



**SUBMISSION TO
THE DRAFT WHAU LOCAL BOARD PLAN
2023**

27th July 2023

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SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT WHAU LOCAL BOARD PLAN 2023

The Rosebank Business Association ('RBA') welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Whau Local Board Plan 2023.

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 600+ 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 its 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 generally believes the Whau Local Board Plan 2023 reflects the needs and aspirations of the RBA and the 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, the RBA believes the Plan would benefit from including stronger goals and actions to partner with the business community, especially to realise specific shared aspirations around transport.

As a general rule, the RBA opposes any above-inflation increases in business rates. By generating our own private income of about 45 cents 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 RBA asks that the *Whau Local Board Plan 2023* include more emphasis on:

- Support for business growth
- Support for local skills alignment between workplaces and educators
- Advocacy for more promotion of 'buy local'
- Addressing street racers in Jomac and Timothy Places, and
- Addressing burglaries in the Rosebank area

Turning to more specific aspects of the *Whau Local Board Plan 2023*, the RBA would like to make submissions as follows under each of the sections of the Plan:

Māori outcomes:

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. In particular, we support the Board's continued support for partners who offer rangatahi and Māori employment/skill development opportunities.

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We note that while Outcome 5 on the economy also includes support for businesses who support rangatahi and Māori employment/skill development opportunities, we would like to see more focus on Māori economic development throughout the Plan.

Climate Action:

The RBA supports the Board's commitments to climate action and would welcome being involved in the next steps for implementation of the Whau Local Low Carbon Plan. In particular, better infrastructure and investment in projects that can adapt to and lessen climate impacts is welcome (e.g. water sensitive design, greenhouse gas reduction, etc.)

We also welcome action to enable schools, businesses, environmental groups, and community volunteers to carry out ecological and environmental projects and programmes that achieve climate action goals (e.g. live low carbon lifestyles, minimise waste, etc.). The RBA and its members have also been supportive of ensuring the Whau River and its tributaries are cared for through programmes that carry out native riparian planting, stream restoration and clean ups, habitat improvement, and pest control activities.

We also look forward to the Board partnering with business associations to realise shared aspirations around local economic matters (e.g. low carbon, local resilience, circular economy, etc.)

Outcome 1: Our people

Your Plan says the Board will focus on promoting belonging and wellbeing, strengthening partnerships, engaging with Māori, and ensuring our diverse communities are heard and contribute to a collective we Auckland voice).

The RBA supports the Board's aspiration 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 include a business flavour in this outcome 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: Our environment

Your Plan says the Board will focus on protecting trees and greenspace, enhancing our waterways, and working with partners and communities to exercise the principle of kaitiakitanga and build community resilience to climate change.

We note that the Whau Local Board has projects that support residents to remove weeds and pests to improve the air, land, water, and habitat for our native species. These projects are focused on cleaning the harbours and waterways and reducing waste to landfill.

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. 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 also ask the Board to investigate 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.

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Of some concern for the RBA is localised nuisance from dust and air pollution and we ask for the Board to have focus on this in the Plan.

Outcome 3: Our community

Your Plan says the Board will focus on providing inclusive, accessible, and sustainable facilities and services. We will ensure plans consider future community needs, climate change, and growth. We will partner with community groups to deliver quality services.

We note that Auckland Council has identified Avondale as a key focus and will be working with Panuku, the 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: Our places

Your Plan says the Board will focus on having safe, welcoming spaces that reflect our Māori history, industrial heritage (e.g. clay and ceramics), and cultural diversity. We will advocate for improved transport options and connections that help to reduce carbon emissions.

We welcome your support for Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and other partners to improve safety.

We wish to raise our concerns regarding the lack of accessibility to and from the Rosebank Peninsula, which impacts on the ability of the industrial precinct to grow and improve its productivity. We ask for your support to:

- Address the issue of street racers in Rosebank (sometimes up to 100 cars congregating on Jomac and Timothy Places).
- Investigate any potential low-cost improvements to safety and accessibility for people traveling to and from 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 access 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 2023 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

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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. 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 on-ramp 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.

Timothy Place traffic lights: We support investigations into whether traffic lights are appropriate at Timothy Place. We ask that the Plan include an action to work with Auckland Transport to improve the intersection of Timothy Place and Rosebank Road with traffic lights.

Connected Communities: As a key arterial, Rosebank has been included in the Connected Communities programme. We ask that the Plan include an action to ensure the Auckland Transport Connected Communities programme has a focus on a solution for Rosebank Road.

Finally, we also welcome your advocacy to progress the development of the Avondale-Southdown rail line to support freight movement.

Outcome 5: Our economy

Your Plan says the Board will focus on fostering effective partnerships with our Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and local businesses. We will advocate for increased opportunities for employment/skill development and high-quality urban development.

We note the Plan's concern about the challenges to economic and employment growth in the Whau.

Overall, the RBA supports the actions to build a stronger economy. However, in addition, the RBA 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 in the West 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.
- Address burglaries in the area.
- Further support the Rosebank Wellbeing Collab.
- Support the proposal to investigate an economic broker role to progress economic development opportunities.

Conclusions

The RBA welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the Whau Local Board Plan 2023.

While the Association is generally supportive of the Whau Local Board Plan 2023, it would have liked the Local Board to have placed more of a priority on resolving transport issues in the Rosebank area

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and local economic development. In this regard, the RBA believes the Plan should include stronger goals and actions to partner with the business community, especially to realise specific shared aspirations around transport.

The Association wishes to be heard at any hearings of the Whau Local Board Plan 2023.

Yours sincerely,



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