

# Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru

BOARD PACK

for

ARAFB Business Meeting, incl. Public Submissions

Tuesday, 11 February 2025

10:00 am (NZDT)

Held at:

The Northern Club

19 Princes Street, Auckland

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# AGENDA

## ARAFB BUSINESS MEETING, INCL. PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

<b>Name:</b>	Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 11 February 2025
<b>Time:</b>	10:00 am to 2:00 pm (NZDT)
<b>Location:</b>	The Northern Club, 19 Princes Street, Auckland
<b>Board Members:</b>	Victoria Carter ONZM (Chair), Alastair Carruthers CNZM, Jonny Gritt, Linda Cooper MNZM, JP, CMIInstD., Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM, Paul Evans, Deputy Chair Paula Browning, Penelope Peebles, Ravi Nyayapati, Scott Pearson
<b>Attendees:</b>	Bree Torkington
<b>Guests:</b>	Public forum: Victoria Travers, Richard Sorrenson and Kelly Bewley from Stardome Observatory & Planetarium
	Oral submissions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Drowning Prevention Auckland: Nicola Keen-Biggelaar - Chief Executive</li><li>- Surf Life Saving Northern Region: Zac Franich - General Manager</li><li>- New Zealand Opera: Brad Cohen - General Director and Kent Beazley - Director of Finance and Operations</li></ul>
<b>Notes:</b>	Public Hearings to receive written and oral submissions on the draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan. NOTE: All oral submissions must be heard in the Open section of the meeting.

### 1. Opening Meeting

#### 1.1 Opening Karakia

Victoria Carter ONZM

##### **For Information**

An opening karakia will be undertaken at the commencement of the meeting.

#### 1.2 Apologies

Victoria Carter ONZM

##### **For Noting**

At the close of the agenda, no apologies for leave had been received, however Jonny Gritt will attend online.

#### 1.3 Confirm Minutes

Victoria Carter ONZM

##### **For Decision**

**Recommendation:**

That the ordinary minutes of the meeting of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board held on 26 November 2024 be confirmed as a true and correct record.

**Supporting Documents:**

1.3.a	Minutes : ARAFB Business Meeting - 26 Nov 2024	11
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**1.4 Extraordinary Business**

Victoria Carter ONZM

**For Noting**

Section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“An item that is not on the agenda for a meeting may be dealt with at that meeting if-

- (a) The local authority by resolution so decides; and
- (b) The presiding member explains at the meeting at a time when it is open to the public-
  - (i) The reason why the item is not on the agenda; and
  - (ii) The reason why the discussion of the item cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting.”

Section 46A(7A) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (as amended) states:

“Where an item is not on the agenda for a meeting:

- (a) That item may be discussed at that meeting if-
  - (i) That item is a minor matter relating to the general business of the local authority; and
  - (ii) The presiding member explains at the beginning of the meeting, at a time when it is open to the public, that the item will be discussed at the meeting; but
- (b) no resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of that item except to refer that item to a subsequent meeting of the local authority for further discussion.”

At the close of the agenda, there were no Extraordinary Items of business.

**1.5 Interests Register**

Victoria Carter ONZM

**For Noting**

Opportunity for members to update the Register of Members Interest.

**DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Funding Board Directors are reminded of their obligation to maintain a clear separation between their personal interests and their duties as an appointed member of the Funding Board.

Directors should therefore be vigilant to stand aside from decision making when a conflict (or a perceived conflict) arises between their role as a Director and any private or other external (either pecuniary or non-pecuniary) interest they may have.

Any interests should be declared at the commencement of consideration of any item on this agenda and the member concerned abstain from voting or discussion on the item or leave the room for the duration of its consideration.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Receive the Register of Members Interests, including any verbal updates.

Supporting Documents:

1.5.a Interests Register

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## **1.6 Notices of Motion**

Victoria Carter ONZM

### **For Noting**

At the close of the agenda no requests for notices of motion had been received.

## **2. Presentations to the Board**

### **2.1 Public Forum (Non- Submission related)**

Victoria Carter ONZM

#### **For Noting**

A period of time (approximately 30 minutes) is set aside for members of the public to address the meeting on matters within its delegated authority. A maximum of 10 minutes per item is allowed, following which there may be questions from Directors.

Stardome Observatory and Planetarium have requested to address the meeting. Victoria Travers and Richard Sorrenson will introduce Kelly Bewley, who has been appointed Acting CE from 21 February.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Thank Victoria Travers, Richard Sorrenson and Kelly Bewley from Stardome Observatory and Planetarium for addressing the Funding Board.

## **3. Board Activities Since Last Meeting**

### **3.1 Chairs Report**

Victoria Carter ONZM

#### **For Noting**

Providing the Chair with the opportunity to provide an oral update to the Funding Board on any issues relating to the business of the Funding Board that she has been involved with since the last meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Note the verbal update from the Chairperson.

### **3.2 Members Activities With Specified Amenities and Board Member Reports**

Victoria Carter ONZM

#### **For Noting**

Providing Funding Board members with the opportunity to update the Board on projects and issues they have been involved with relating to the business of the Funding Board and provide the Board with a verbal update on recent interactions with the specified amenities since the last meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Receive verbal updates to Members Activities with the Specified Amenities and instruct the Advisory Officer to update the register of activities and gifts with these details.

## 4. Public Submissions to Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan

### 4.1 Public Submissions to the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan

Victoria Carter ONZM

#### For Decision

The Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan was published on 4 December 2024 inviting public submissions on the plan. Submissions closed at 5PM on Tuesday 4 February 2024.

A total of six (6) written submissions were received. There are three (3) requests to make further oral submissions to the Board.

The purpose of this section is to receive oral submissions; consider the written submissions; and to determine whether any changes are to be made to the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan prior to it being forwarded to Auckland Council for consideration and approval of the 2025-2026 levy.

The Submission Report and written submissions that follow provide details.

Oral submissions are scheduled for 11.00am-11.50am.

#### Recommendations

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Acknowledges and receives the six written submissions and three oral submissions to the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan and thanks submitters for taking the time to provide feedback on the plan.

Supporting Documents:

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4.1.a	Submissions Report 2025-2026.pdf	20
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### 4.2 (The) Auckland Festival Trust

#### For Noting

Written Submission to Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan. Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Supports the process undertaken for the Draft Funding Plan. Outlines the outcomes that the funding will support.

Supporting Documents:

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4.2.a	TAFT Submission to ARAFB Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan.pdf	26
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### 4.3 Auckland Philharmonia

#### For Noting

Written Submission to Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan. Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Expresses gratitude for, and highlights the benefits of, this ongoing support.

Supporting Documents:

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4.3.a	Auck Phil Submission to ARAFB Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan.pdf	28
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## 4.4 Auckland Theatre Company

### For Noting

Written Submission to Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan. Thanks the Funding Board for its continued support. Seeks funding to the level applied for (\$2,553,375), with the additional \$103,375 to support the employment of a development executive tasked to increase earned revenue from philanthropic sources. Discusses cost pressures and the need to generate additional income, in an environment where ticket prices are a significant barrier to audience attendance. Highlights the value ATC brings to Auckland.

Supporting Documents:

4.4.a	ATC Submission to ARAFB Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan.pdf	30
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## 4.5 Drowning Prevention Auckland

### For Noting

Written Submission to Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan. Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Expresses gratitude for, and highlights the benefits of, this ongoing support. Acknowledges the rigorous assessment process undertaken and expresses that the provisional allocation of grants for 2025-2026 fairly reflect the intentions of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008.

Also submitting verbally.

