



Submission to

Waitakere Ranges Local Board

Draft Annual Plan 2014/2015

from

Community Waitakere

Submission – Auckland Council Draft Annual Plan 2014/15
Democracy Services
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Submission to the Waitakere Ranges Local Board

Community Waitakere welcomes and supports Auckland’s vision of the ‘World’s most Liveable City’ and the seven community outcomes stated as the key goals of the Auckland Plan:

1. a fair, safe and healthy Auckland
2. a green Auckland
3. an Auckland of prosperity and opportunity
4. a well-connected and accessible Auckland
5. a beautiful Auckland that is loved by its people
6. a culturally rich and creative Auckland
7. Te Hau o Te Whenua, Te Hau o Te Tangata – a Māori identity that is Auckland’s point of difference in the world.

As we know, West Auckland will continue to experience intense growth and with that comes many challenges, including how to ensure our communities remain thriving and connected. We are already seeing the result of communities becoming disconnected throughout West Auckland and are working with partners to be responsive to these complexities. Community Waitakere is in a strong position to work closely with the Local Boards and our communities to address these challenges and seize the opportunities that will make a positive difference.

We wish to stress the importance of our relationship with local communities and the Waitakere Ranges Local Board in helping to navigate some of the contentious issues the amalgamation has raised. The collaborative partnerships between local communities, local and central government built over three decades have contributed to local authority decision-making in West Auckland being focussed, clear, transparent, effective and accountable. Community Waitakere has 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 all partners remains strong and determined to ensuring positive outcomes for our communities.

Community Waitakere has been a part of the West Auckland community for the past 30 years. Our mandate has come from community organisations and other stakeholders to: 1) promote the ethos and principals of community development; 2) support community organisations to undertake the great work they do for the benefit of our community by assisting them to build capability; 3) be an advocate for community and the community sector, bringing concerns into the public arena for discussion and working with decision makers to find solutions and identify opportunities. We do this with a lens to social justice, providing pathways for the most vulnerable in our communities to have a voice and ensuring the vision for our wonderful city is a reality for all, not just the few.

Community Waitakere’s work has a strong emphasis on community development; this includes initiating and supporting neighbourhood-led initiatives, community economic development and social enterprise. We believe in an asset approach rather than a deficit approach and look to see how we can capitalise on the opportunities that exist. We have a unique position as a locally based convening organisation which is essential to ensuring that regional activities are grounded in solid

local community experience and our communities remain safe, prosperous, resilient places to live. Places where people have a sense of belonging to their neighbourhoods and take pride in their region.

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

Submission

1. This submission is from **Community Waitakere Charitable Trust**. It is in response to the Auckland Council's Draft Annual Plan 2014/2015 and is specific to the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board**.
2. Our submission acknowledges the two complementary decision-making parts of Auckland Council (i.e. the Governing Body and the Local Boards) and the co-governance model.
3. Community Waitakere is committed to playing a key role in contributing to the co-governance model.
4. Community Waitakere will continue to 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.
5. Community Waitakere will work with the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** to engage with the communities within your area to enhance the planning process and to enable the communities' preferences and aspirations to be incorporated into the development of Local Board plans.
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.
7. Community Waitakere, in general, supports the priorities as outlined in the Draft Annual Plan 2013/14. We have comments to make on the following:
 - We welcome the Chairperson's acknowledgment of the wellbeing of the people and communities in the whole local board area as one of your primary focuses.
 - We are pleased to see that a firm connection has been made between the environment and community wellbeing and that the advocacy priorities support that premise.
 - Under local community services, we support the board's key initiative to enable community development in Glen Eden which includes the support of the Greater Glen Eden (GGE) community development initiative. Community Waitakere has worked alongside GGE through difficult beginnings and with increased Community Waitakere input, we will be working to achieve immediate deliverables and strengthen GGE's future capacity. We welcome the board's support of the revitalisation of Glen Eden and the development and the progression of the Business Improvement District Partnership. Community Waitakere has been a key partner in community economic development and social enterprise initiatives locally, including co-convening the Community Economic Development Network West and the Strong Local Economies Call to Action. We currently scoping other initiatives to support strong local economies and employment. We are also working with Glen Eden based social enterprises to develop their business plans.
 - Community Waitakere has a wealth of knowledge and experience of connecting communities with their natural environment, expressed most recently through our contributions to Project Twin Streams, Kids for Kauri, Our Place and other initiatives. We are

committed to working with the board to transition Project Twin Streams to its next phase of development, to increase education on kauri dieback and work alongside community members and organisations on various environmental programmes that value and protect the rich diversity of the Waitakere Ranges.

- We note the omission of support for Community Waitakere as providing, among other things, community leadership and capacity building trainings to meet local needs. Without the board's financial contribution, Community Waitakere will be unable to continue or contribute to the initiatives within your local board area.

We believe Community Waitakere is ideally placed to partner with the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board** in identifying opportunities and progressing them in a sustainable way that meets the objectives of the Local Board and our communities. Community Waitakere would like to extend the 'shared work programme' in a way that is of benefit to the community.

Community Waitakere commits to continuing the work it does within the community and extends an open invitation to the **Waitakere Ranges Board** to attend or link into the following:

8. Community Waitakere will continue to convene regular meetings of the **Community Chief Executives' Roundtable** where leaders of key West Auckland 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 snapshot view of up to 21 representative community sectors including Sport, Environment, Art and Culture, Health, Community Law, Youth, Housing etc.
9. Community Waitakere will continue to facilitate regular **Open Door Days** within the Waitakere Ranges area. Open Door Days provide an opportunity for community groups, individuals, small businesses and local government officers to network and identify 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.
10. 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, **with** the community and **in** the community.
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 as well as connecting with communities at the grass-roots level.
12. Community Waitakere continues to manage the **Waitakere Community Resource Centre** on behalf of Auckland Council. This facility is home to up to 7 multi-ethnic community organisations, many who have previously worked in total isolation. The centre offers them affordable office space and a place to share facilities, meeting rooms and networking opportunities. The Resource Centre is also used widely for community meetings by many community groups. We are currently re-imagining this space and will be involving community throughout to ensure a positive, dynamic and usable space for all.
13. **Community Waitakere**, through the Resource Centre, also provides relevant and affordable training and capacity building opportunities for community organisations, which also contributes to building resilience and community capacity. We are currently working on a capabilities

strategy to provide a cohesive and responsive series of programmes that could be delivered within the Waitakere Ranges area also.

14. We ask that the **Waitakere Ranges Local Board Members** support, strengthen and expand the collaborative work with Community Waitakere through the **3 year partnering agreement** (2014-2017) and the annual shared work programme developed in partnership.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission.

Regards
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