

13 July 2020

Whau Local Board
Auckland Council
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SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT WHAU LOCAL BOARD PLAN 2020

The Rosebank Business Association ('RBA') welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Whau Local Board Plan 2020.

The RBA is located on over 154 hectares of land situated north of Avondale between Eastdale reserve and the Patiki road junction point of the North-Western Motorway. It comprises about 700 commercial, industrial and service businesses employing over 9000 FTE's. While the RBA was incorporated in 2004, it didn't become a BID until 2005/6. It has often been viewed as the last Western outpost of the then Auckland City Council and thankfully this status was updated with the emergence of one Auckland Council and it's 21 Wards. Rosebank plays a significant role in generating local GDP, high employment and demand for skilled labour in the Whau Local Board area.

While the Association is generally believes the Whau Local Board Plan 2020 reflects the needs and aspirations of the RBA and community, it would have liked the Local Board to have placed more of a priority on resolving transport issues in the Rosebank area and local economic development. In this regard and in light of responding to COVID-19, the RBA believes the Plan should have included stronger goals and actions to partner with the business community, especially to realise specific shared aspirations around town centre improvement.

As a general rule, the RBA opposes any above inflation increases in business rates. By generating our own private income of about 45cents in every dollar, we believe the private sector can play an important role in supporting local community activities. We believe the golden rule for all proposed Whau Local Board activities must be to find ways of achieving these with only modest rate increases.

In particular, the Association asks that the *Whau Local Board Plan 2020* include more emphasis on:

- Support for a western business growth group
- Support for local skills alignment between workplaces and educators
- Support for youth gateway connections and apprenticeship programmes
- Advocacy for more promotion of 'buy local'

Turning to more specific aspects of the *Whau Local Board Plan 2020*, the RBA would like to make submissions as follows under each of the sections of the Plan:

Outcome 1: Strong, resilient and inclusive communities where local identity, diversity and creativity are nurtured

The RBA supports the vision of the Board for strong, resilient and inclusive communities where local identity, diversity and creativity are nurtured. Of course, we see business success and employment as a key element of making strong community connections and resilience. We encourage the Board to

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include a business flavour in this vision and to support place making in Rosebank and events involving businesses.

We believe supporting a stronger creative economy will provide a launch pad for our flourishing creative community and businesses. We support inclusion of an action to develop a creative industries economic development plan and would be pleased to work with you on this.

Outcome 2: Māori aspirations are advanced and prioritised, and Māori history and identity are valued and reflected in our community spaces

The RBA supports the emphasis in the Plan on Māori aspirations being advanced and prioritised, and Māori history and identity being valued and reflected in our community spaces.

We note that while Outcome 6 on economic development includes support for Māori and Pasifika businesses to pilot local workforce development initiatives, we would like to see more focus on Māori economic development in Outcome 2.

Outcome 3: Quality urban development and community facilities to meet the needs of our growing and changing population

We note that Auckland Council has identified Avondale as a key focus and will be working with Panuku, government, landowners and developers to enable quality development. The RBA has a keen interest in these developments (especially the connections to the Rosebank industrial area). We would welcome further engagement in the transformation of Avondale.

The RBA is also supportive of investigating possible initiatives and/or areas of advocacy to incentivise sustainable building initiatives such as rainwater storage and stormwater detention tanks, rain gardens, solar panels and other innovative solutions to reduce the environmental impact of development (especially in industrial areas).

Outcome 4: Improved and expanded opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport

We acknowledge your concern regarding the lack of accessibility to and from the Rosebank Peninsula impacting on the ability of the industrial precinct to grow and improve its productivity. We also support your actions to:

- Investigate any potential low-cost improvements to safety and accessibility for people traveling to and from our town centres and the Rosebank Peninsula using active modes;
- Advocate to Auckland Transport for a review of the current bus network and opportunity for increased provision of feeder bus services to New Lynn, and shuttle buses to the Rosebank Peninsula
- Advocate for improvements to vehicular access to the Rosebank Peninsula, and for the implementation of the North-western Rapid Transit Network incorporating a station at Rosebank, along with complementary public transport and active transport improvements on this key corridor
- Investigate options for low-cost demand management tools and promote these across the Whau, including working with employers to promote flexible working

Further, we ask that the Whau Local Board Plan 2020 consider the following:

Waterview Tunnel: There have been changes in the transport flows with the opening of the Waterview Tunnel and the completion of the SH16/20 works. The Rosebank area is being monitored and Auckland Transport shares the concerns of the RBA that there has been an increase in demand during peak traffic periods at Patiki. The RBA has also noted that traffic volumes have been linked to the schools in the area and redevelopments in the areas, such as at the Kilpatrick's site. We ask that the Plan include an action to work with Auckland Transport on reducing the impacts of the Waterview Tunnel on Rosebank.