Supporting Documents:

4.5.a	DPA Submission form DRAFT 2025-2026 Funding Plan.pdf	34
4.5.b	DPA Submission to ARAFB Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan.pdf	36

## 4.6 New Zealand Opera

### For Noting

Written Submission to Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan. Notes disappointment to have not secured a funding increase in the past and current periods. Seeks to make the Funding Board aware of additional information which may assist it in reconsidering the grant amount proposed. Highlights significant costs incurred from Auckland Philharmonia and Tātaki Unlimited. Submits that these charges are inefficient and should either be offset at source or the ARAFB grant be reconsidered. Highlights that despite the name, NZ Opera is not a national arts company, receiving no Ministry of Culture and Heritage Funding and has no national mandate. Seeks further discussion regarding the grant sum.

Also submitting verbally.

Supporting Documents:

4.6.a	NZO Submission to ARAFB Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan.pdf	38
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## 4.7 Surf Life Saving Northern Region

### For Noting

Written Submission to Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan. Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Expresses gratitude for the continued support.

Also submitting verbally.

Supporting Documents:

4.7.a	SLSNR Submission to ARAFB Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan.pdf	40
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## 5. Management Reports

### 5.1 Advisory Officers Report

Bree Torkington

#### For Noting

Providing the Advisory Officer with the opportunity to provide an oral update to the Board on projects and issues she has been involved with relating to the business of the Funding Board not covered elsewhere in the agenda since the last meeting.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Note the verbal update from the Advisory Officer.

### 5.2 Finance Report

Bree Torkington

#### For Noting

Providing the Funding Board with an overview of financial position of the Funding Board as at 31 December 2024 and any other matters of a financial nature.

Recommendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Receive the Finance Report to 31 December 2024

Supporting Documents:

5.2.a	Finance Report to 31DEC2024.pdf	41
5.2.b	ARAFB P&L December 2024.pdf	43
5.2.c	ARAFB Balance Sheet December 2024.pdf	44
5.2.d	ARAFB GST December 2024.pdf	45

## 6. Exclusion of the Public

### 6.1 Exclusion of Public: Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act

Victoria Carter ONZM

#### For Decision

Bree Torkington	
Advisory Officer	
Section 48, Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987:	

Reccomendation:

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Agree that the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting. The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows. This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:



- i. C1.1 Minutes of a Confidential Meeting Held on 26 November 2024
- i. C2.1 - Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan - Provisional Allocation of Grants
- ii. C2.2 - Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan - Confirming Levy Request

## 6.2 Minutes of a Confidential Meeting held on 26 November 2024

Confidential Minutes of a meeting of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board held on 26 November 2024.

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	<p>Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)</p> <p>The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>	Public conduct of matter would be likely to result in disclosure of information for which good reason to withhold exists under section 7.

## 6.3 Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan - Provisional Allocation of Grants

Victoria Carter ONZM

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	<p>Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)</p> <p>The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>	Public conduct of matter would be likely to result in disclosure of information for which good reason to withhold exists under section 7.

At the conclusion of the public submission process, the Directors are required to:

1. Deliberate on the subject of the written and oral submissions
2. Determine that either:
  - a. Sufficient information is held to make a decision to finalise the grant allocations for the 2025-2026 financial year **or**
  - b. Additional information is required from the Advisory Officer or other sources.

If the Directors determine that sufficient information is held, they must conclude discussions regarding the final allocation of grants. If additional information is required prior to concluding the grant allocations for 2025-2026, a further meeting of the board can be held on 18 February 2025 or at a later date (to be determined).

## 6.4 Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan - Confirming Levy Request

Victoria Carter ONZM

Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter:	Particular interest(s) protected (where applicable)	Ground(s) under section 48(1) for the passing of this resolution
The public conduct of the part of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding exists under section 7.	<p>Section 7(2)(h)</p> <p>Enable any local authority holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.</p> <p>Section 7(2)(i)</p> <p>The withholding of the information is necessary to enable the local authority to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).</p>	Public conduct of matter would be likely to result in disclosure of information for which good reason to withhold exists under section 7.

If the Directors have concluded discussion on the allocation of grants for 2025-2026 (item C6.3), it is necessary for the Board to:

1. Finalise the draft funding plan for the 2025-2026 financial year that includes all the information stipulated in the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, including the Administration Budget, Director Remuneration, the provisional allocation of grants, including any conditions attached thereto, and any other information deemed appropriate by the Board.
2. Determine the total levy request to be forwarded to Auckland Council in respect of the 2025-2026 year.

Should further information or discussions be required, a further meeting of the board has been scheduled for 18 February 2025 or could occur at a later date (to be determined) to conclude the grant allocation and the total levy request processes.

## 7. Close Meeting

### 7.1 Close the meeting

**Next meeting:** ARAFB Business Meeting - Confidential Agenda - 18 Feb 2025, 10:00 am

A karakia will be recited at the conclusion of the meeting.

# MINUTES (in Review)

## ARAFB BUSINESS MEETING

<b>Name:</b>	Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 26 November 2024
<b>Time:</b>	10:00 am to 11:13 am (NZDT)
<b>Location:</b>	Offices of Buddle Findlay (Primary Location), Level 18, 188 Quay Street, Auckland 1010
<b>Board Members:</b>	Scott Pearson, Jonny Gritt, Linda Cooper MNZM, JP, CMIInstD., Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM, Paul Evans, Deputy Chair Paula Browning, Penelope Peebles, Ravi Nyayapati, Victoria Carter ONZM (Chair)
<b>Attendees:</b>	Bree Torkington
<b>Apologies:</b>	Alastair Carruthers CNZM

### 1. Opening Meeting

#### 1.1 Opening Karakia

The meeting was opened at 10.00am with a karakia led by Ravi Nyayapati.

#### 1.2 Apologies



##### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Accept the apology for absence from Alastair Carruthers.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Victoria Carter ONZM  
**Seconder:** Scott Pearson  
**Outcome:** Approved

#### 1.3 Notices of Motion

There were no notices of motion.

#### 1.4 Confirm Minutes

**ARAFB Business Meeting 5 Nov 2024**, the minutes were confirmed as presented.



##### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Confirm the ordinary minutes of its meeting, held on 5 November 2024 as a true and correct record

B. Authorise the Advisory Officer to affix the chairs electronic signature to the minutes.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Jonny Gritt  
**Seconder:** Linda Cooper MNZM, JP, CMIInstD.

**Outcome:** Approved

## 1.5 Interests Register



### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Receive the Register of Members Interests, including any verbal updates.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Victoria Carter ONZM  
**Seconder:** Ravi Nyayapati  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 1.6 Extraordinary Business

There was no extraordinary business.

## 2. Presentations to the Board

### 2.1 Public Forum

There was no public forum.

### 2.2 Report From Amenities Board and/or Specified Amenities

There were no reports from representatives of the Amenities Board or individual Specified Amenities.

## 3. Board Activities Since Last Meeting

### 3.1 Chairs Report



### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Note the verbal update from the Chairperson.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Ravi Nyayapati  
**Seconder:** Jonny Gritt  
**Outcome:** Approved

At 10.15am, a moment's silence was taken to acknowledge the passing of Nikki Kaye.

### 3.2 Members Activities With Specified Amenities and Board Member Reports

Board members were reminded to send details of any recent interactions with the specified amenities via email to the Advisory Officer.

