



[Auckland Council Budget Feedback Form](#)

Our position is that some budget cuts are likely to be inevitable and that funding cuts should be made in areas which can most **easily be reinstated** or where **they are making efficiencies**. Funding **should not** be cut to initiatives which; protect our most vulnerable, build a vibrant creative and inclusive city, enhance sustainability and environmental protections, culture and the arts, and build strong connected communities.

Instead of the \$125 million in cuts, this submission proposes \$40 million in cuts, and the shortfall of \$85 million to be made up of increased rates and debt. The \$40 million in funding cuts will come from the already identified cuts across council.

Question 1 - Operating spending reductions

Question 1 is the most important question on the feedback form as it is about the proposed Operating Spending Reductions. This guide suggests making some efficiency savings in Council and retaining funding which supports the most vulnerable people's well being, the environment, communities and the arts.

1. What is your preference on the proposed operating cost reductions?

- Proceed with the proposed reductions
- Do not proceed with some reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt**
- Do not proceed with any reductions and instead further increase rates and/or debt
- Other
- I don't know

Tell us why, and which reduction you would not proceed with, if any:

Remember to say in your own words

I am comfortable with the council making efficiency cuts in council as proposed.

Do not reduce funding to Tātaki Auckland Unlimited and Regional Services, Local Boards, Contestable Grants and Early Childhood Education. The proposed budget cuts are massive and many people from many sectors of society would be negatively impacted. They would harm the local economy, negatively impact people's well being, and cost more in the long run.

Then you may choose to add more on what is most important to you (suggested comments below)

Arts, culture and music focus

Continue funding Tātaki Auckland Unlimited - thousands of creatives, producers, directors, technicians etc depend on council support to help fund projects, shows and events. This contributes to the vibrancy in our

city. The loss of this funding will also lead to bars and restaurants losing revenue and also make the city less attractive tourist destination.

Environment focus

Do not reduce funding for sustainability and environmental projects. These projects are critical for our resilience and the future protection against weather events associated with the climate emergency that the council recognises. They also engage lots of volunteers so are an efficient use of council money.

Contestable grants

Do not reduce regional contestable grants - these grants support important community empowerment and environmental projects, as well as projects supporting Māori and Pasifika communities. They also foster good ideas and support people creating better systems which benefit everyone.

Community Focus

Do not cut funding to communities as connected communities are critical as it builds resilience. Once communities become disconnected it is difficult to bring people back together. Community is important for our well being, and makes the city attractive to future residents.

Local board

Do not reduce local board funding as this engages people in the community; to create local projects, build local strengths, connect people around fun activities, and facilitate connections within our communities. Do not reduce local board funding as they are in a good position to identify and support the projects which best serve their community.

Regional services (support to homeless, youth activities and education)

Do not reduce regional services as many of these help people with fewer resources offering youth and education programmes, arts and culture programs, regional events, and economic development. Many of these services give access to resources, and make learning and participation in society possible for many people.

Do not reduce Early Childhood Education services until clarity regarding how these services can be best delivered is known.

Question 2 - Amending Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) Shareholding Policy

The council proposes to sell all their shares in Auckland Airport which is 18%. This will deduce debt and save 87 million in interest payments.

- Proceed with the proposal to enable the sale of all our shares in AIAL and use the proceeds to reduce debt and therefore annual interest costs by around \$87 million per year
- Enable a partial sale of our shares, maintaining a 10 per cent shareholding in AIAL (reducing our interest costs by around \$40 million per year), and further increase rates and/or debt
- Don't change the policy, keep all our shares and further increase rates and/or debt**
- Other
- I don't know

Tell us why

I do not agree with selling an asset which will earn money well into the future.

Question 3 - Managing rates and debt

The budget currently proposes a 4.6% rates increase and \$75 million of additional debt. The 4.6% rate increase will cost \$154 a year or \$3 per week for the average household.

What we know is:

- The council has relatively low debt and can use debt to prevent cuts.
- a 1% rise in rates brings in 20 million dollars.

What is your preference on our proposal to manage debt?

This guide suggests a mixture of small rate increases and an increase in debt so “other” is selected.

What is your preference on our proposal to manage rates and debt?

- Proceed with the proposed increases to rates (4.66 per cent overall for the average value residential property) and debt (up to \$75 million of additional debt)
- Set a higher general rates increase
- Make greater use of debt
- Set a lower general rates increase and make greater use of debt
- Set a higher general rates increase and make less use of debt
- Other
- I don't know

Tell us why

Using more debt and slightly larger rates increases will ensure the operation reductions proposed can be a lot less. Investment now in the form of debt will help our preparedness into the future.

Question 4 - Storm response

What is your preference on our proposal to manage the impact of future storms?

- Proceed with the proposal to increase our operating budget by around \$20 million each year
- Do not proceed with the proposal
- Other
- I don't know

Yes, preparing for future weather events is essential.

Question 5: Local Board priorities

Look up your local board priorities to complete this question.

Note: This question is asking if you agree with the board priorities *not* if you agree with the local board cuts.

- I support all priorities
- I support most priorities**
- I do not support most priorities
- I do not support any priority
- Other
- Don't Know

Tell us why (remember say in your own words):

Do not cut funding to local boards as local boards need funding so they can:

- Support local initiatives which reflect community interests as investing in local projects engages people to become involved locally and this builds community connections which leads to increased well being and resilience.
- Fund more of what the community says it wants through the local board.
- Continue to create community events and bring communities together.
- Continue to build partnerships with community groups to create local solutions
- Provide Quick Grants which are great for community groups to connect to the community in interesting and creative ways.

B) If funding for local board activities is reduced, which three of our services do you not want to reduce funding for? (i.e. which are most important to you?) **You Choose**

Question 6 - Changes to other rates, fees and charges

What do you think of these proposals?

Waste management rates changes

	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Cost changes in waste management, including: (A) a 10.6 per cent base rate increase, (B) an option for a new 80L bin in the former Auckland City Council and Manukau City Council areas (80L bin price will be \$143.71), and (C) an increase to the 240L refuse bin price (from \$254.15 to \$287.41)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Introduce a one-off fee of \$40 for those residents wishing to change their bin size	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Extend the food scraps targeted rate to the new areas that will receive the service this year	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Changes to other rates

	Support	Do not support	Other	I don't know
Swimming Pool/Spa Pool Fencing Compliance Targeted Rate: increases to reflect the actual costs of the service, and an increase in the fee for follow up inspections	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Change which bus services are funded by the Climate Action Targeted Rate from what was planned, to ensure that we can continue to deliver the climate and service outcomes for which the CATR was established	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Do you have any feedback on the proposed changes in the tables above, or the other proposed changes to rates fees and charges? Say what you think here.

Question 7 - What else is important to you?

Ideas for comments

- We need to invest in local boards as they are in a better position to support and foster solutions for their community and build climate resilience.
- Collaboration between governmental groups and communities needs to happen now. Auckland Council needs to work with communities to find solutions. Councils cannot solve climate change issues which are complicated and expensive on their own, and will need to lobby the Central Government for assistance.

- We as a city need to lift people up through support and opportunities and creating inclusive environments
- Consider developing “sponge cities” which may help to mitigate damage from future weather events.