

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Upper Harbour Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Volume
2.17

Mihi

Tēnā kia tīkina atu e au he mihi,
he whakamānawa anō hoki
mai i ngā iwi taketake o te rohe nei.
Te toko ake i te rau aroha
o te tini whāioio kua whakakāinga nei
hei puru, hei takā mō tēnei tipua,
a Tāmaki Makaurau,
herehere tāngata, hereherenga tikanga.
Kia ea ai te kōrero rā,
“Kua hora te Waitematā
i ngā waka kapi-tai o Taikehu.”
Kia tere ko te tai tapu i te kauanga o te rangi,
he au maunutanga-toroa,
whai mai rā i ahau.
Ko au tēnei i toko ake ki te muriwai o te Waitematā,
tūtakinga o te wai tai
me te wai māori ki Te Whenuapai.
Kei kī mai koe, “He aha tōna pai?”
tērā au te whakahoki atu,
“He whenua taurikura hei kāinga tupunga uri.
He kōpūtunga ngaru tāngata te whakaeke tonu mai,
te whakaeke tonu mai.”
Nau mai e taku rahi, nau mai e taku iti,
ki ngā kapu o aku ringa koe atawhaitia ai.

Let me express greetings
and send good wishes
from the indigenous people of this place.
These, coupled with blessings that beckon with love
to all and sundry,
the ‘stops’ and ‘lashings’ that have chosen to make
Auckland home,
uniting people and inculcating cultures.
This gives meaning to the adage,
“Waitematā is awash
with all manner of vessel plying the tides of Taikehu.”
Reaching like a sacred tide to heaven itself
and like an albatross on a thermal wave,
follow me if you can.
Here I am in the backwaters of the Waitematā,
where sea meets
freshwater at Whenuapai.
You might ask “What good does it offer?”
I would answer,
“It is a prosperous and peaceful place.
Home to generations yet to come,
like the foam on a rising tide, they will keep on coming.”
Welcome both great and small,
in the cup of my hands I will nurture you.

He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Upper Harbour Local Board area from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2024/2025. It’s part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council’s Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Upper Harbour Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how **together we’re delivering for Auckland.**

▼ A whakawātea / blessing ceremony was held with Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust for the unveiling of Te Haa Kai Araara, which is a tūpuna pou / public art piece placed in Albany Village.

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He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

We are pleased to present our Annual Report for 2024/2025 and acknowledge the contributions of the community and staff in ensuring this was a successful year of delivery.

A key milestone was the completion of Stage 1a of Te Kori Scott Point, providing new paths, sport fields and open spaces already being enjoyed by residents. We continue to advocate for funding and prioritise the completion of this important project

We have upgraded several walking tracks including at Sanders, Gills, Wharf and Paremoremo Scenic Reserves.

A new relocatable modular pump track, currently installed at Glen Bay Close Reserve, is being used by residents of all ages and will be rotated across the Upper Harbour area.

The development of an ethnic people’s plan has progressed, shaped by strong community input. The plan aims to strengthen connections with ethnic communities and ensure our services reflect their needs. We will adopt the final plan shortly and have prioritised investment to support its implementation.

This year we allocated a record amount through community grants and a new community facility grant programme, supporting groups to deliver local outcomes. Grants included support for a pop-up business school with Business North Harbour, and funding contributions towards upgrades to community assets such as the Greenhithe Old School Building roof, a new indoor multi-sport facility in Albany, the Hobsonville Marine Sports Recreation Centre Charitable Trust and guttering for the Rosedale Sports Charitable Trust building.

Our environmental programme continues to grow, supporting our volunteers, waste education, industrial prevention pollution, stream restoration and school-based programmes.

Looking ahead, several projects in the planning phase are set for delivery next year, including a new toilet in Whenuapai, basketball facilities in Greenhithe and playground renewals at Hooton and Meadowood Reserves.

A long-term solution for a multi-purpose library facility in Albany remains a key priority for this local board and we continue to progress with delivering on this outcome for our community.