## 4. Management Reports

### 4.1 Advisory Officers Report



#### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Note the verbal update from the Advisory Officer.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Victoria Carter ONZM  
**Seconder:** Deputy Chair Paula Browning  
**Outcome:** Approved

### 4.2 2024 Annual Report and Audit Report



#### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Approve the 2024 Annual Report (incorporating the Audited Financial Statements and Independent Auditors Report) for publication, subject to minor editorial changes if and as required

B. Note that the 2024 Annual Report will be published on or before 16 December 2024.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Paul Evans  
**Seconder:** Ravi Nyayapati  
**Outcome:** Approved

### 4.3 Finance report



#### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Receive the Finance Report to 31 October 2024.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Penelope Peebles  
**Seconder:** Linda Cooper MNZM, JP, CMInstD.  
**Outcome:** Approved



#### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Note that the Reserve Funds Policy dated June 2020 was reviewed in November 2024, and a note to this effect will be included in the Policy document.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Victoria Carter ONZM  
**Seconder:** Ravi Nyayapati  
**Outcome:** Approved

## 5. Exclusion of the Public

### 5.1 Exclusion of Public: Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act



#### That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

A. Agree that the public be excluded from the following part(s) of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under Section 48(1) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution follows.

This resolution is made in reliance on Section 48(1)(a) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and the particular interest or interests protected by section 6 or section 7 of that Act which would be prejudiced by the holding of the whole or relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting in public, as follows:

- C5.2 Minutes of a Confidential Meeting Held on 5 November 2024
- C5.3 Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan.

**Decision Date:** 26 Nov 2024  
**Mover:** Victoria Carter ONZM  
**Seconder:** Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM  
**Outcome:** Approved

### 5.2 Minutes of the Confidential Meeting held on 5 November 2024

### 5.3 Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan

## 6. Close Meeting

### 6.1 Close the meeting

**Next meeting:** ARAFB Business Meeting, incl. Public Submissions - 11 Feb 2025, 10:00 am  
A closing karakia was led by Moana Tamaariki-Pohe.  
There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.13am.

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE AND CORRECT RECORD AT A MEETING OF THE AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD HELD ON 26 NOVEMBER 2024:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Interests Register

## Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board - Te Poari ā-Takiwā Tuku Pūtea Taonga Whakaahuru

As of: 11 Feb 2025

Person	Organisation	Active Interests	Notice Date
<b>Alastair Carruthers CNZM</b>	Auckland Museum : Tāmaki Peanga Hira	Deputy Chair	1 Oct 2024
	Auckland Unlimited	Director	11 Aug 2022
	Carruthers Consulting Ltd	Director and Shareholder	11 Aug 2022
	Cornwall Park Trust Board	Trustee	11 Aug 2022
	Homeland NZ Enterprises Ltd	Director and Shareholder	11 Aug 2022
	Homeland NZ Trading Ltd	Director and Shareholder	11 Aug 2022
	MOTAT - Museum of Transport and Technology Auckland	Board Member	1 Oct 2024
	Ring Hora, Services Workforce Development Council, Tertiary Education Commission	Trustee and Board Member	11 Aug 2022
	Tāmaki Paenga Hira - Auckland War Memorial Museum	Trustee and Board Member	11 Aug 2022
Television New Zealand	Chair	1 Jul 2023	
<b>Deputy Chair Paula Browning</b>	Auckland Chamber Tech Working Group	Member	5 Sept 2023

	Creative New Zealand and Ministry of Culture and Heritage	On-going engagement with CNZ through role at WeCreate	28 Jul 2022
	Entain (formerly TAB NZ)	Sustainability Advisory Panel	27 Jun 2023
	Institute of Directors	Chartered Member	28 Jul 2022
	Toi Mai, the Workforce Development Council for Creative, Cultural, Tech and Recreation	Board Member	10 Sept 2024
	WeCreate Incorporated	Chair	28 Jul 2022
<b>Jonny Gritt</b>	The Lottery Community Northland Committee	Member	24 Aug 2023
<b>Linda Cooper MNZM, JP, CMIInstD.</b>	Auckland Justice of the Peace Association	Member - JP	23 Aug 2023
	Community Patrol NZ (Henderson Branch)	Patron	23 Aug 2023
	Family Action Trust	Chair	23 Aug 2023
	Institute of Directors	Chartered Member	29 Apr 2024
	Judith Eastgate Family Trust	Trustee (non-beneficial)	23 Aug 2023
	Massey High School Foundation	Trustee	23 Aug 2023
	Noel Cooper Realty Ltd	Shareholder	23 Aug 2023
	Northwest Economic Masterplan Steering Group	Chair	1 Sept 2024
	Parliamentary Services	MP Advisor	30 Jan 2024
	Waitakere Health Link	Chair	23 Aug 2023
	Waitakere Licensing Trust	President	23 Aug 2023



	West Auckland Trust Services Ltd	Director	23 Aug 2023
<b>Moana Tamaariki-Pohe MNZM</b>	Department of Conservation	Employee	4 Dec 2024
	Ngāti Whātua Whai Mai Ltd	Lead - Business Mentoring	9 Jan 2023
	Orākei Water Sport Inc	President	9 Jan 2023
	Tāmaki Paenga Hira - Auckland War Memorial Museum	Representative - Taumata a Iwi	9 Jan 2023
<b>Paul Evans</b>	Edison Consulting Group Limited	Director	19 Sept 2023
	HFC Group	Independent Chair	16 Jul 2024
	Institute of Directors	Chartered Member	24 Aug 2023
	Localised Limited	Independent Chair	24 Aug 2023
	Maria Maria Limited	Shareholder and Director	24 Aug 2023
	Matakite Consulting	Owner	24 Aug 2023
	Ministry for the Environment	Waste Investment Panel Member	24 Aug 2023
	Pattle Delamore Partners	Director	28 Nov 2023
	WasteMINZ	Elected Board Member	24 Aug 2023
<b>Penelope Peebles</b>	CV Check	Penelope's husband (James Sutherland) is NZ Managing Director of the Australian public listed company that supplies Auckland Council with 'background screening services'.	23 Aug 2023
	Manchester Unity Friendly Society	Director	23 Aug 2023
	Penelope Peebles Advisory	Shareholder / Director	23 Aug 2023
	St Cuthbert's College Educational Trust Board	Trustee	23 Aug 2023
	Whatapaka Equestrian Ltd	Shareholder / Director	23 Aug 2023
<b>Ravi Nyayapati</b>	Badminton New Zealand	Board Member	28 Aug 2023

	Badminton New Zealand	Chair	16 Sept 2024
	Eventfinda Stadium	Board Trustee	5 Sept 2023
	Eventfinda Stadium	Deputy Chair	1 May 2024
	Institute of Directors New Zealand	Chartered Member	28 Aug 2023
	Institute of Directors New Zealand	Auckland Branch Committee Member	11 Jun 2024
	Lynfield College	Deputy Chair, Board of Trustees	28 Aug 2023
	Palmerston North City Council	Contractor	28 Aug 2023
	Peace Consulting LTD	Shareholder & Director	28 Aug 2023
	Te Wānanga o Aotearoa	Member of Audit & Risk Committee (Te Ārai Tūpono)	28 Aug 2023
<b>Scott Pearson</b>	Association of Certified Fraud Examiners	CFE	28 Jul 2022
	Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand	Chartered Accountant	28 Jul 2022
	CPA Australia	FCPA	28 Jul 2022
	Gambling Commission	Commissioner	27 Jul 2022
	Institute of Directors	Chartered Member	28 Jul 2022
	Repromed New Zealand	Deputy Chair	16 Feb 2024
	The Big Idea	CFO	27 Jul 2022
<b>Victoria Carter ONZM</b>	Auckland Eye	Director	8 Feb 2023
	BusinessDesk NZ	Columnist	5 Nov 2024
	Camden Farms Ltd	Director	28 Jul 2022
	Camden Investments Ltd	Director	28 Jul 2022
	Carter Bloodstock Ltd	Director	28 Jul 2022
	Davies-Booth Associates	Director	28 Jul 2022

Friends of Laura Fergusson Trust Inc.	Chair	28 Jul 2022
Institute of Directors	Chartered Fellow	28 Jul 2022
James Fletcher Management	Director	28 Jul 2022
Joyce Fisher Endowment Fund	Chair	9 Feb 2024
Laura Fergusson Board Inc.	Chair	9 Feb 2024
Laura Fergusson Trust	Chair	9 Feb 2024
Mrs Mac's NZ Limited	Director	27 Jun 2023
Water Services Delivery Plans	Crown Facilitator	18 Nov 2024

# **AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD**

## Report

5 February 2025

To: Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board Directors  
From: Bree Torkington, Advisory Officer

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**Subject: Submissions to Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board's finances to the Funding Board Directors.

