway to the north and we want to support its plans and assist where we can.

This year we reluctantly introduced new parking restrictions on the long-term car park at Claris airport because there was widespread abuse of existing provisions. That has made a short term difference but has also upset some part-time residents and those who come regularly for a couple of weeks or longer at a time. If we can agree on restrictions, they will only work with at the very least periodic enforcement. If we agree to set aside an area for paid parking, this might address the issues. We are consulting further with interested parties before deciding what to do next.



OUR WHARVES AND  
AIRFIELDS ARE  
VITAL LINKS TO THE  
MAINLAND

Of course some of you have houses with no road access at all and instead rely on boats and moorings. The new Auckland Unitary Plan includes changes to mooring zones around the region and for some of you, that plan has either missed you out or created zones which just don't work. The council has agreed to support resource consents for those in this situation around our island and we have made a start on this and will be seeking funding to take it forward in the coming years.



## Securing the future of our quarry

We have recently been made aware that the resource consent for the Blackwell's quarry at Medlands will expire in the next few years and decisions need to be made on its future. If no new consent is obtained, metal would need to be brought to the island. Our initial investigations suggest that this would be no cheaper, that certainty of supply would be reduced and there is the obvious loss of employment.

The board's current position is to support the parties involved pursuing a new resource consent to enable the quarry to continue operating from this site.

## An off-road network

If our population grows and we have more visitors, we will need more off-road walking trails so people don't have to walk along the road if it isn't safe.

Our aim is that all our main settlements are connected by paths that are off-road where they need to be or where it would make walking more pleasurable. Two big projects are proposed: a Tryphena coastal trail to connect Tryphena coastal settlements and another from Claris to the Crossroads.

We will design and build these to fit in with our landscape. Along the Kaitoke wetland edge we plan a boardwalk and viewing area to take advantage of the views opened up by the Kaitoke fire. Kaiaraara Bay Road also needs somewhere people can walk off the carriageway as there are lots of visitors walking along there and the road is narrow.

These paths will be built to a high standard for use by groups such as mums and kids. In addition we plan to continue developing the network of rougher trails over paper roads linked to the DOC track network. The great start made on the track up to Station Rock Road lookout will be continued right over to Rosalie Bay Road. When it is finished we will investigate building other tracks. With a good number of paper roads linking places, we envisage a network of tracks going many places and we will work with neighbouring landowners to make ongoing progress on these. An off-road biking network is also on the books, in conjunction with DOC to open up opportunities for locals and those who will come to visit if a mountain bike experience is available.

## Some public transport

It's not just about cars, feet and bikes however. Public transport in various forms also needs to be investigated. If our population picks up again and we have more visitors, they will want other ways of getting round. Remember when the Fullers bus met the Fullers ferry and took you up the island to connect with ferries from Shoal Bay, Whangaparapara and Port Fitzroy? Some form of bus service that connects key points such as wharves, airfields and villages should be investigated to see if it is viable.

We have also investigated having our air and sea services added to the passenger network which would reduce costs. Unfortunately this is only available for commuter services and would require government intervention to achieve. We will have that conversation along with continuing to advocate for Gold Card subsidies. Looking further out, wouldn't it be great if the bus service was electric to fit with our overall goal of reducing fossil fuel use. Given that Land Transport Safety Authority figures show there are more registered vehicles on the island than there are people, we think this is an important goal.

## Improved communications

On the telecommunications front, some communities now enjoy better broadband and internet access courtesy of the Okupu and Medland 3G cell facilities. Some of you aren't happy about the amount of change this represents. With a third facility being progressed this year at Okiwi, more residents will have improved access.

We have been asked to extend this further, particularly to northern communities where there is no coverage at all, with the aim of all our main settlements being 3G wireless broadband connected. We don't yet know how many gaps in service will be filled by these repeaters or what realistic options exist to connect others, but we will investigate these. One thing is clear, you don't want a string of towers on our ridgelines and neither do we.

Our landline network isn't great either and last summer some of you went without phone service for extended periods. Businesses which couldn't even use Eftpos were especially hard hit and this just isn't good enough these days. We will work with providers to ensure we have a reliable service in future, and a more modern one would be nice too.





