



Email: info@takapunara.org.nz
Website: takapunara.org.nz

Takapuna Residents Association (“TRA”) submission on the draft Devonport-Takapuna Local Board Plan 2023

Question 5 of Feedback Form

The TRA is steadfastly against the investigation of the use of a Targeted Rate to help fund an enhanced library and community hub facility in Takapuna. We do not believe the DTLB should expend any resource or time on such an investigation.

FEEDBACK ON PILLARS

People - We value inclusivity, diversity, and resilience

Diversity

- We note Takapuna is very diverse community:
 - Takapuna Primary School has identified 45 nationalities out of a roll of 395 students
 - Significant disparity in income and property value between Takapuna west and Takapuna central/beachside
 - Presence of social housing and homelessness alongside multi-million dollar properties

Support for disabled

- Takapuna has entities/facilities to support disabled people i.e. Wilson Trust, PHAB, Summit Point, Takapuna Beach toilets, Flourish Café, WVSS Transition Facility, summer beach access.
- Council should ensure this is recognised in its planning and maintenance of streetscapes, parking and amenities. E.g. keep paths in good order, prevent falls into ‘pits’ on Hurstmere Road, ensure easy access to parks and buildings, disabled parking, easily accessible buses

Emergency Management

- It would seem an opportunity to differentiate Takapuna and further improve its’ destination appeal
- TRA does not support the current approach (through ANCAD) towards developing community resilience. Better leadership and contribution is needed from Council. It is unreasonable to expect every local community to develop a plan from scratch with no resource or expertise being provided.

Participation and understanding of what Local Boards do

TRA acknowledges that DTLB has limited power and authority, particularly with funding determined by the Governing body through Councils Annual and 10-year budget cycle. However, as is made very clear, the DTLB does have a significant role for advocacy. In light of this, TRA is looking to DTLB recognise the interests of the community through:

1. Advocate for the interests of the local community within the current workings of Council. We see the role of the Board is to support the community and bring local knowledge to situations. Too often in the past it has seemed that the DTLB has adopted a position to suit wider Council interests, rather than to the best interest of Takapuna. The Plan should include tools to better explain the DTLB position on key items.
 - Ensure consultation is open questions and not carried out as just 'Yes' or 'No' which can be a perceived biased manner
 - DTLB should advocate for funding and savings in Takapuna to be utilised within Takapuna. Too often it feels that Takapuna is treated as a soft touch for Council and particularly Panuku.
 - Free parking in Wynyard quarter versus paid parking in Takapuna Unlock project
 - New bus station included in plans for Northcote Unlock project but not Takapuna Unlock project
 - Library/community facility renovation or construction without targeted rate e.g. St Heliers, Devonport, Titirangi, Westgate, Northcote, Pukukohē
2. Seek commentary / feedback from TRA and recognise it as a community group. Allow TRA to be a voice for things happening in Takapuna. This can be in confidence/under a Non disclosure agreement (NDA) if needed.
 - A local view can be beneficial when 'Head Office' promotes something
 - Too often things happen where a little 'early involvement' could reduce controversy e.g. Northcroft / Huron blue dots
3. Exercise fiscal discipline.
 - Ask hard questions and avoid being seen as a rubber stamp. Simple things like ensuring Best Practice for procurement is observed e.g. ensuring three quotes for major construction.

Environment - Our natural and built spaces are cared for and we put water quality and the environment front and centre.

Sacred Grove

- The closing of the Sacred Grove access has restricted beach access at high tide. The DTLB should investigate ways to maintain this access on one of Auckland's most visited beaches.

Flooding

- Council should restore / implement a drain clearance program. Council should also encourage reporting (and resolution) of drainage issues. Within Takapuna there are sites (e.g. Auburn Street, Esmonde Road, Fred Thomas Drive) that will flood/fail to drain with every heavy rain.

Housing Intensification

- We expect that the Board will hold Council officers to account in enforcing the requirements of the Unitary plan, particularly with regards to vegetation, permeable surfaces, building requirements. We feel 'discretion' has been applied liberally for the benefit of Developers.
- We ask the Compliance team to be more stringent. It feels that the only way to achieve compliance is by escalation to elected members.