### **Recommendation**

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Acknowledges and receives the six written submissions and three oral submissions to the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan and thanks submitters for taking the time to provide feedback on the plan.

### **Executive Summary**

1. Under the provisions of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008 (the Act), the Funding Board is required to produce a draft Funding Plan, which is subject to public consultation.
2. The Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan was approved for publication by the Funding Board on 26 November 2024.
3. The Act requires that the plan be available for public comments for a minimum period of one month. The plan was published on 4 December 2024, and the submission period closed at 5PM on Tuesday, 4 February 2025.
4. A total of six (6) written submissions were received. Copies of all submissions received are attached to the agenda.
5. Three (3) submitters wish to make further oral submissions to the Board.
6. Oral submissions were / are set down to be heard on Tuesday, 11 February 2025, commencing at approximately 11.00AM.
7. Following consideration of both the written and any oral submissions, the Funding Board will determine whether changes need to be made to the final version of the 2025-2026 Funding Plan.
8. Should additional information be required, a final decision can be deferred until 18 or possibly 25 February 2025.
9. Once the final allocation of grants has been confirmed for 2025-2026 the total levy will be

determined. Details of the final version of the 2025-2026 Funding Plan and the proposed levy will be forwarded to Auckland Council to consider and approve the levy at a future date.

### **Narrative**

10. In the interests of transparency, the Act requires the Funding Board to publish a Draft Funding Plan for public consultation.
11. The Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan detailing the proposed total levy and the provisional allocation of grants to the specified amenities was approved for publication by the Funding Board on 26 November 2024. The Draft Funding Plan was published on 4 December 2024. Two public notices were placed in the NZ Herald during December 2024 and January 2025 advising that the plan was available for inspection and comment. The Draft Funding Plan was also available for download directly from the website ([arafb.org.nz](http://arafb.org.nz)) which also contains details of the board's meetings and previous funding plans and annual reports.
12. Copies of the plan were specifically distributed to all the Specified Amenities listed in the Act as well as Auckland Council. The Specified Amenities were reminded several times in separate emails of the process and the closing date for submissions.
13. A total of six (6) submissions were received. A high-level summary of each submission is detailed in the schedule at the end of this report.
14. Three (3) submitters wish to make oral submissions. The hearings have been set down to commence at approximately 11.00AM on Tuesday, 11 February 2025.

### **Next steps**

15. Following consideration of both the written and oral submissions the Funding Board will determine whether to make any changes to the final version of the 2025-2026 Funding Plan including the allocation of grants.
16. The board can either decide on how to treat the requests for additional funding at the meeting on 11 February 2025, or it can defer the decision to a later date to enable the board to gather any additional information needed prior to making a final decision.
17. A 'stand-by' date has been scheduled for 18 February. It may be necessary to move this to 25 February or another suitable date (to be determined) to enable any additional information to be collated and presented to the board at a business meeting.
18. A final recommendation on grant allocations and the total levy requirement for 2025-2026 must be made and forwarded to Auckland Council for consideration in March 2025.
19. Auckland Council will meet to consider and approve / not approve the proposed levy for 2025-2026. If Auckland Council approves the levy during March, the Funding Board will meet on 25 March 2025 to fix the levy for 2025-2026 and adopt the Funding Plan.
20. Should Auckland Council defer a decision on approving the levy until a later date, the Funding Board will meet on 15 April 2025 to fix the levy for 2025-2026.
21. If Auckland Council resolves not to approve the levy, the matter will immediately revert to

arbitration in accordance with the provisions of Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008.

22. Irrespective of which course of action occurs, the levy must be fixed no later than 30 April 2025.

### Financial impacts of Submissions

23. Within the six submissions received there are two requests for changes to the allocation of grants.

24. The Auckland Theatre Company seeks an increase of \$103,375, to the total figure requested in its funding application. This represents an increase of \$178,375 (7.51%) over its 2024-2025 grant allocation.

25. New Zealand Opera seeks an increase of up to \$126,000, to the total figure requested in its funding application. This represents an increase of \$126,000 (10.00%) over its 2024-2025 grant allocation.

26. The existing provisional grant allocations to the seven Specified Amenities for 2025-2026 total \$18,126,544, which is \$599,544 (3.42%) over the grants allocated in 2024-2025.

27. The combined requests from Auckland Theatre Company and New Zealand Opera (if considered and approved), would:

- a. Increase the total additional grants by \$229,375 (1.27%) to a total of \$18,355,919
- b. Bring the total increase from the 2024-2025 grant allocation from 3.42% (\$599,544) to 4.73% (\$828,919)
- c. Increase the levy to Auckland Council from 36.51% to 36.97% of the maximum (the maximum is 2% of the previous year's rates).

2025-2026	Provisional Allocation	Allocation if submissions approved
Total allocation 2025-2026	\$18,126,544	\$18,355,919
\$ change from 2024-2025	\$599,544	\$828,919
% change from 2024-2025	3.42%	4.73%
% of maximum levy	36.51%	36.97%

28. If positive consideration is given to these two requests for additional funding totalling \$229,375, the Funding Board will need to consider how this is broached with Auckland Council.

29. There is a risk that should this increased level of funding be approved / recommended by the Funding Board, that Auckland Council will reject the levy request, resulting in the matter immediately being referred to arbitration at considerable expense, as provided for in the Act.

## AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD

### SCHEDULE OF WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS TO THE DRAFT 2025-2026 FUNDING PLAN

	Submitter (alphabetical order)	Key Matters raised	Financial Implication
1	(The) Auckland Festival Trust	Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Supports the process undertaken for the Draft Funding Plan. Outlines the outcomes that the funding will support.	Nil
2	Auckland Philharmonia	Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Expresses gratitude for, and highlights the benefits of, this ongoing support.	Nil
3	Auckland Theatre Company	Thanks the Funding Board for its continued support. Seeks funding to the level applied for (\$2,553,375), with the additional \$103,375 to support the employment of a development executive tasked to increase earned revenue from philanthropic sources. Discusses cost pressures and the need to generate additional income, in an environment where ticket prices are a significant barrier to audience attendance. Highlights the value ATC brings to Auckland.	+103,375 <i>Sought</i> \$2,553,375 <i>Provisional grant</i> \$2,450,000
4	Drowning Prevention Auckland	Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Expresses gratitude for, and highlights the benefits of, this ongoing support. Acknowledges the rigorous assessment process undertaken and expresses that the provisional allocation of grants for 2025-2026 fairly reflect the intentions of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008.	Nil
5	New Zealand Opera	Notes disappointment to have not secured a funding increase in the past and current periods. Seeks to make the Funding Board aware of additional information which may assist it in reconsidering the grant amount proposed. Highlights significant costs incurred from Auckland Philharmonia and Tātaki Unlimited. Submits that these charges are inefficient and	up to +\$126,000 <i>Sought</i> \$1,386,000 <i>Provisional grant</i> \$1,260,000

		should either be offset at source or the ARAFB grant be reconsidered. Highlights that despite the name, NZ Opera is not a national arts company, receiving no Ministry of Culture and Heritage Funding and has no national mandate. Seeks further discussion regarding the grant sum.	
6	Surf Life Saving Northern Region	Not seeking any changes to the grant allocation(s) or amendments to the Funding Plan. Expresses gratitude for the continued support.	Nil
		<b>TOTAL ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUESTED</b>	<b>\$229,375</b>



# AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD

## DRAFT 2025-2026 FUNDING PLAN

### WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS Addendum 1

For consideration on Tuesday, 11 February 2025

Number	Organisation (Alphabetical)
1	(The) Auckland Festival Trust
2	Auckland Philharmonia
3	Auckland Theatre Company
4	Drowning Prevention Auckland
5	New Zealand Opera
6	Surf Life Saving Northern Region

### ORAL SUBMISSIONS Addendum 2

For consideration on Tuesday, 11 February 2025

Order	Organisation / Name	Presenters	Time
1	Drowning Prevention Auckland	<b>Nicola Keen-Biggelaar</b> - Chief Executive	11.00-11.10am <i>10 mins max</i>
2	Surf Life Saving Northern Region	<b>Zac Franich</b> - General Manager	11.15-11.25am <i>10 mins max</i>
3	New Zealand Opera	<b>Brad Cohen</b> - General Director <b>Kent Beazley</b> - Director of Finance and Operations	11.30-11:50am <i>20 mins max</i>



**The Auckland Festival Trust**

Ph **+64 9 309 0989**

Email **info@aaf.co.nz**

Website **aaf.co.nz**

Ground Floor, 48 Greys Avenue, Auckland Central 1010

PO Box 5419, Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142

Aotearoa New Zealand

**SUBMISSION ON THE  
AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD  
2025-2026 DRAFT FUNDING PLAN**

To:

Public Submissions

Bree Torkington, Advisory Officer

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board

P O Box 6969, Victoria Street West

Auckland 1142, New Zealand

Email: [arafb.info@gmail.com](mailto:arafb.info@gmail.com)

Robbie Macrae – Chief Executive

Sarah Judkins – Chair

The Auckland Festival Trust (Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival)

Ground Floor, 48 Greys Avenue, Auckland 1010

PO Box 5419, Victoria Street West

Auckland 1142

Telephone: 09 309 0989

Mobile: Robbie Macrae 021 688 077

Facsimile: 09 309 0176

Email: [robbie.macrae@aaf.co.nz](mailto:robbie.macrae@aaf.co.nz)

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission? No

**Submission**

The Auckland Festival Trust Board supports the process undertaken for the Draft Funding Plan of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board for 2025-26.

In supporting the process, The Auckland Festival Trust notes that the level of funding recommended:

In general:

1. Complies with the Act with regards to the overall levy amount.
2. The Funding Plan takes into account the new funding principles

Specifically related to The Auckland Festival Trust:

The recommended level of funding will assist the organisation to:

1. Develop a programme for the 2026 Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival (AAF2026), the eighteenth festival to be mounted by the Trust, of a scale and reach appropriate for a major international city and one that will attract significant audiences from Tāmaki and nationally.

2. Plan a programme of events for AAF2026 that will take performances, free and regional events and a strong education programme around greater Auckland. And to further develop AAF's award-winning accessibility and inclusion programmes attracting and engaging new audiences to the festival and the arts in Auckland.
3. Further develop and grow the Toitū Te Reo programme strand (introduced in 2018/19) which promotes the normalization and use of te reo Māori within the Festival organisation and to Festival audiences and integrates the language across multiple platforms including marketing and communications as well as commissioning and staging new artworks by Māori and Pasifika artists.
4. Include works that will be relevant to and attract new migrants, with an increasing focus on delivering NZ works that include Asian content and are by NZ Asian creatives and performers; and bring artists from Asia (potentially from Taiwan, Korea, Vietnam, China and India) to showcase works to all Auckland audiences and attract an increased attendance for the NZ/Asian community.
5. Maintain existing marketing and communication deliverables and implement new marketing, sponsorship and communications strategies, ensuring adequate staffing levels are in place to develop and manage these, in particular to generate increased attendances (including audiences with English as a second language), ticket sales, sponsorship, grants, individual giving and other revenue streams.
6. Continue to create significant mentoring and employment opportunities for the creative and events sector including arts marketing, events management and production; and where appropriate support other events with a vision similar to AAF.
7. Play a key role in re-vitalizing and building the arts and events sector and infrastructure. In particular, rebuilding Auckland's technical production workforce and expertise, as many highly skilled technical production staff moved out of live performance to film and other sectors of the economy.
8. Retain highly skilled and experienced full-time staff across programming, marketing, production and administration areas, and ensure succession planning is in place.
9. Continue to play a key leadership role in the commissioning and development of New Zealand work of significance relevant to Auckland and beyond, and through this mentor artists and arts practitioners of Auckland; also to promote Auckland companies to tour nationally and internationally to the benefit of artists and the Auckland arts industry.
10. Maintain a stable organisation with ongoing capability and capacity to continue to stage the Te Ahurei Toi o Tāmaki Auckland Arts Festival annually.
11. Contribute significantly and more consistently to making Tāmaki Makaurau a great place to live, work and visit.

**SUBMISSION ON THE  
AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD'S  
DRAFT 2025 - 2026 FUNDING PLAN**

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission?    **YES**             **NO**

**Submitter details:**

Name/s: Diana Weir

Organisation: Auckland Philharmonia

Address: Level 1, Auckland Town Hall, 301-303 Queen Street, Auckland Central, 1010

Telephone: Click or tap here to enter text.

Mobile: 0274680664

Email: dianaw@aucklandphil.nz

If you are submitting on more than one matter, please use a [Submission Matter](#) section for each.

## SUBMISSION MATTER - 1

1. The specific matter within the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan that my/our submission relates to is...

Please clearly identify the section and page your submission relates to.

The allocated grant for the Auckland Philharmonia for 2024/2025

2. I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan:

We seek no amendment to the Draft Funding plan for 2025-2026, but wish to express our gratitude to the Funding Board for continuing to support us and the infrastructure of the industry. This funding allows us to continue to provide full-time employment to 70+ professional musicians, and reach tens of thousands of Aucklanders with our breadth of programming. It is vital to ensure that we are able to provide a stable income for artists, allowing them to live in and contribute to our city. We continue to use the grant prudently, and continue to explore all avenues for other revenue opportunities.

3. My/Our submission is that...

Please state the nature of the submission, giving reasons for the amendment requested

The stability that this funding provides us with allows us to continue to enhance the lives of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland's diverse and multicultural residents, whether through our outreach and education programmes, or through the international level, high-calibre performances we provide in the concert hall.

4. Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known:

N/A

SUBMISSION ON THE  
AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD  
2025-2026 DRAFT FUNDING PLAN

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission? Yes

**Submitter details:** Jonathan Bielski  
Artistic Director & CEO  
Auckland Theatre Company  
487 Dominion Road, Mt Eden  
027 200 2216  
[jonathan@atc.co.nz](mailto:jonathan@atc.co.nz)

## Submission on the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan

### 1. The specific matters within the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan that our submission relates to are:

- 1.1. Page 8: Provisional Grant Allocation to Auckland Theatre Company 2025-2026 of \$2,450,000.