## Public places for everyone

We want each of our villages and settlements to have indoor and outdoor public spaces where you can gather and engage in recreational activities. If there isn't a local park where your children can play and you can have a picnic or barbeque, we want to establish one. If there isn't a community hall in the area, we will look at options to establish one.

Completing the land exchange with DOC to enable land it administers which is essentially local park to transfer to council management is a priority for us as this plan has been on hold for many years now. If land is not needed for Treaty of Waitangi settlements, we are asking DOC to agree to this exchange progressing with urgency. One good example is the Fitzroy Landing Reserve. As a local park we will be able to develop it for local use.

We know how hard it is to maintain our community buildings and as these play a key role in our communities, we will continue to provide funding support as appropriate.

There are 13 community facilities on the island and with one or two exceptions all have had funding assistance from the Great Barrier Local Board's budgets in the last three years – in some cases significant support. Our plan is to concentrate funding to proposals which deliver on the direction this plan wants to take our island. So if you want to get off diesel and on to solar power you are more likely to get funding than if you want to replace your generator with a newer one. Many of our buildings are cold too and insulation projects would also fit with this thinking.

Agreement has been reached with Okiwi School and the Ministry of Education for the council to look after the Okiwi Community Room and we hope to refurbish and use it more this year.

A combined facility for community use at Claris is also being considered as a result of interest from a number of groups. The Aotea Family Support Group is interested in establishing operations in the Claris area. The recent connection of the council library at Claris to the Auckland library network and the installation of internet terminals have resulted in a significant increase in public use and this is creating pressure on available space. This building is also the council service centre and there is limited public space and nowhere for a confidential conversation. The Great Barrier Local Board office is also small and its increasing use recently has tested the available space. Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea also have aspirations for a facility at Claris. An investigation is therefore proposed into whether a combined multi-use community facility could be established in the Claris area on public land to address all these needs together.

High fuel and freight costs are another issue we have heard a lot about. There are no easy or quick solutions here but we firmly believe that the strategies in this plan which should increase resident and visitor numbers are one real answer to this problem.

## Local signs

As we build new walkways, and improve our public facilities, new signs are installed. We want to be careful not to clutter up our place with too many signs, or ones which aren't in keeping with our largely undeveloped island.

We think a local approach to signage that fits our environment is the way to go and we plan to develop a local approach that our community will like. We realise council has signs guidelines and we need to balance those with local needs. Over time as signs need replacing or new signs are added, we want to see them following these guidelines. We will work with DOC, Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea and our community to identify opportunities for signs to be combined and reflect our local heritage.





INFRASTRUCTURE THAT FITS WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	KEY INITIATIVES	LOCAL BOARD ROLE	OTHER KEY AGENCIES	POTENTIAL COST
Our roads will be safe and a pleasure to be on for vehicles and other users	Develop an island-specific road maintenance program and funding that ensures all our roads can be used safely all year round	Advocate	Auckland Transport	
	Increase regional road seal budgets so key roads can get sealed	Advocate	Waiheke, Rodney, Franklin and Waitākere Ranges local boards, Auckland Transport	
	Develop a road seal priority plan with our community and agree funding with Auckland Transport for staged implementation	Advocate	Auckland Transport	
	Investigate environmentally friendly products for our unsealed residential roads to reduce dust nuisance	Lead	Auckland Transport	
	Add at least one new roadside view shaft per year to the network until all iconic island views are represented	Lead	Auckland Transport	\$5,000 annually
	All culverts under roads will be fish passage friendly	Advocate	Auckland Transport	
Our ferry and air services will meet our communities' needs	Investigate Claris airport runway extension needs	Lead	Airlines, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea, DOC	
	Investigate ways to increase the use of Okiwi airport	Lead	Airlines, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea, DOC, Northern groups	
	Review time limits and investigate providing additional user-pays spaces at the Claris long-term car park to cater for those who wish to park for more than seven days	Lead	Auckland Transport	\$20,000
	Seek central government assistance to include passenger ferry and services in the Auckland public transport network	Lead	Auckland Transport	
	Review Shoal Bay wharf stages 2 and 3, so the project is more affordable and can be delivered earlier	Advocate	Auckland Transport	Over 3 years
	Agree the future ownership and management of the Port Fitzroy wharf facility	Lead	North Barrier Residents and Ratepayers Association, DOC, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$10,000