Takapuna does not comply with the Council Open Spaces policy

- Noting the further intensification expected, we request the Board to investigate ways that Takapuna could be compliant with the Open Spaces Policy. We consider Budget constraints to affect timing rather than prevent compliance.

Urban forest strategy / Canopy coverage

- We object to any further asset sales until the Board proposes a way to meet the Council policy
- Request local input into plantings within local parks and amenities.
- Plantings need to be appropriate for the site and be able to cohabit with the other uses of the site. For example, Parks are an active area that should not be impeded.
- Plantings should facilitate wildlife and support the green corridors between Rangitoto Island, Tiritiri Matangi Island and Waitakere Ranges. This means extending existing habitats or providing new substantive habitats. Planting solo trees in open space or berms does not provide good habitat.
- Selection of indigenous or exotic trees should be based on purpose. Street side planting requires trees that will not impinge on the road or drop e.g. Pohutakawa are not ideal.

Protect mature healthy trees

- By its nature the apartment and terraced housing zone will reduce capability to build habitats.
- Expect the Board will ensure protection of mature healthy trees on public land.
- Expect the Board to encourage the Compliance team to attend and enforce non-compliance
- Where discretion is needed on Consenting, developers should be encouraged to maintain existing substantive trees.

Improve water quality

- Lake Pupuke needs its own deliverable.
- Lake Pupuke suffers from run-off from lakeside properties. Better guidance and enforcement for residents is needed to improve water quality e.g. washing cars on permeable surfaces.
- Where possible, discharge should be directed away from Lake Pupuke.

Community - Our community has access to quality services in facilities that meet their needs

Safety in the Square

- The Square should be well lit. Currently it looks a bit dim at night.
- We request CCTV be installed in the Square to inhibit antisocial behaviour - we do not want a return to the drug dealing that used to occur outside Burger King.

Low cost wayfinding

- Suggest the introduction of signage in Bus station / Square indicating way to Beach, Parks etc.
- Walking guides should be volunteer. We do not support employment/contracting of this service.

Lack of youth facilities

- We note the absence of youth facilities - there are no basketball courts, skate park or the like for youth to congregate.
- The Takapuna Playground tends to be taken over by teenage school children after school.

Amenity within the square

- We ask the DTLB ensure buildings within the Square and its surrounding area comply with the undertakings and presentations provided to the Governing body when the Square was approved. The level of shading has always been and remains of particular concern (some people believe a building to the north of the Square will result in shading).
- Constraints should be placed on the Developer to minimise daytime noise and interference to Park and Square users.

Bi-lingual signage

- In light of restricted budgets and competing needs, TRA supports implementation of bilingual signs when existing signs require replacement.

Integrated services

- TRA does not support a 'future proofed facility' that will lead to a reduced level of service. We are of the view that the level of service provided by the Westgate hub is a lesser facility than currently in Takapuna
- We do not support the investigation of a targeted rate to fund these or other core or standard services.

Gasometer site

- DTLB ensure development of the Gasometer site is to a high standard and provides genuine long term rental opportunities to enable workforce and families locating in Takapuna.
- Robust traffic management recognising the safety needs of school children and pedestrians who transit Auburn Street.
- Prevent discharge into the nearby Northcroft stormwater and Reserve

Play facilities

- Unlike other playgrounds, the Takapuna Reserve playground does not have any sun shading for either the play area or seats where parents wait. The Takapuna Reserve playground is not safe for young children.
- Potters Park playground had its equipment changed to suit toddler age children and is well used by preschoolers and many of the new entrants at Takapuna Primary.
- Takapuna Beach and Potters Park playgrounds are used inappropriately by older youth.
- The Northcroft Street playground would benefit from better wayfinding signage.