### 2. We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan:

- 2.1. Auckland Theatre Company (ATC) respectfully requests that the grant allocation to Auckland Theatre Company be revised from the draft allocation of \$2,450,000 to \$2,553,375, an additional \$103,375, the amount applied for.
- 2.2. ATC intends these funds to support the employment of a development executive tasked to increase earned revenue from philanthropic sources.

### 3. Our submission is that:

- 3.1. Auckland Theatre Company (ATC) thanks the Funding Board for their continued support of our activities that deliver significant cultural amenity to the people of Auckland.
- 3.2. ATC recognises the major financial support provided by the ratepayers of Auckland through Auckland Council and the Funding Board and records our deep appreciation.
- 3.3. It is noted and we record our appreciation that the Funding Board has increased ATC's base grant for inflation in 2025-2026. Inflation indexation is vital to continued sustainability.
- 3.4. The broad thrust of the draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan is supported by ATC, acknowledging the delicate balance the Funding Board must strike. The Board's in-depth work to determine provisional grants for all Amenities and maintain critical community services that Aucklanders support is acknowledged and appreciated.
- 3.5. ATC, through its produced work and operation of ASBWT, is a major cultural asset for the benefit of all Aucklanders. We invest in local stories and are a major employer in the creative sector in Tāmaki Makaurau. The work we present is grounded in Tāmaki Makaurau. In the last three years, more than 50% of our annual programme has been work by New Zealand playwrights. In 2025, 66% of our programme is by New Zealand playwrights, all of whom are local to Tāmaki Makaurau.
- 3.6. Although 2024 was a tough year for all New Zealand, more than 55,000 people chose to spend their discretionary income on attending an ATC performance confirming there is interest in what we do and support across the community for our work.
- 3.7. ATC refers to introductory remarks in the Draft Funding Plan that note the need for Amenities to continue to generate revenue from other sources. ATC agrees that it is

the responsibility of Amenities to maximise earned revenue and draws to the Funding Boards attention that more than 58-59% of ATCs revenue, COVID-19 affected years excluded, comes from sources other than public sector funding including since the opening of ASB Waterfront Theatre in 2016.

Year	% earned revenue	% public sector grant revenue
2015	52%	48%
2016	65%	35%
2017	58%	42%
2018	57%	43%
2019	65%	35%
2020	38%	62%
2021	37%	63%
2022	54%	46%
2023	58%	42%
2024	59%	41%
2025 (forecast)	58%	42%

- 3.8. ATC refers to introductory notes in the Draft Funding Plan that when users are unwilling or unable to increase amounts paid to access services, it is not the Funding Boards role to automatically increase grant funding. ATC agrees with the Funding Board on this matter and draws the Funding Board's attention to the fact that, in addition to the above, tickets to ATC productions and hire rates for ASB Waterfront Theatre are increased in each year to maximise our earned revenue.
- 3.9. ATC notes that there is a tension between the cost of live entertainment and the collective desire for Auckland to have a vibrant cultural and entertainment sector that can be accessed and enjoyed by all citizens. Through ATC's accessible theatre initiatives, it is clear that there is appetite from a diversity of communities to access and enjoy live theatre, and that for some cost is the barrier to participation.
- 3.10. 2024 Pay What You Wish audience post-show survey result:

<b>What is your biggest barrier to attending theatre?</b>	
Ticket price	60%
Shows that do not interest me	11%
Location	10%
Parking	5%
Feeling out of place	1%
Other	13%

- 3.11. ATC takes seriously its responsibility to improve revenue generation. To that end, ATC wishes to increase philanthropic revenue. ATC has not had any dedicated development staff since 2020. Revenue earned from development is 8%-10% of total revenue. As a measure to improve our revenue, we have identified an opportunity to



increase revenue from philanthropic sources. With a focused specialist resource there is the potential for an uplift. To derisk this measure we have sought an increased grant from ARAFB to underwrite the risk.

#### 4. Cost or saving impact of proposal

- 4.1. ATC, like many organisations, has had a tough 2024. Our equity is low and available reserves exhausted. Our focus in 2025 is on a turnaround year to achieve a surplus. We are carefully managing expenses and maximising opportunities to secure revenue. Although we believe a dedicated specialist development resource would increase revenue, the lag between commitment of the expense necessary and the realisation of that revenue is a risk we have to carefully manage.
- 4.2. Funding from ARAFB to support ATC to employ a development executive will mean we can reduce the risk and work hard to secure further increases in philanthropic revenue over future years.
- 4.3. ATC appreciates that there is significant inflation and infrastructure related pressures on Auckland Council, and that expenditure and benefit must be carefully considered when making decisions. ATC submits that its programme of activities contributes to the social, economic and cultural development of the city and are strategically aligned with Outcomes 1, 2, 5 & 6 of the Auckland Plan 2050; Toi Whitiki Arts and Culture Strategic Action Plan goals participation, investment, infrastructure, identity and creative economy; Kia ora Tāmaki Makaurau goals te Umanga, te Reo, te Ahurea, te Whānau, te Rangatahi, and te Taiao; and Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri Auckland's Climate Plan.
- 4.4. ATC respectfully submits that a decision from the Funding Board supporting ATC to increase development revenue will improve our resilience and directly contribute to our ability to generate our own revenue.

**END OF SUBMISSION.**

**SUBMISSION ON THE  
AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD'S  
DRAFT 2025 - 2026 FUNDING PLAN**

Do you wish to be heard in support of your submission?    **YES**                       **NO**

**Submitter details:**

Name/s: Nicola Keen-Biggelaar

Organisation: Drowning Prevention Auckland

Address: 85 Westhaven Drive, St Marys Bay, Auckland

Telephone: 09 376 5114

Mobile: 021 541 222

Email: nicola@dpanz.org.nz

If you are submitting on more than one matter, please use a Submission Matter section for each.

## SUBMISSION MATTER - 1

1. The specific matter within the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan that my/our submission relates to is...

Please clearly identify the section and page your submission relates to.

Provisional Grant Allocations to Specified Amenities 2025 - 2026

2. I/We seek the following amendment to the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan:

No amendment sought.

3. My/Our submission is that...

Please state the nature of the submission, giving reasons for the amendment requested

As per attached letter

4. Please indicate the cost or saving impact of your proposal, if known:

Click or tap here to enter text.



29 January 2025

Public Submissions  
Advisory Officer  
Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board  
PO Box 6969  
Wellesley Street  
Auckland 1141  
c/- [arafb.info@gmail.com](mailto:arafb.info@gmail.com)

**Re: Submission on the Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan**

Dear Victoria and fellow Directors

The nature of this submission is one of gratitude on behalf of the Board of Drowning Prevention Auckland. Through the financial support of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board, DPA are enabled to deliver education, research and advocacy that has contributed to the reduction of drowning incidents across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

Thank you for the draft allocation of increased funding for Drowning Prevention Auckland that will enable us to continue to provide evidence-based and necessary drowning prevention and water safety education to members of the Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland region.

Drowning Prevention Auckland would like to acknowledge the rigorous assessment process undertaken and believe that provisional allocation of grants for 2025-2026 fairly reflect the intentions of the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act 2008.