Finally, we want to thank the many volunteers, community groups, partners and individuals who give their time and energy to make Upper Harbour a great place to live, work and play.

Ngā mihi,



Anna Atkinson
Chairperson,
Upper Harbour
Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Upper Harbour

Upper Harbour Local Board



▲
(L to R) Callum Blair, John Mclean, Anna Atkinson (Chairperson), Kyle Parker, Uzra Casuri Balouch (Deputy Chairperson) and Sylvia Yang

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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Upper Harbour projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

✓
Delivered projects

- 1 Gills Reserve - install concrete path and renew tracks
- 2 Rosedale Park - road renewal (Jack Hinton Drive to Paul Matthews Road)
- 3 Sanders Reserve - track renewal
- 4 Install modular pump track
- 5 Te Kori Scott Point - develop sustainable sports park (Stage 1a)
- 6 Tomiro Road drainage reserve nature play equipment installation

🚶
Current projects

- 1 Te Kori Scott Point - develop sustainable sports park (Stage 1b)
- 2 Implement actions from the Greenways Plan
- 3 Hooton Reserve - renew play space
- 4 Meadowood Reserve - renew play space
- 5 Whenuapai Town Park - Investigate and develop new toilet facility
- 6 Investigate and develop dog agility areas in reserves in Rosedale
- 7 Fernhill Escarpment Stage Two - renew walkway
- 8 Collins Park - investigate and develop new public multi purpose basketball and netball court

Map legend

- Local board office
- Public open space (Unitary Plan)
- Motorway
- Major road
- Arterial road
- Medium road
- Minor road



A population of **76,959** expected to increase to **101,544** by **2050**

The only local board area with an **operational Air Force base** (in Whenuapai)



We are home to more than **200** local parks and sports fields, **1** library, **1** pool and leisure centre and **3** council-owned community centres



Council Growth Scenario AGS23v1 (Feb 2024), StatsNZ Census 2023 (initial release May 2024)

Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

KEY

●●●● Achieved ●●●● Substantially achieved (+/-2% slim margin) ●●●● Not achieved ●●●● Not measured

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 122-123 of Volume 1 of this Annual Report.

Local Community Services

We continued our support for partner delivery of programmes promoting connected and resilient communities in Albany, Greenhithe, Whenuapai and Hobsonville.

We invested in a preliminary geotech assessment at the preferred location for a new multi-purpose library facility in Albany and progressed the development of a spatial design, demonstrating our ongoing commitment to meeting growing community needs.

We progressed development of the Upper Harbour Ethnic Peoples Plan and implementation of the Upper Harbour Engagement Strategy, supporting inclusion and stronger community connections.

We continued to invest in environmental and climate initiatives, including planting aligned with the Upper Harbour Urban Ngahere Strategy and ongoing support for volunteer-led restoration efforts.

We also made progress on implementing the Upper Harbour Greenways Plan and the Wheeled Recreation Service Assessment, enhancing connectivity and recreational opportunities across the area.

Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities

The number of visits to library facilities	●●●●	Target	Result
Albany Village Library consistently exceeded visitor targets throughout the year, with a particularly strong performance in the January–March quarter, reaching 37 per cent above target. This reflects sustained community engagement and aligns with wider regional growth in library usage.	2025	122,000	145,563
	2024	148,000	124,962