Places - Our transport network is safe, efficient and offers choice for how people can get around

Improve safe cycling and pedestrian access along the key connections of Burns/Auburn Avenue, Killarney and Anzac Streets

Jaywalking at Burns Avenue / Esmonde Road intersection

The Auburn Street / Burns Avenue corridor is dangerous for vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists

The Auburn / Burns corridor has become a de facto means of transit between the Northern motorway and Hauraki / Devonport

Upgrade bus station

Improve bus patronage

Introduce a 'Takapuna Link' branded bus

- These roads are primary routes into Takapuna but are car-centric. The roads are narrow and generally regarded as dangerous for cyclists, particularly children. There is no room for cycle lanes on the roads. Instead a program should be undertaken to provide 'Share with care' pathway through concreting berms or widening existing pathways.
- Barriers are needed in the middle of the central island on Esmonde Road opposite Eldon St. Passengers alight at Stop 3445 on Burns Avenue and attempt to cross Esmonde Road from the western corner of Burns Avenue via the island to access Eldon St (and Napier, Harley etc). This poses a risk to drivers, particularly those turning left into Burns Avenue.
- The roundabouts contain hedges which restrict visibility and indicators of oncoming and turning traffic. These hedges should be removed and replaced with low level vegetation decoration that requires minimal maintenance.
- A slip lane should be installed on the motorway between Esmonde Road and Northcote Road heading south - this would enable cars to exit at Esmonde Road and avoid Takapuna.
- Investigation into options that would make the right hand lane on Esmonde Road when heading to the motorway more accessible to north bound cars.
- Takapuna is one of the busiest bus stations in Auckland, but the current facilities are looking tired, poorly lit and unappealing.
- We note that an upgraded bus station is part of the Eke Panuku project in Northcote. Panuku should be including the bus station as part of the Takapuna project.
- We note that the #82 bus provides excellent connectivity to Wynyard Quarter and University. The #83 bus connectivity to Smales Farm and further West and North. Akoranga has limited potential to improve connectivity.
- A major impediment is the poor access to Downtown and Britomart through the Fanshawe transit point heading into the city. The delay in transit, weather exposure and even lack of understanding deter people using public transport to other parts of Auckland.
- Other high density residential and commercial areas have branded Link buses e.g. Newmarket, Parnell, St Lukes, Mt Albert, Glen Innes. Having a high frequency unscheduled connection would make Takapuna more accessible. Ideally, this bus would run from Britomart, Esmonde, through Takapuna to Milford and then onto Smales Farm, providing easy connection to both North and South Auckland for a significant population. The current #82 could be extended to Smales Farm.

Economy - Our economy is thriving, our town centres are vibrant, and there is opportunity for all

Increase short term parking along Lake Road

- The short term parking along Lake Road between Byron Ave and Huron Street was removed to facilitate bus movements. There are two bus routes (#801, #804) along this road with each on a half-hourly schedule, with one additional bus per half hour in peak time.
- Recommend that the yellow lines are removed and replaced with a Clearway (or T2) in peak hour. Outside peak hour the vehicle movements are low enough to not impede bus movements. The additional parking would facilitate access to the takeaway businesses in the street.

We note this approach is used on high frequency routes such as Dominion and Manukau Roads.

Restore parking in Northcroft Street and Huron Street

Facilitate family-friendly events

- We believe the removal of parking in these streets was too aggressive and some could be returned without compromising safety. We note that installation of planter boxes and shelters has been poorly received and is not considered to add to the ambience of the streets.
- We note that the success of the Winter lights festival and support similar events that might periodically close Hurstmere Road e.g. Food cart nights, Sunday Market, Summer festivals. We do not support alcohol based events such as St Patricks day, Wine festivals.
- Provision of events should be made easier and cheaper through:
 - Erection of closable barriers at Hurstmere Road to facilitate easy road closing (and saving traffic management costs)
 - Installation of power access and water access in the Square and Hurstmere Road (noting that at Winter lights festival, operators were required to use diesel generators).

Free parking

- Recognise that Takapuna is competing with areas such as Milford and Birkenhead
- Bring back 60-minute free on-street parking, which would particularly facilitate café and professional appointments e.g. Dentists, Doctors, Physiotherapists.
- Make Toka Puia free on Saturday and Sunday.