

**SUBMISSION TO
AUCKLAND COUNCIL ANNUAL PLAN
2025 / 2026**

24TH MARCH 2025

Rosebank Business Association
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The Rosebank Business Association - 'Rosebank – Gateway to the West' - welcomes the opportunity to make this submission.

The Rosebank Business Improvement District is a commercial and industrial hub of 580+ businesses located on the Rosebank Peninsula in West Auckland. It has direct access to the SH16 North-Western Motorway and when the Waterview tunnel was completed, its traffic count increased to between 25 and 35,000 vehicles per day with the immediate access and link to the SH20 Airport Motorway.

Businesses in the area generate an estimated \$1 billion in revenue, pay significant rates, and employ about 9,000 FTEs. The predictions are that this workforce will increase to 20,000 by 2035.

Introduction:

- Council is looking to do everything it can to mitigate risks within existing budgets, which means:
 - Retaining the agreed rates increase for the average value residential property of 5.8 per cent.
 - Aiming for a group debt to revenue limit of 250 per cent (excluding Watercare) while ensuring there is adequate headroom to respond to future shocks.
 - Delivering the further \$47 million in savings on top of other savings targets.
 - Continuing to invest in the services and activities Aucklanders care about with \$4 billion of capital investment.
 - Proceeding with its approach to the fairer funding of local boards.
 - A business differential to raise around 31 per cent of general rates (UAGC and value based general rates) from business properties

- The main proposal in the Annual Plan 2025/2026 concerns the way Council funds destination marketing and major events. In the Long Term Plan, Council signalled that without a bed night visitor levy in place for the 2025/2026 financial year, there would be a \$7 million budget shortfall.

- To support Council's ongoing discussions with central government, Council would like to know the community's thoughts on the concept of a bed night visitor levy.

Submission

- Overall, we cannot emphasise enough the need to find more savings and for there to be a much sharper focus on efficiencies and getting the 'basics' right, such as the delivery of core council services and the timely maintenance of essential infrastructure.
- We support the central proposal for a bed night visitor levy.
- We are concerned by the excessive business differential to raise around 31 percent of general rates (UAGC and value-based general rates) from business properties.
- On transport, we ask that all projects are planned and implemented in close collaboration with BIDS, such as the RBA. A key concern we have is the often-excessive temporary traffic management. We ask for a detailed plan on how congestion charging/time of use charging will be implemented so we can assess the implications for businesses.
- With regard to the priorities of the Whau Local Board, we support the Board's key priorities, and especially: • delivery of Te Hono (the Avondale Community Centre and Library) and working with local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to find new ways of delivering vibrant and welcoming town centres through art activation and beautification projects.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please feel free to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Kim Watts
Executive Engagement Manager