The Patiki Road On-ramp – Dynamic Laning: The RBA has raised concerns about the Patiki road onramp and the merging of traffic into the motorway. A current option is to trial dynamic lanes using overhead and in ground signals so that different lanes are used at peak and non-peak times. This has been successfully trailed in Whangaparoa and the RBA understands that Patiki Road is high on the list for implementation. We ask that the Plan include an action to work with Auckland Transport on implementing dynamic laning as soon as possible at Patiki Road.

Heavy Vehicle Movements: A particular concern of the RBA is that heavy vehicles are struggling at times to get out into the Rosebank road corridor across traffic. The RBA supports consideration being given to rules or signage to give priority to freight rather than smaller private vehicles. We ask that the Plan include an action to work on ways to give priority to heavy vehicles using Rosebank Road.

Rosebank Road roundabout: Investigations are ongoing concerning the roundabout. While there are constraints (especially with the width of the road), Auckland Transport is going to look again at how to support a more free-flowing southern turn. We ask that the Plan include an action to work with Auckland Transport to improve the Rosebank roundabout

Pedestrian Refuges: Auckland Transport will soon be building the pedestrian safety improvements along Rosebank Road, including: pram crossings with tactile pavers, side islands, and pedestrian refuge islands outside the addresses of 607, 519, 437, and 391 Rosebank Road; the relocation of bus stop 8557 (outside 437 Rosebank Road) and the associated bus shelter slightly southwest along Rosebank Road; minor changes to footpaths; alterations to lighting, road markings and signage; and the removal of one tree in order to improve visibility for pedestrians and drivers. We ask that the Plan include an action to work with Auckland Transport to monitor these improvements so they deliver on the safety measures promoted.

Connected Communities: As a key arterial, Rosebank has been included in the Connected Communities programme. This aligns with the RBA's strategy around the 'Western Gateway'. We ask that the Plan include an action to ensure the Auckland Transport Connected Communities programme has a focus on Rosebank.

Outcome 5: Our natural environment is protected and enhanced

The RBA supports the Board's commitments to Lower Carbon Living and would welcome being involved in the next steps for the Whau Local Low Carbon Plan.

We note that the Whau Local Board has projects that support residents to remove weeds and pests, to decrease the causes and impact of climate change, and to improve the air, land, water and habitat for our native species. These projects are focussed on cleaning the harbours and waterways, reducing waste to landfill, energy conservation and lower carbon living. They contribute to protecting three outstanding conservation sites at the mouth of the Whau – the Motu Manawa-Pollen Island Marine Reserve, the Pollen Island Scientific Reserve, and Traherne Island.

We ask the Board to include an action to carry out community pest and weed programmes, particularly along the Whau River and the Rosebank Peninsula.

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We have worked with the Board regarding the removal of weeds, especially in the Auckland Council owned coastal area adjacent to the Harbourside development. We hope that the Board will accept that the Council must also have its own house in order on the issue of weed control.

We support the Board investigating initiatives to build on the success of the Industrial Pollution Prevention Programme with a particular focus on identifying and remediating some of the more passive sources of water contamination.

We support providing education and awareness-raising (including signage) about recycling, waste minimisation, composting and water usage.

Outcome 6: Thriving town centres a strong local economy and neighbourhoods that are supportive and connected

We note the Plan's concern about the slow economic and employment growth in the Whau over the last 10 years, which has been lower than the Auckland average and if the Whau wants a stronger economy this needs to be turned around.

Overall, the RBA support the actions to build a stronger economy. However, in addition, the Association would like to see support for key initiatives to:

- Work closely with Business Associations to support local businesses to be successful.
- Support the promotion of business opportunities in the Whau.
- Work with other boards through the *Western Initiative* to support the growth of new and more successful businesses.
- Build on our arts and cultural heritage and capacity to grow our creative economy.
- Facilitate our youth employment initiatives to work well together.
- Support the Rosebank Way Wellbeing Pilot (Sport Waitakere and Ministry of Health) "initiative" currently under construction.

We also refer to our earlier suggestions that the Plan to: support a western business growth group; support local skills alignment between workplaces and educators; support youth gateway connections and apprenticeship programmes; and advocate for more promotion of local employment.

Conclusions

The RBA welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Whau Local Board Plan 2020.

While the Association is generally supportive of the Whau Local Board Plan 2020, it would have liked the Local Board to have placed more of a priority on resolving transport issues in the Rosebank area and local economic development. In this regard and in light of responding to COVID-19, the RBA believes the Plan should have included stronger goals and actions to partner with the business community, especially to realise specific shared aspirations around town centre improvement.

The Association wishes to be heard at any hearings of the Whau Local Board.

Yours sincerely



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