In 1980, before local government investment through the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Act, there were 35 drownings per year (4.5 per 100,000). Thanks to Auckland Council's consistent drowning prevention efforts through investment in Drowning Prevention Auckland, this has dropped to an average of 18 drownings per year (1.08 per 100,000), compared to a national rate of 1.65 per 100,000 for the last ten years. This investment is effective and necessary for our multicultural community.

Provisional data for 2024 shows a reduction of drowning fatalities across Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland from the spike of 27 in 2023 to 18 in 2024. Furthermore, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland consistently has a lower drowning rate than the national average. This is notable given the additional challenges from

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**+64 9 376 5114 | [info@dpanz.org.nz](mailto:info@dpanz.org.nz) | 85 Westhaven Drive, Westhaven, Auckland**



multiculturalism, a growing population, and our proximity to aquatic environments, including two coastlines and three harbours. Judging the impact we are having on static numbers only is misrepresentative of the challenges we continue to strive to overcome.

Drowning incidents occur across all demographics and environments, making prevention complex. Drowning prevention education is crucial to changing water-related behaviours and therefore continued investment is needed to address evolving aquatic engagement and ensure safety.

Community engagement and diverse staffing are key to our efforts. However, accessing additional funding remains challenging due to our Specified Amenity status and a significant tightening of funding from all philanthropic avenues over the last 12-18 months.

Your support is always appreciated, and at this time of financial constraint, to have an increase in funding is particularly important and valued.

As long-term collaborators, we believe unity and improved sector collaboration are essential to addressing the wicked problem of drowning. We continue to collaborate with others as evidenced by our long-term partnership on rock-based fishing, leading Wai Ora Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland's regional water safety and drowning prevention strategy, and the development of the *Float first* campaign. Alongside the spirit of collaboration, we recognise our sector partners' role and acknowledge the increase in funding to Surf Life Saving New Zealand, which is focused on drowning prevention through search and rescue efforts.

Being a Specified Amenity allows us to plan strategically and operationally to meet the needs of Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland in preventing drowning through education. Many thanks for your support.

Ngā mihi maioha

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nicola Keen-Biggelaar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Nicola Keen-Biggelaar**  
Chief Executive

# NZ OPERA

Bree Torkington  
 Advisory Officer  
**Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board**  
 P O Box 6969  
 Victoria Street West  
 AUCKLAND 1142

February 4, 2025

## **ARAFB: Formal reply for submission**

Kia ora koutou

We acknowledge notification of our Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board grant for 2025-6 with thanks. Although we are disappointed not to have secured an increase in either the past or coming period, this letter seeks to make the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board aware of additional information which may assist it in reconsidering the grant amount proposed for NZ Opera in 2025-6.

NZ Opera currently incurs significant costs charged to us by fellow amenities and Council organisations. The Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board may not be aware that these costs, detailed below, effectively represent a double charge. In many comparable council-funded arts organisations (for instance between the West Australian Opera and the West Australian Symphony Orchestra) a grant recipient orchestra typically provides an agreed service to a fellow grant recipient organisation in order to avoid this circularity; for example, an agreed number of orchestral weeks or calls per annum are provided to an opera company at zero billable cost, as a condition of the orchestra's grant.

The absence of any such expectation within the current Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board grant structure is of concern to us, and materially affects NZ Opera's operating costs in Auckland.

### **1. Auckland Philharmonia**

In 2024-5, the Auckland Philharmonia will provide services to NZ Opera at a total billable cost to us of **\$273,296**. There is no recognition in our current contractual agreement that both organisations are Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board amenities, and so Auckland Philharmonia treats all NZ Opera engagements as a commercial external hire. I note also that Auckland Philharmonia players are now salaried, unlike the NZO Chorus who are freelance contractors.

In 2025-6, for one mainstage opera season, Auckland Philharmonia is projected to charge **\$129,700** for the services they provide to NZ Opera; again without taking into account the funding we both receive from Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board.

# NZ OPERA

## 2. Tātaki Unlimited

Similarly, Tātaki Unlimited charges NZ Opera for Auckland venue hire. In 2024-5, the total Tātaki charge to NZ Opera for *La bohème* will be **\$161,600** (\$81,600 in venue costs, plus \$70,000 for tech and front of house, and \$10,000 for opening night hosting services). In 2025-6 these costs are projected to increase, as they did between 2024 and 2025.

Both of these contractual relationships, although collaborative and cordial, represent a significant and (we would suggest) avoidable cross-charging between entities. Our submission to the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board for 2025-6 is that such charges should either be offset in some way at source, or that Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board grant allocations and expectations are reconsidered going forward.

Despite our Company title, which I am aware causes a degree of misapprehension, New Zealand Opera is not a national arts Company. We receive no Ministry of Culture and Heritage funding (unlike the NZSO or the RNZB) and currently have no government mandate for national status or activities.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board for our work in Auckland. However, the inefficiency of cross-charging between entities is a source of concern to us, which we seek to bring to your attention.

I am keen to meet with the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board to discuss this further, including what additional grant sum might be achievable and practical. Should this offer be of interest I look forward to making the necessary arrangements with Bree.

With all good wishes

Ngā mihi nui



Brad Cohen  
General Director | Te Tumu Whakarae  
New Zealand Opera



**SURF LIFE SAVING**  
NORTHERN REGION

Surf Life Saving No... 4.7 a 10  
3 Solent  
PO Box 2195, Shortland Street, Auckland 1140  
T 09 303 0663  
www.lifesaving.org.nz

4<sup>th</sup> February 2025,

Ms Victoria Carter  
Chair – Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board  
P O Box 6969, Victoria Street West,  
Auckland 1142

Dear Victoria,

**Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board (ARAFB) - Draft 2025-2026 Funding Plan: SLSNR's Response**

On behalf of Surf Life Saving Northern Region, our staff and volunteers, I would like to extend my thanks for the provisional amount allocated for the 2026 financial year. The sum of \$2,080,000 will enable uninterrupted service delivery across our busy coastlines.

The recent tragedies on Tāmaki Makaurau's west coast have been a sobering reminder of the critical role we play in protecting our communities. This can only be achieved, in no small part, with the assistance provided by the ARAFB.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Zac Franich  
General Manager



**SURF LIFE SAVING**  
NORTHERN REGION

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# AUCKLAND REGIONAL AMENITIES FUNDING BOARD

## Report

5 February 2025

To: Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board Directors

From: Bree Torkington, Advisory Officer

**Subject: Finance Report to 31 December 2024**

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board's finances to the Funding Board Directors.

### Recommendations

That the Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board:

- A. Receive the Finance Report to 31 December 2024

### ARAFB - General

1. Copies of the Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss account to 31 December 2024 are attached. Points of note:
  - a. **Balance Sheet:**
    - **Creditors** – An outstanding payment of \$450,000 to Auckland Council, due since 15 August 2023, remains unsettled. Discussion with Auckland Council regarding this is ongoing.
    - **GST** refund of \$4,072.07 was due. This was received on 3 February 2025.
  - b. **Profit & Loss:**
    - **Advertising** - December's expenses are higher due to receiving two invoices from the NZ Herald, compared to just one last month.
    - **Advisory Office/Admin Charge** - December's expenses show a significant decrease due to Bree's reduced hours worked this month—14.25 hours compared to the previous month's 68.25 hours.
    - **Audit Fees** - November's expenses include an audit invoice from Audit NZ for the audit of the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.
    - **Interest Income** - November's interest was significantly higher due to a \$500,000 addition to term deposit (#72). This generated almost \$7,000 in interest received.