INFRASTRUCTURE THAT FITS WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	KEY INITIATIVES	LOCAL BOARD ROLE	OTHER KEY AGENCIES	POTENTIAL COST
Provide alternatives to enable people to use private vehicles less if they choose to	Investigate a subsidised bus or shuttle service which connects most of the island's main villages with ferries and flights	Advocate	Auckland Transport	
	Coordinate a resource consent for moorings which are needed by locals but which are not included in the new Unitary Plan mooring zones	Lead	Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$20,000
	Complete the Tryphena Coastal Trail and the Claris to Crossroads walkway within three years	Lead	Auckland Transport, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$250,000
	Extend the Kaitoke Wetland viewing corridor along Hector Sanderson Road as part of the Claris to Crossroads walkway project	Lead	Auckland Transport Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$20,000
	Complete the Station Rock Road walkway to Rosalie Bay Road by 2015	Lead	Auckland Transport Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$50,000
	Work with DOC to develop a multi-day mountain bike trail	Support	Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea, DOC Auckland Transport (paper roads)	\$30,000
All our main communities will have cell phone and internet coverage within five years	Work with telco providers to identify what is needed to extend coverage to new areas	Lead	Telco providers, including Vodafone as the current supplier	\$100,000 annually
All our communities will have a good local community room	Refurbish the Okiwi community room under local board management	Lead	Ministry of Education, Okiwi School	\$50,000
	Investigate establishing a shared community facility at Claris	Lead	Community groups, Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$50,000







INFRASTRUCTURE THAT FITS WITH OUR ENVIRONMENT

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	KEY INITIATIVES	LOCAL BOARD ROLE	OTHER KEY AGENCIES	POTENTIAL COST
All our communities will have a good local community park	Obtain management authority over the Port Fitzroy Landing Reserve	Lead	DOC, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$20,000
	Develop the Port Fitzroy Landing Reserve for community use	Lead	Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$20,000
	Develop community spaces at Medlands, Okupu, Tryphena and Whangaparapara	Lead	Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$50,000 annually
	Work with Kawa and Motairehe marae to support their aspirations for community space	Lead	Kawa and Motairehe marae committees Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	
Our island's public signs will fit our environment and reflect our heritage	Develop Barrier specific signs guidelines and ensure new and replacement signs follow these	Lead	DOC, Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$5,000





# OUTCOME 3: WE HAVE MORE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS BUT WE WON'T LOSE OUR WAY OF LIFE

We have more people, more jobs and more opportunities. Our businesses can make a buck and new ones will spring up to meet demand. Our health services are locally led and meet our different needs.

Our houses are warm and affordable, our children get a good education and we don't have to struggle so much. Our elderly can stay here and our youth will come back after finishing their education. All Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea people are able to return to Aotea and live well if they wish. We are great hosts to visitors and their experience makes them want to come back with their friends. Our many off-island landowners and visitors help us to make our island a great place to visit.

This is how we see our future.

## Creating the world's most liveable island community

### Our vital statistics

We heard repeatedly about the great community spirit on the island and how you are worried this might be lost if too much changes. At the same time everyone knows it's tough to get by on the island and that costs for pretty much everything just seem to be going up and up. Fuel is about 30 per cent dearer and diesel here costs about the same as petrol in town. A banana box of groceries with the freight cost added is at least \$20 more than at the supermarket checkout. A weekend on the Barrier will cost a visitor about the same as going to the Gold Coast.



EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S TOUGH TO GET BY ON THE ISLAND AND THAT COSTS FOR PRETTY MUCH EVERYTHING JUST SEEM TO BE GOING UP AND UP

The 2013 census reveals some interesting facts about our community. Our population is 939, up from 894 in 2006. Our personal incomes average \$19,200 per annum, still the lowest of any local board area in the Auckland region. Just over half of adults have a job, the second lowest percentage in Auckland. Our average age is 54 years compared to 35 years region-wide and since 2006 the number of those of us over 65 years has increased by 30 per cent. About 18 per cent of us identify as Māori compared to 10 per cent region-wide. The median age for Māori is 33 years, much younger than the island as a whole. Of our 459 households, 44 per cent are people living alone, compared to 19 per cent Auckland-wide. There are 20 per cent of us renting the home we live in with the average weekly rent being \$150. We have 151 businesses, about 250 employees and over a quarter of employment is within the accommodation and food services areas.

