



Submission to
Waitakere Ranges Local Board Plan
2011/2012

from

Community Waitakere

Submission – Auckland Council Draft
Annual Plan 2011/12
Democracy Services
Auckland Council Private Bag 92300
Auckland 1142

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Submission to the Waitakere Ranges Local Board

Introduction

Community Waitakere is a Charitable Trust, dedicated to achieving our vision of a sustainable Waitakere with thriving, connected communities. We have a thirty year history of supporting and strengthening community organisations, building and maintaining relationships with central and local government and communities, undertaking and supporting community development initiatives and fostering collaborative actions that achieve our vision.

The values that we hold are:

- Acting with integrity
- Growing sustainability
- Inspiring
- Partnering
- Inclusion

Community Waitakere is recognised nationally as a key linkage between national, regional and local networks. We provide the “glue” which joins diverse community organisations with each other and with local and central government agencies and funders. This brokerage function enables the sharing of resources, knowledge and networks across a broad sector.

Our submission acknowledges the commitment demonstrated by our partners at Auckland Council (and previously Waitakere City Council) in developing collaboration and partnering with our communities and citizens. There are many examples of successful initiatives which have emerged through this way of working (now recognised and commonly referred to across Auckland as the “Waitakere Way”), which unites Council and the people they represent in a participatory democratic process. The Waitakere Wellbeing Collaboration Project and the internationally acclaimed Project Twin Streams are fine examples of such initiatives.

Collaborative partnerships between community, local and central government built over three decades have contributed to local authority decision-making in Waitakere being focussed, clear, transparent, effective and accountable. We have years of experience in this effective way of working and believe that despite the now more complex co-governance

arrangements, the spirit and will of Waitakere remain strong and determined. This was clearly demonstrated at the West Communities Summit on March 30th 2011.

Over the past two years in particular, Community Waitakere has been proactive in responding to the governance changes both locally and regionally. This has included the formation of the Community Coalition for Auckland (CC4A) and co-founding the Auckland Community Development Alliance (ACDA). We are increasingly being called upon by Council and Communities, to act as consultants, at both regional and local levels. We have begun to enable communities and our three Local Boards to connect through facilitated workshop sessions such as the Community Chief Executives' Roundtable workshop in December 2010 and the West Communities Summit in March 2011.

Our unique position as a locally based convening organisation is essential to ensuring that regional activities are grounded in solid local community experience and our communities remain safe, prosperous, resilient places to live, where people have a sense of belonging in their neighbourhoods and take pride in their region.

Community Waitakere wishes to speak to our submission at any public hearing.

Submission

- 1.1 This submission is from **Community Waitakere Charitable Trust**. It is in response to the Auckland Council's Draft Annual Plan 2011/2012 and is specific to the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board Plan 2011/2012**.
- 1.2 Our submission acknowledges the two complementary decision-making parts of Auckland Council (ie the Governing Body and the Local Boards) and the co-governance model.
- 1.3 Community Waitakere is committed to playing a key role in making the co-governance model work, based on our successful experience of working in partnership with local governance in Waitakere over many years.
- 1.4 Community Waitakere will work in partnership with the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** to assist in the achievement of responsibilities deferred to it under legislation; allocated to it by the governing body in line with the principles in the legislation or regulatory or non-regulatory activities allocated to it by the governing body.
- 1.5 Furthermore Community Waitakere will work with the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** to engage with the communities within that area to enhance the planning process and to enable the communities' preferences and aspirations to be incorporated into the development of Local Board plans.

- 1.6 Community Waitakere will work both individually and collectively with the **three** Western Local Boards as appropriate to address specific local area issues and priorities, whilst retaining the cohesion of the unique identity of the wider community that is Waitakere.
- 1.7 Community Waitakere will continue to convene regular meetings of the **Community Chief Executives' Roundtable** where leaders of key Waitakere community organisations come together to address issues and trends encountered by a wide range of sector organisations. The **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** is welcome to attend and participate in these meetings, which provide a collective view of up to 17 representative community sectors including Sport, Environment, Art and Culture, Health, Community Law, Housing, youth etc.
- 1.8 Community Waitakere will continue to facilitate regular **Open Door Days** at the Waitakere Community Resource Centre where community groups, individuals, small businesses and local government officers have the opportunity to network together finding links and connections which contribute to building resilience and community capacity. The **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** members are welcome to attend and participate in these sessions.
- 1.9 Community Waitakere can organise and host forums and workshops in the community on behalf of and in partnership with the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** to ensure community is contributing to council decision-making on their "own turf" which will demonstrate the Board's collaborative approach, and desire to connect **with** community, **in** the community. This could be useful to the Board as it engages with its communities on the remaining local area plans, as outlined in the Waitakere Ranges Heritage Protection Act.
- 1.10 Community Waitakere has been one of the four Community Contract organisation delivering Project Twin Streams since 2005. We are part of the steering group working on the challenge of future governance of PTS post 2012. Over that time we have built up strong environmental/educational skills and experience within our team. This is an asset which the Local Board could utilise as it works through the key management decisions for the Waitakere Ranges.
- 1.11 Community Waitakere has for many years operated a daily e-noticeboard which coordinates and distributes notification of community events, activities and news widely across Auckland. This can provide the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** a two-way conduit for keeping informed and connected with communities at the grass-roots level.
- 1.12 Earlier last year Community Waitakere together with **Lifewise** began facilitating community discussions around the urban design framework for Glen Eden and the potential for community capacity building. This project has grown into the **Greater Glen Eden** project which has now shaped up into a specific collaborative project with funding sought through DIA. Community Waitakere continues to be

involved in this project and will be taking learnings from its development and translating them across to the future development of other place-based community resilience projects in the Waitakere Ranges area.

- 1.13 The costs of operating in the new environment were never factored in to the reforms. The escalation on demands for Community Waitakere's involvement and leadership role have placed stress on our already limited resources, and the expectations being expressed by Council and communities alike are not able to be sustained.
- 1.14 Community Waitakere seeks **\$15,000 + GST** from the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** in order for us to broker relationships between the Local Board and the communities of the **Waitakere Ranges**, so that the Board is able to progress on achieving their 2011-2012 planned outcomes.
- 1.15 Community Waitakere recommends that the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** works collaboratively with Community Waitakere to develop a **3 year partnering agreement** and shared work programme for the **2012 – 2015** period.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

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