

You can help shape the future of your local board area

Currently, local boards are developing their three-year plan. These plans create direction for not only the local boards elected members, but also for Auckland Council and Council Controlled Organisations (CCOs). It is important Forest & Bird members and supporters engage in this process, being the voice for nature and letting the decision makers know that our communities prioritise a thriving natural environment.

We are experiencing both a climate and biodiversity crisis, now is not the time to put nature on the backburner.

What to do

You can influence the new plan by completing the survey via the [Council website](#) before August 13th. Additionally, or alternatively, you can also attend an in-person hui with your elected Local Board members to express what you and your whānau want prioritised. Find your board [here](#), read through the local board plan page and you will find a link and button which takes you to the survey. It is easy to make your voice heard and the board will appreciate hearing from you.

To ensure nature is top of the list, start off with our prepared suggestions (or similar), for environment and climate change (below). For further information you can read your board's plan on Auckland Council's web page. You might like what it includes and choose to support continuity, or want changes and provide new ideas.

Local board plans all follow the same format with ~4-6 outcomes that identify a policy theme. These have a local identity but mostly address the same common themes:

- climate change
- environment
- community wellbeing
- culture and heritage
- transport
- parks and facilities (recreation)
- economy

Under each outcome your Local Board Plan will have several objectives associated with that outcome. These narrow down the focus of the outcome and provide the main policy statements that are used for developing latter work programs. Then under each objective there will be several key initiatives. These are specific projects that should be put into future work programs by the Local Board, or advocacy items that the Local Board would like other parts of Auckland Council or the CCOs to adopt.

In your survey response you might want to advocate for these kinds of outcomes generally or get more detailed with specific suggestions for key initiatives that relate to where you live. Please see the below table for suggested objectives and key initiatives. Your feedback will be most effective if it is personalised and locally relevant.

Objective	Possible Key Initiatives
<p>Our environment is protected and enhanced</p> <p>*Likely under environment outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Māori aspirations for kaitiakitanga over our natural environment for the benefit of current and future generations • Provide annual grant funding for environmental organisations • Partner with the community groups and mana whenua to implement projects focusing on education, planting, weed management, water quality, pest management and indigenous biodiversity protection and restoration initiatives across public and private land, such as [insert your local example] • Deliver a local freshwater stream quality programme to identify and mitigate pollution sources and protect the Hauraki Gulf/Manukau Harbour/coastal waters • Restore wetlands • Make grants to local groups for projects and actions which have a positive effect on the local environment • Consider and evaluate the impact of all local board projects on the environment • Deliver the Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy to increase the urban ngahere in our parks and open spaces • Advocate for increased monitoring of air and water quality
<p>Our community is resilient to the impacts of climate change</p> <p>*Likely under climate outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the community in moving to low carbon, resilient and sustainable practices by funding projects, events and research enabling both mitigation and adaption to climate change impacts • Consider and evaluate the impact of all local board projects on climate change • Advocate Council and CCOs to make room for rivers and streams to flood safely, so that flooding does not destroy communities, by stopping development in flood-prone areas and enabling managed retreat • Support community-led food initiatives such as community gardens, learning to grow or prepare food, reducing packaging and food waste and sharing produce • Make grants to local groups for projects or actions which will have a positive impact on community resilience (such as those maintaining or creating carbon sinks, or nature-based solutions such as restoring wetlands, creating room for streams to flow naturally, protecting sand dunes and mangroves)
<p>Infrastructure prioritises nature-based solutions</p> <p>*Likely under environment and/or facilities outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate the effects of climate change by restoring freshwater ecosystems to provide ecological services such as flood mitigation, habitat for native biodiversity, sedimentation reduction, and carbon sequestration through riparian planting • Plant more trees for shade in public spaces to mitigate the causes and consequences of climate change (e.g., removing pollutants and limiting the urban heat island effect) • Build more rain gardens in public spaces • Advocate for strong tree protection in planning rules • Identify areas in parks and reserves to retire from general maintenance (mowing) and support community groups to plant as conservation areas

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate to ensure town planning regulations consider sustainable practices and reduce risks related to climate change (e.g., coastal inundation, erosion and inland flooding).
<p>Public and active transport modes are prioritised over road spending</p> <p>*Likely under transport outcome</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an accessible, safe and efficient network of pathways and cycleways across our neighbourhoods • Advocate to Auckland Transport (AT) to improve the local public transport network in [insert local board area] to provide lower carbon and more efficient services (e.g., feeder bus service integration and optimisation, Park & Ride facilities, ferry service optimization, or other innovations). • Advocate to AT to deliver projects that align with the Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP), the key strategy to de-carbonise Auckland’s transport system. • Advocate to AT for improved cycle and pathway safety, including lighting, physical traffic barriers, accessibility and proactive maintenance to prevent problems • Advocate to AT for more local initiatives to contribute to decarbonisation by encouraging more use of public transport. Examples could be electric on-demand public transport options or better bike storage at transport hubs

Additional Resources:

Please see the below resources to gain a better understanding or find inspiration for your local board plan submission.

1. [Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan](#)
2. [Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway \(TERP\)](#)
3. [Information about local boards](#)
4. [Local Board Plans 2023](#)
5. [Nature-based solutions, as in National Adaption Plan](#)
6. [Room for Rivers](#)
7. [Every Wetland Counts](#)
8. [Natural Ecosystem Carbon Sinks](#)