The environment and transport sectors are also major employers. In the past five years 13 new baches and nine new houses have been consented.

A recent Aotea Family Support Group survey of 171 household also told us that 15 per cent of us need a 4WD to get to our homes, five per cent don't have running hot water and 16 per cent use a long drop toilet. Food costs us around 25 per cent of our annual income and 80 per cent grow some food at home. Of those surveyed, 16 per cent expect to leave the island in the next five years.

### More people and more visitors

Our plan is to improve our community's well-being by having more people coming to live on our island and to have more visitors.

For the first time in over 20 years our population is no longer in decline but at 939 this is still well down on the 1128 in 1996. For those worried that a few hundred more residents will mess the place up, just think back to the early nineties when the fast ferry came regularly and was met by a bus, when your fuel and food bills were reasonable and there were more jobs around. There are over 500 visitor beds available on the island but many accommodation providers struggle to make ends meet. Bringing in more visitors will bring in more money for tourism operators, accommodation providers, restaurants and shops.





## FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 20 YEARS OUR POPULATION IS NO LONGER IN DECLINE

So why would more people come if it's so expensive to get here? The newly announced Aotea Conservation Park will bring more people because it lifts visibility of the island. Destination Great Barrier Island has recently set up its shop front at the Claris airport i-site and we expect this will improve our visitors' experience.

Estimates of annual visitor numbers vary between 45,000 and 80,000, with the higher figure including up to 30,000 boaties who descend on our harbours over Christmas and New Year. We need better statistics, including what those visitors do and want. We have support from Sealink, Fly My Sky and Great Barrier Airlines to obtain these statistics. We want Destination Great Barrier Island to move more into events management as their resources grow. One aim is to develop an events calendar with a good spread of local and signature events throughout the year which is well promoted to visitors and part-time residents. The new driving maps which everyone loves are a great example of a gap in the visitor experience which has now been addressed.

### Support for residents, businesses and community groups.

We support the Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea proposals to establish key facilities supporting tourism, cultural information and resource recovery to build awareness and contribute to the local economy.

With the Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea Treaty of Waitangi negotiations now at the draft Deed of Settlement stage, mana whenua will increasingly play a role in the island's future and we wish to work together on areas of mutual interest. One example is the funding we have provided to Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea to run the Great Barrier Walking Festival which we want to see becoming an annual signature event.

Over time, the ideas we have to enhance our environment will also attract more visitors. Why wouldn't people come to our island if we have abundant wildlife, a network of amazing marine protected areas and are a place which shows how off the grid alternative energy can actually work? More visitors mean more work, more money in the tills and a more viable economy.

How can we make it easier to live on our island? Apart from the jobs more visitors and residents will create, the changes made over the past three years such as sealing the main road, the new Shoal Bay wharf, the recently opened Okiwi airfield sealed runway and the new 3G wireless cell services to the centre of the island, all have the same purpose; to make our lives easier. The planned extension of the 3G service to Okiwi and other isolated communities will further help with modern communications which we



all increasingly rely on. The new Aotea Family Support Group van for the north is already helping people without access to a car to get around much more easily. The annual community grants are making a real difference where it is needed. The recent rollout of free home insulation to the majority of island homes has also made a huge difference.

We are trialling a new capital grants fund to support groups which run community facilities open to the public, to maintain their buildings and assets. We know it is hard for many of these groups to raise funds needed for new roofs, solar panels, batteries and inverters etc. We will also explore how we can help those groups which can't get insurance, as we don't want publicly funded assets to be at risk. Many groups either can't get insurance at all on our island or the costs are simply prohibitive. Support for businesses to up-skill our people and provide more training opportunities are also being investigated to help with the shortage of jobs.

We will also ask that council practices that dictate how goods and services are purchased are reviewed to ensure as many of our island's contractors and locals as possible get work. Some new contracts negotiated by council have resulted in more work going to off-island businesses, and with very little work available on island, this is a problem. In particular we want the policy wording that states that procurement should positively benefit local communities to be a key requirement in decision making. Of course our contractors and workers need to have the right skills to get these jobs and that is another area we will look at.

### A social enterprise approach

Some of you will have heard about the idea to develop an on island abattoir to address the crazy situation of bringing in pretty much all meat products at inflated prices, when we have plenty here already.

