



30 June 2017

Orakei Local Board
By email

Comments on Draft Orakei Local Board Plan 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Local Board Plan.

Overall, we believe the Plan looks good, is logically structured, and addresses most of the key goals that we would expect the Orakei Local Board to have.

There are a few key areas identified below, however, which we believe are either not covered, or not sufficiently emphasised or prioritised, and we suggest you consider how best to incorporate these into the Plan.

1. First and foremost, we see the implementation of the Tamaki Drive Master Plan as one of the most important things that could deliver long term value to the Mission Bay and Kohimarama communities, as well as to the many users of the Tamaki Drive environs from outside this area. The Plan addresses a few specific aspects of Tamaki Drive development, particularly in Outcome 3, but we do not see a commitment to try to drive the Tamaki Drive Master Plan forward as an integrated and coordinated programme of work.

We recognise that this is difficult, and that many of the visionary goals of the Master Plan may take far longer to achieve than the timeframes covered by Auckland Council's budgetary processes, but this should not stop the OLB from trying to develop an implementation plan. Such a plan would identify the full range of projects that need to be undertaken, and prioritise these and provide approximate sequences and timelines.

At the moment, we see individual projects coming up with no obvious rationale behind why they have been prioritised over other projects, little coordination between current and probable future projects, and a perennial shortage of funds encouraging sub-optimal choices that will eventually constrain the value delivered.

For example, we note that Tamaki Drive appears to have one of the most well used recreational cycling, running and walking routes from Okahu Bay to St Heliers, and particularly from Mission Bay to St Heliers. This stretch of footpath is intensively used by all three groups with overcrowding common on the weekends, with resultant loss of amenity value and increasing safety issues.

We therefore applaud efforts to create separated cycleways. But it is hard to understand why the focus should be firstly on the least used portion of Tamaki Drive, from Ngapipi Rd to Quay St, rather on the area with the greatest existing demand. If a cost benefit

study were performed on all of the cycleway projects in the Orakei Ward based on existing and potential user numbers and benefits, there is little doubt that creating an iconic boardwalk from Okahu Bay to St Heliers would be right at the top of the list. But it is not even on the list right now!

We believe this is because there is no overall coordination for all Tamaki Drive projects, but instead individual projects are proposed based on Auckland Transport's commuting focus, ignoring recreational values.

We would like the OLB to be a strong advocate for a balanced programme of work aligned to the Tamaki Drive Master Plan, where weighting is given not just to transport needs, but also to recreational and aesthetic values.

We would also like the OLB to take ownership of the Tamaki Drive Master Plan, bring the various interested parties together and breathe life into it. We would be happy to work with you on this.

2. We see references to a Local Paths Plan created in 2016. We are not aware of this plan and cannot find it on the Council website. It would be helpful if a plan such as this were made public.
3. The OLB has done a great job on playgrounds in the area with some fantastic new and redeveloped examples throughout the ward. Well done.

There is no mention of playgrounds in the draft plan, however. We are not sure whether this programme is complete or whether there is more to come, but the programme is well worth continuing if there are remaining areas without playgrounds or with less modern ones. We suggest you include a brief reference to the playground programme, particularly since this has been such a success story to date.

4. Outcome 4, that our natural environment is valued, protected and enhanced, is a worthy goal, and we agree with most of what has been included there. We note, however, that despite beaches being identified as the very first item on the list to be protected, there is nothing to address any issues that affect our beaches in the subsequent text.

Our beaches are the core of this community., but sewage overflow into the harbour remains one of the greatest threats to the amenity value of these beaches. Water quality after rain events is generally very poor, periodically leading to closed beaches. While the Madill's Farm tank and pipeline project will improve the situation, we are aware of several significant issues with repeated sewage overflows upstream of that, and struggle to get any focus on the problem let alone a solution. Ironically, one such location is about to lose road access through development which will make it much more difficult and expensive to fix in the future.

We would like to see the OLB advocate on behalf of the community to WaterCare and Healthy Waters to deal with these small but significant problems that threaten our beaches and streams. We do not see anything specifically in the Plan to address this.

5. We understand that Local Boards have limited powers, responsibilities and budgets. We do not expect the OLB to do everything themselves. We do, however, see that the OLB has a position that should allow it to be an effective advocate or lobbyist on behalf of the community for things outside its direct responsibility. For example, roading, footpaths or sewage might be AT or WaterCare responsibilities, but they are issues of significant local

interest, and we would expect the OLB to lobby strongly to get the best outcome for the community.

There are references to advocacy within the Plan, but we believe this role is such an important and fundamental one that it should be front and centre in the Plan. Instead, there is just a brief definition of the Local Board's responsibilities, followed, almost as an afterthought, by a broad statement "Local boards also have a role in representing the view of their communities on issues of local importance".

We suggest you strengthen this section to make it clear that representing community views on matters outside your direct authority is equally important to the direct roles you have.

Overall, we would like to congratulate you on producing a solid Plan and presenting it in a logical structure. We hope our suggestions will contribute to making it even better.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Stock', written in a cursive style.

Don Stock
Chairman
Mission Bay Kohimarama Residents Association