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community¹	●●●●	Target	Result
Albany Village Library remained fully operational throughout the year with no service disruptions.	2025	100%	100%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of visits to Pool and Leisure Centres	●●●●	Target	Result
Visitor numbers at Albany Stadium Pool exceeded the target this year, partly reflecting a return to pre-COVID levels of activity and engagement. Membership also increased by 5 per cent, with a net gain of 125 members.	2025	543,000	665,833
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of time main Pool and Leisure Centre services are accessible to the community¹	●●●●	Target	Result
The time centre(s) were available to customers is within the target range for the quarter and year.	2025	95%	98.1%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²	●●●●	Target	Result
Within the building portfolio, a significant proportion of roof system assets, including roof panels, gutters, fascias, and downpipes, are currently in average condition, and expected to deteriorate further as part of standard asset lifecycle. These components are anticipated to require renewal over the coming years and will be incorporated into our renewals planning process.	2025	86%	96%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations supported to sustain their governance and capability	●●●●	Target	Result
The result was below target as the target was based on the best information available at the time, which included data from periods that may not reflect typical conditions.	2025	25	14
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of partner organisations and groups funded to deliver placemaking activities	●●●●	Target	Result
Funding supported a wide range of local initiatives, including the Lightbox project (Open Art Studios), Connected Neighbourhoods Trust (supporting three Whenuapai resident groups and 15 Scott Point street groups), Harbour Sport, Meadowood Community Centre, Greenhithe Community Trust, Sustainable Paremoremo, Harmony Hive, Al-Hoda Islamic School, Albany Community Hub, and Meadowood Community Centre. This result reflects strong community engagement and collaboration across the local board area.	2025	8	27
	2024	New measure	New measure

Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and ngahere) and access to the coast

Percentage of local parks, facilities and spaces meeting maintenance quality standards³	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	90%	94.3%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition²	●●●●	Target	Result
While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a significant proportion of land fixture assets - such as bins, fitness equipment, drinking fountains and seating - have deteriorated from average to poor or very poor condition. These assets will form part of renewals planning.	2025	85%	94%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of trees planted in the Urban Ngahere programme⁴

When setting targets, we use average market rates for tree stock and labour costs. During actual delivery, however, we focus on achieving the best value for money, both in tree costs and labour. This approach allows us to plant more trees within the same budget. The overall budget doesn't change; rather, we find ways to optimise costs and achieve higher planting numbers.

	Target	Result
2025	52	58
2024	New measure	New measure

- 1. This measure compares actual opening hours to advertised opening hours to achieve a result.
- 2. For definitions of "Community Facilities" and "Local open space assets" please refer to the Glossary in Volume 1 of this Annual Report, pages 124-126
- 3. Maintenance quality standards are defined through SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and asset maintenance contracts. These standards are monitored by staff who have received specialised training and are audited through a quality process to ensure consistent scoring.
- 4. Urban Ngahere delivers specimen trees intended to be over 3m tall. Additional plantings occur outside this programme.

Local planning and development

We continued our ongoing support and engagement with Business North Harbour through the Business Improvement District programme.

Support a strong local economy

Percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) targeted rate grant agreement obligations

	Target	Result
2025	100%	100%
2024	100%	100%

Local environmental management

We supported healthy ecosystems and sustainability through a range of local board-funded initiatives, including planting, pest control, water quality improvements, and waste minimisation projects.

The Upper Harbour Ecology Initiatives Assistance programme enabled community-led restoration and pest management efforts.

Our construction waste education and leadership programme promoted better practices across building sites, while the Industrial Pollution Prevention Programme focused on reducing pollution risks in commercial areas.

We delivered the Local Streams (Sustainable Schools) programme, fostering environmental awareness and action in local schools.

We also continued restoration of the Waiarohia Stream and undertook habitat enhancement work to support inanga spawning.

Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage

Volunteer time undertaking animal and/or plant pest control (hours)

This measure has captured both rounds of pest control and trap checks as they were not recorded separately. This has cause this measure to exceed the target.

	Target	Result
2025	4,000	26,358
2024	New measure	New measure

Rounds of pest control carried out in key areas

This measure reflects the trap checks that were undertaken over the financial year. This has caused the result to be higher than expected.

	Target	Result
2025	127	19,243
2024	New measure	New measure

Local governance

Activities in this group supported the board in engaging with and representing its communities, and making decisions on local activities. This included strategic advice; local board plans, agreements and work programmes; community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities; and democracy and administrative support.

Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities

Number of local activities that deliver moderate to high outcomes for Māori as outlined in 'Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau' (Council's Māori outcomes framework).