Surely our visitors should be able to order steak or fish at their restaurant which is grown and processed locally, not brought frozen or by airfreight from town. Initial investigations with the support of the Ministry for Primary Industries have identified that there is a real chance for a locally run and owned abattoir to get off the ground. If it succeeds, this should help our farmers and the next steps might be to send marketable products such as 'Barrier built beef and lamb' to town. We also need to investigate local fish quota and that might happen as part of the marine protection initiative.

The abattoir is being pursued on a social enterprise model and if successful, this model could be rolled out to develop other ideas. Many great business ideas on the island haven't taken off or have failed because they just aren't profitable. Social enterprises work by providing start up support to establish businesses which can then return a percentage of profits to the community. We have recently funded a feasibility study to make sure we get the right model with the best chance of success for our community.

Another proposal that is being investigated using the social enterprise model is a shared accommodation facility. For many years our pensioner housing trust has worked tirelessly to advance the idea of a pensioner village for our island's increasingly elderly population. Unfortunately little progress has been made mainly because it has been really hard to raise funds and overcome a wide range of hurdles. The idea of a shared accommodation facility picks up on the trust's work and broadens it out to accommodation for a range of people in need. It may be that some of this accommodation is short term or to meet needs such as for those who have been turfed out of their rental property and can't find anything straight away. We are talking to groups which might be prepared to fund the establishment of this facility.

Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea are also advancing a social enterprise by undertaking a feasibility study to establish a resource recovery facility with the support of council and industry leaders. We fully support this as it perfectly aligns with this plan's waste minimisation outcomes.



OUR VISITORS SHOULD BE ABLE TO ORDER STEAK OR FISH AT THEIR RESTAURANT WHICH IS GROWN AND PROCESSED LOCALLY



## New cemeteries

For many years locals in the north and centre of the island have asked that cemeteries be established so they can be buried locally. Various sites have been investigated but little progress has been made due to the lack of suitable land and funds for purchase or development. Responsibility for cemeteries rests regionally and given the pressures faced elsewhere in the region, it is unlikely any priority can be given to the island's cemetery requests. We are asking for authority for cemeteries on our island to be held by the local board as this would enable us to progress this matter as we see fit.

## Other support

We are also focusing on harnessing the energy, skills, ideas and resources of our 1000 or so part-time residents. While they pay rates, their involvement in the island ranges from zero, to spending considerable amounts of their time on the island, often in holiday homes or baches. We are in the process of setting up a part-time residents' forum so this group can be more involved in the affairs of the island. We think this group has a lot to offer and can make a significant difference to the island and in progressing the ideas in this plan.

The energy of our youth is also an important resource and as they are our future, we need to be sure we engage with them.

The recently formed Aotea Youth Speak and the Aotea Youth Board are the result of support for rangatahi and local youth to become involved in the island's decision making and we will continue to support and work with this group as we implement this plan.

We are also considering requests for additional support for the Aotea Family Support Group (AFSG) and the GBI Community Health Trust (GBICHT). We currently contribute almost

10 per cent of AFSG's funding and part-fund the island's community worker role.

## Protecting our heritage

The island's heritage, be it pre-European or settler, cultural or natural, is an area that has been under-recognised to date. The relatively low level of development on the island and its rich past means there is a huge amount of history that is going un-noticed, unprotected and unrestored. Much of this is on the conservation estate and has been recorded by Department of Conservation (DOC). We want to build on this work by saving and protecting what the community feels should be kept for future generations. Recent discussions with the Blackwell family descendants about restoring the historic Oxpark homestead at the bottom of the Medlands hill are seen as a first step on this journey.

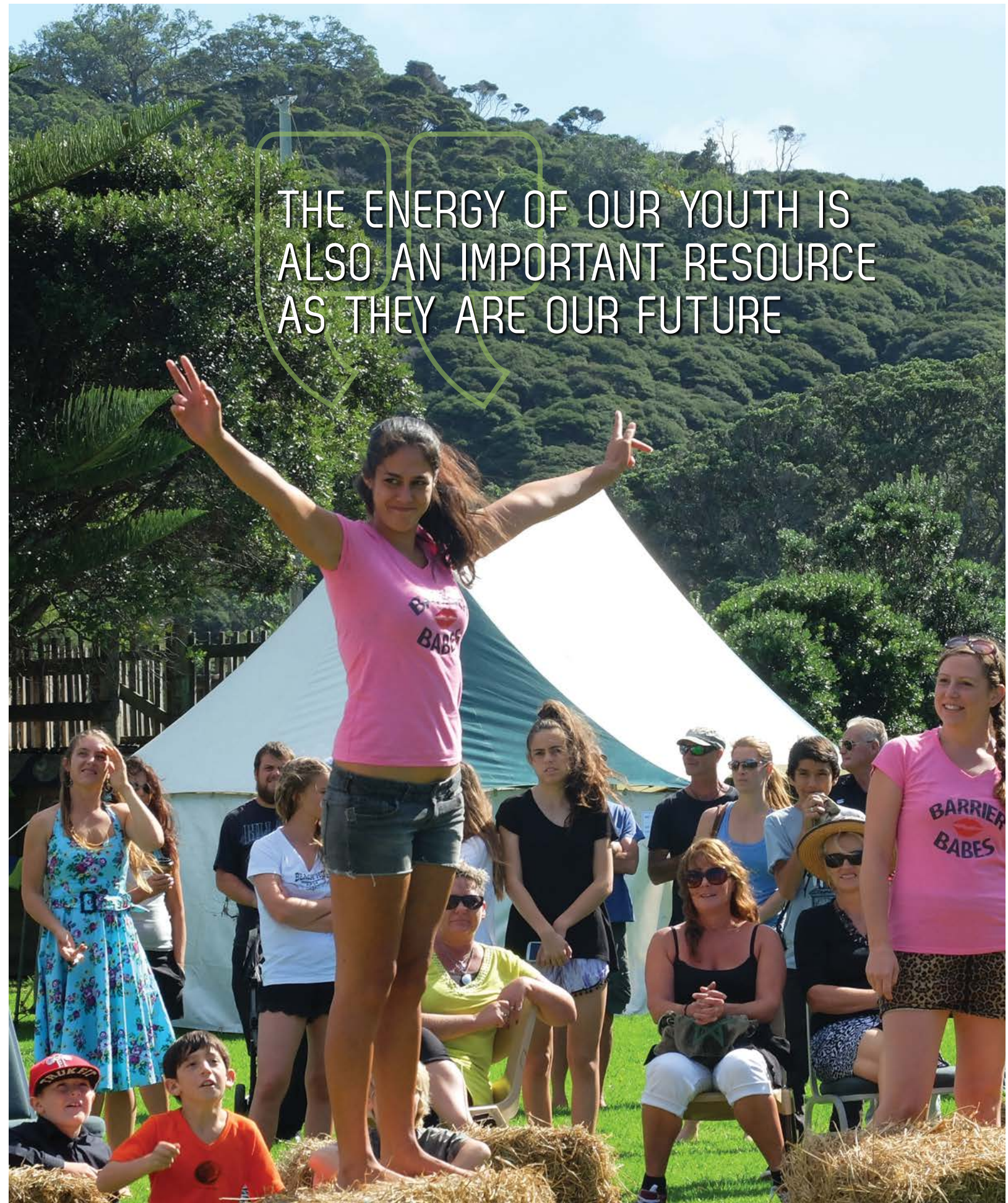
Aotea's rich history has also been recorded by mana whenua and is housed at the two marae, Kawa and Motairehe. The Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea cultural visitor and information centre referred to earlier is intended for use by all communities to promote Aotea and its taonga.

## Planning rules that work for us

Mention should be made of planning rules that apply to the island. The Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan has replaced previous planning rules for Auckland, except for land-use rules on Waiheke and Great Barrier islands where the Hauraki Gulf islands District Plan continues to apply. The unitary plan's regional rules already apply here and we need to better understand their impact. We expect the whole of the unitary plan to apply to us in future and we will work to ensure these rules support the direction we are signalling in our local board plan.

These are just some of our many ideas.