	Target	Result
2025	Set baseline	9
2024	New measure	New measure



▲ Volunteers from the Herald Island Environmental Group are restoring Kingsway Reserve, preparing the area for infill planting.



▲ The Collins Park playground upgrade includes accessible play equipment, a wider path and ramp access.

▼ Te Kori Scott Point, Hobsonville



Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

Pest control moves to the next level in Upper Harbour

Ecological groups, volunteers and the community are finding it easier to carry out pest control projects in Upper Harbour with the aid of the Wai Roa ō Kahu / Upper Harbour Pest Management Strategy.

This strategy prioritises pest-control projects that are effective and will restore indigenous biodiversity in Upper Harbour. Developing the strategy in partnership with Te Kawerau ā Maki helped identify key sites that are a focus for pest control.

Community workshops and input from council staff, mana whenua, the Upper Waitemata Ecology Network (UWEN) and others helped shape the strategy.

UWEN Manager Rachael Pates says the strategy captures the challenges faced by UWEN and volunteers who tackle the range of assaults on the natural environment caused by pest animals and pest plants.

“By delivering the most meaningful impacts in areas with the highest risk of harm, we can target our efforts to give precious ecosystems the best support we can,” she says.

“The strategy pulls together meaningful information that is specific to our landscape and our challenges.”

Aimed at community partners, volunteers, landowners, businesses, schools and tertiary institutions, the strategy includes:

- key factors for project planning, project sustainability and reporting
- developing high level location-specific pest plant management plans
- a collation of existing policies, guidelines and conservation initiatives
- roles, responsibilities of stakeholders and potential partners for landscape scale projects
- an overview of Upper Harbour pest control initiatives and projects
- maps showing priority areas and recommended control approaches for each.

With possums a major threat species, the Greenhithe Community Trust has a new possum-free peninsula project inspired by the strategy.

Eco Facilitator Nicola Robertson says the strategy helps guide community conservation efforts in Greenhithe.

“The strategy has inspired the Greenhithe Possum Free Peninsula Project, focusing on our peninsula’s unique geography to slow reinvasion and target possums which are a major pest species,” she says.

“We look forward to delivering stage one of the project. With community support, we’re progressing towards preserving and enhancing Greenhithe’s natural landscape for future generations.”

The Wai Roa ō Kahu / Upper Harbour Pest Management Strategy is available on the council website.



▲ Moho pererū / Banded rail. Image courtesy of Imogen Warren

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2025

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2024/2025	Annual Plan 2024/2025*	Annual Plan 2023/2024
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		17,310	17,310	14,606
Targeted rates		785	823	784
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		35	28	28
Fees and charges		3,674	3,581	3,222
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other		149	131	121
Total operating funding		21,952	21,874	18,761
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	19,083	17,664	15,344
Finance costs		1,701	1,701	834
Internal charges and overheads applied		2,485	2,485	2,578
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		23,269	21,850	18,756
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		(1,316)	24	5
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	12,580	13,180	7,718
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		12,580	13,180	7,718
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		7,167	8,261	796
- to improve the level of service		618	1,854	4,717
- to replace existing assets		3,479	3,090	2,211
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		11,264	13,204	7,723
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		1,316	(24)	(5)
Funding balance		0	0	0

*Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034

Variance explanation Actual 2024/2025 to Annual Plan 2024/2025

1. We spent more than planned on staff and supplier payments. This was mainly because we increased wages to meet the living wage and faced higher utility bills due to rising market prices. Also, while part of the staff budget for council-run pools and leisure centres was held at a regional level, the actual costs were charged to the local board.
2. We spent less than planned on capital projects, which helped offset higher staff and supplier payments. Because of this, we ended up with a funding surplus and didn't need to borrow as much as expected.
3. We spent less than planned on capital projects. However, some development work at Scott Point Sports Park was brought forward from next year, which helped to partially offset the underspend.

► New toilet facility at Te Kori Scott Point, Hobsonville.



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ISSN 2624-2133 (Print)
ISSN 2624-2141 (PDF)