THE ENERGY OF OUR YOUTH IS  
ALSO AN IMPORTANT RESOURCE  
AS THEY ARE OUR FUTURE





WE HAVE MORE RESIDENTS AND VISITORS BUT WE WON'T LOSE OUR WAY OF LIFE

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	KEY INITIATIVES	LOCAL BOARD ROLE	OTHER KEY AGENCIES	POTENTIAL COST
Identify gaps in supporting those in our community in real need	Identify ideas from the 2011 Aotea Community Plan and the 2012 Thriving Communities forum that can be pursued	Lead	Aotea Family Support Group, Great Barrier Island Community Health Trust, Various government agencies	\$5,000
	Agree projects for joint delivery with Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea	Partnership	Ngati Rehua, Ngatiwai ki Aotea	
Our northern and central communities will have their own cemeteries	Obtain authority to manage all local cemetery matters	Lead, seek delegation	Claris and Okiwi communities, DOC, Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea	No funding required
	Establish cemeteries in the Okiwi and Claris areas	Lead		\$200,000
Look after our Island's heritage	Develop an island heritage plan	Lead		\$10,000
Help develop the island's visitor industry	Create an events manager position as part of the i-site	Lead or support	DOC; Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea; Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development	\$20,000
	The Great Barrier Walking Festival will be run annually by Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea	Funding support during establishment phase	Ngati Rehua Ngatiwai ki Aotea	\$25,000
Our people will be able to buy local meat and fish products	Obtain all approvals needed to establish an abattoir to be run as a social enterprise	Lead	Ministry of Primary Industries	\$50,000
	Build and open the abattoir	Lead and advocate	Lotteries Commission, ASB Community Trust	\$50,000

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE	KEY INITIATIVES	LOCAL BOARD ROLE	OTHER KEY AGENCIES	POTENTIAL COST
Provide economic support to our community	The council's procurement rules need to prioritise use of local labour and contractors	Advocate		\$5,000
	Fund courses to upskill our community	Lead	Aotea Family Support Group	\$5,000 annually
Provide housing choices for those in need	Investigate options and a site for a shared accommodation facility	Lead		\$20,000
	Establish a shared accommodation facility run as a social enterprise	Lead and advocate	Various government agencies, Lotteries Commission, ASB Community Trust	\$100,000 contribution





# INDICATIVE BUDGET AND FUNDING SOURCES

In each of our local board plan outcomes we include a list of key initiatives to deliver the outcome. Some of these initiatives are funded in the council's Long-term Plan for 2012-2022 (LTP). The remaining initiatives are not currently funded.

## **There are a number of ways that local board activities can be funded:**

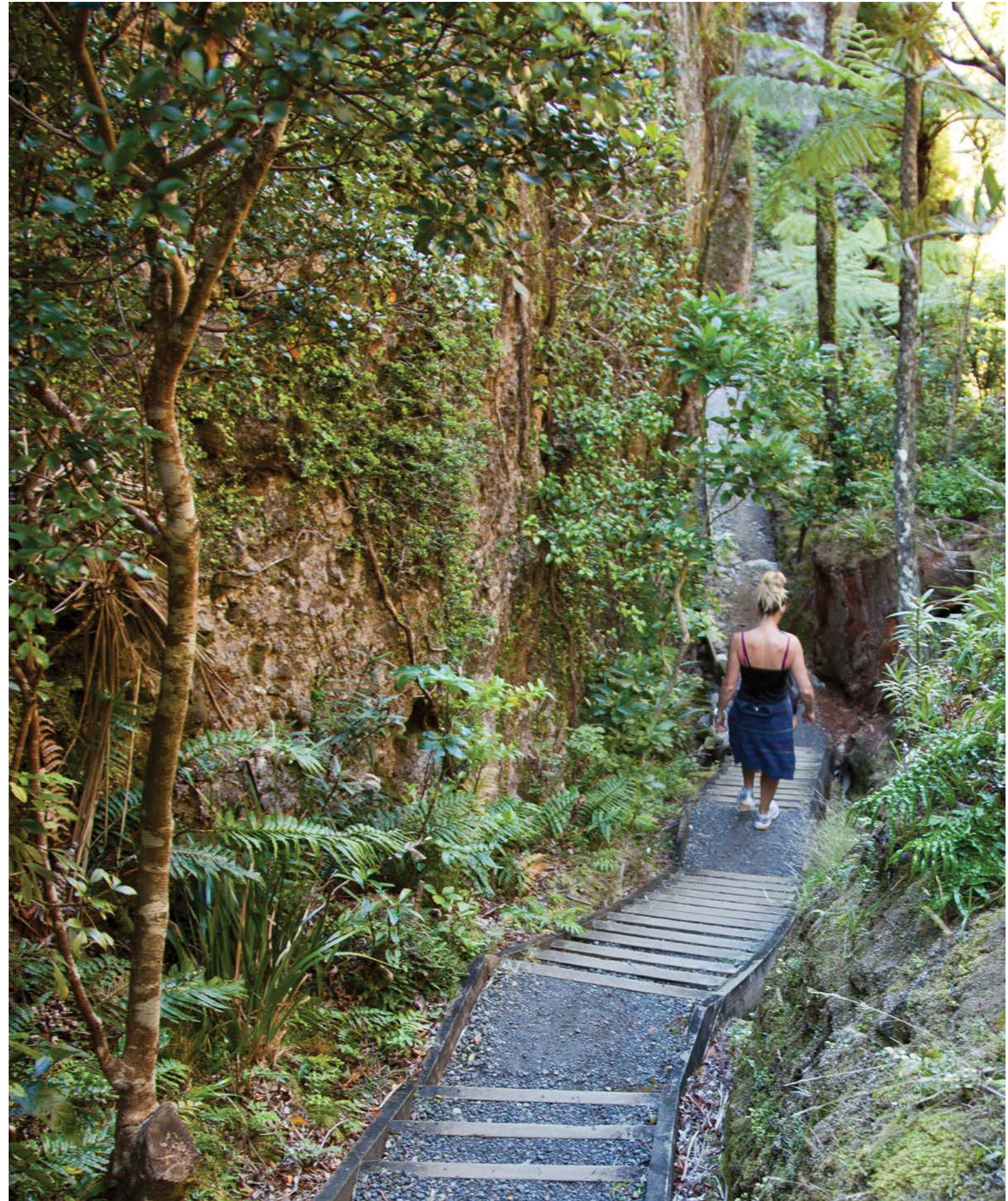
- through general rate funding. The governing body decides on the share of general rate funding provided to local boards. The governing body also makes decisions on investment in new facilities and major upgrades of facilities.
- by reprioritising our budget to either delay or cut existing projects and activities.
- by the local board proposing that the governing body sets a targeted rate in the local area.
- through fees and charges paid by users of our facilities.
- by leveraging involvement of other partners such as the private sector and other public sector agencies. .

We will prioritise which projects we put forward for funding in the next draft LTP, taking into account what you told us.

The indicative budget for the three years from July 2015 to June 2018 is set out on the following pages. When reading this budget it is important to note that the local board's actual budget will look quite different over the next three years for a number of reasons:

- The council is preparing the next draft LTP for 2015-2025. This includes a review of funding for all projects, which may affect some local board projects that are currently funded.
- How local boards are funded has also been reviewed. This will affect local board budgets in the draft LTP.
- The budget is indicative only. It does not contain all of the detailed projects or activities that the local board may carry out over the next three years. These will be developed through the local board agreement that is part of the council's annual plan for each financial year.

The local board's actual budget for each year, including how it is funded, is subject to agreement with the governing body as part of the discussion on the annual local board agreement.







INDICATIVE BUDGET TABLES

Expenditure for Great Barrier Local Board area for 2015-2018			
\$000 FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE	BUDGET 2015/2016	BUDGET 2016/2017	BUDGET 2017/2018
NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE			
Local arts, culture and events services	284	288	299
Local built and natural environment	145	157	156
Local community services	323	328	336
Local economic development	28	29	31
Local governance	910	928	1,021
Local libraries	1	3	7
Local parks services	1,676	1,777	1,891
Local recreation services	0	0	0
TOTAL NET OPERATING EXPENDITURE	3,367	3,510	3,741
NET CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			
Local arts, culture and events services	0	0	0
Local built and natural environment	0	0	0
Local community services	0	0	0
Local economic development	0	0	0
Local governance	0	46	0
Local libraries	0	52	1
Local parks services	1,388	753	743
Local recreation services	0	0	0
TOTAL NET CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	1,338	851	744
Financial statements are based on the Long-term Plan 2012-2022, including approved changes made during the 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 financial years and annual planning processes. Budgets are indicative only as they will be reviewed through the development of the Long-term Plan 2015-2025 (due for adoption in June 2015) and allocated in accordance with the Local Board Funding Policy.			



# YOUR GREAT BARRIER LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS



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