**Specified Amenity Quarterly Reports to 31 December 2024**

2. Quarterly reports to 31 December 2024 have previously been distributed to Directors under separate cover.

**Specified Amenity Annual Reports to 31 December 2024**

3. Annual reports and financial statements from those Specified Amenities with a 31 December 2024 balance date are due no later than 31 March 2025.

**2024 Annual Report and Audit**

4. The 2024 Annual Report was published on 4 December 2024.
5. The Auditors' Report to Governors is expected shortly and will be circulated to Directors under a separate cover.
6. The agreed fee for the 2024 audit was paid to Audit NZ. A further invoice for the cost overruns signalled in the last report is still to be received.
7. This financial year, the Funding Board appointed Clockworx as its accounting service, and Greenlion to prepare the annual financial accounts. The agreed fee for preparing the financial accounts for audit was paid to Greenlion. Clockworx invoiced Greenlion \$2186.50 +GST for its contribution to the preparation of annual financial accounts, being drafting of cash basis accounts and conversion reports data from MYOB to XERO. This expense has now been on-charged to the Funding Board to be paid in February.

**Profit and Loss**

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board  
For the month ended 31 December 2024

Account	Dec 2024	Nov 2024	Oct 2024	Sept 2024	Year to date	Movement	Movement %	Remarks
<b>Income</b>								
Levy - Non GST Portion	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,527,000.00	0.00	0%	Levies are paid to ARAFB only once a year, typically in July, and then distributed as grants to specified amenities.
Levy - ARAFB Admin Fee GST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	378,750.00	0.00	0%	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>17,905,750.00</b>			
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>17,905,750.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>								
Advertising	588.62	222.07	222.07	0.00	1,032.76	366.55	62%	December's expenses are higher due to receiving two invoices from the NZ Herald, compared to just one last month.
Accounting Fees	0.00	550.00	0.00	1,790.00	2,340.00	(550.00)	0%	November includes the Clockworx invoice for their bi-monthly service provided to ARAFB. The next invoice will be in January 2025.
Advisory Officer/Admin Charge	1,140.00	5,460.00	8,420.00	4,180.00	23,280.00	(4,320.00)	-379%	December's expenses show a significant decrease due to Bree's reduced hours worked this month—14.25 hours compared to the previous month's 68.25 hours.
Audit Fees	0.00	10,429.00	0.00	0.00	5,430.00	(10,429.00)	0%	November's expenses include an audit invoice from Audit NZ for the audit of the financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2024.
Bank Fees	1.80	1.49	1.65	0.90	9.14	0.31	17%	
Consultants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(3,720.00)	0.00	0%	
Dues & Subscriptions	77.69	33.25	17.74	0.00	2,372.15	44.44	57%	December's expenses increased due to the payment of the 2024 Charities Register Return during the month.
Grants to Amenities No GST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17,527,000.00	0.00	0%	Grants to specified amenities are paid only once a year, typically in July or August.
Legal Fees	0.00	0.00	776.25	0.00	9,832.50	0.00	0%	Non-recurring expense
Meeting Expenses	159.42	623.09	282.61	365.74	1,430.86	(463.67)	-291%	November's expenses included higher parking and meal costs compared to December.
Postage	0.00	7.13	0.00	0.00	7.13	(7.13)	0%	November includes parking voucher returns while December has none.
<b>Employment Expenses</b>								
Honorariums	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(7,896.24)	0.00	0%	
Staff Amenities	50.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.43	50.43	100%	A gift for the Deputy Chair was included in December's expenses.
<b>Total Employment Expenses</b>	<b>50.43</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>(7,845.81)</b>	<b>50.43</b>	<b>100%</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,017.96</b>	<b>17,326.03</b>	<b>9,720.32</b>	<b>6,336.64</b>	<b>17,561,168.73</b>	<b>(15,308.07)</b>	<b>-759%</b>	
						0	0%	
<b>Operating Profit</b>	<b>(2,017.96)</b>	<b>(17,326.03)</b>	<b>(9,720.32)</b>	<b>(6,336.64)</b>	<b>344,581.27</b>	<b>15,308.07</b>	<b>-759%</b>	
<b>Other Income</b>								
Interest Income	485.18	10,373.29	4,220.39	2,239.58	142,568.94	(9,888.11)	-2038%	November's interest was significantly higher due to a \$500,000 addition to term deposit (#72). This generated almost \$7,000 in interest received.
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>485.18</b>	<b>10,373.29</b>	<b>4,220.39</b>	<b>2,239.58</b>	<b>142,568.94</b>	<b>(9,888.11)</b>	<b>-2038%</b>	
						0	0%	
<b>Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>(1,532.78)</b>	<b>(6,952.74)</b>	<b>(5,499.93)</b>	<b>(4,097.06)</b>	<b>487,150.21</b>	<b>5,419.96</b>	<b>-354%</b>	

**Balance Sheet**

Auckland Regional Amenities Funding Board  
As at 31 December 2024

Account	31 Dec 2024	30 Nov 2024	31 Oct 2024	30 Sept 2024	Movement		Remarks
<b>Assets</b>							
<b>Bank</b>							
Cheque Account	136,273.39	1,094,530.29	114,073.19	567,160.95	(958,256.90)	Agree to bank	All Xero bank balances are reconciled with the statements provided by Bree.
Term Deposits	1,332,000.00	392,000.00	1,342,000.00	892,000.00	940,000.00	Agree to bank	
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>1,468,273.39</b>	<b>1,486,530.29</b>	<b>1,456,073.19</b>	<b>1,459,160.95</b>			
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>1,468,273.39</b>	<b>1,486,530.29</b>	<b>1,456,073.19</b>	<b>1,459,160.95</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>							
<b>Current Liabilities</b>							
Creditors	452,178.74	468,600.43	461,156.07	457,286.10	(16,421.69)	Per Schedule	The outstanding payment of \$450,000 to Auckland Council, due since August 15, 2023, remains unsettled. This has been confirmed by Bree.
GST	(4,355.85)	(4,053.42)	(34,018.90)	(32,561.10)	(302.43)	Per Reconciliation	
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>447,822.89</b>	<b>464,547.01</b>	<b>427,137.17</b>	<b>424,725.00</b>			
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>447,822.89</b>	<b>464,547.01</b>	<b>427,137.17</b>	<b>424,725.00</b>			
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>1,020,450.50</b>	<b>1,021,983.28</b>	<b>1,028,936.02</b>	<b>1,034,435.95</b>			
<b>Equity</b>							
Retained Earnings	533,300.29	533,300.29	533,300.29	533,300.29	0.00		
Current Year Earnings	487,150.21	488,682.99	495,635.73	501,135.66	(1,532.78)	Per Profit & Loss	
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,020,450.50</b>	<b>1,021,983.28</b>	<b>1,028,936.02</b>	<b>1,034,435.95</b>			

GST basis  
Frequency

Payment Basis  
Bi Monthly

	Nov-Dec 24	Sep-Oct 24	Jul-Aug 24
Balance per GST return	4,072.07	32,564.17	- 52,905.21
GST on debtors			
Less GST on creditors	284.19	1,455.14	929.02
GST on invoices paid before the invoice was raised			
	4,356.26	34,019.31	- 51,976.19
Adjustments			
GST on debtors - Changing Basis			
GST on creditors - Changing Basis			
Late Claims if Invoice basis - Changing Basis			
Late claims			30,682.13
MJ posted by James Kelso in June 2024 and reversed in July 2024.			
Minimal Variance	- 0.41	- 0.41	- 0.41
	4,355.85	34,018.90	- 21,294.47
<b>YE adjustment by client</b>			
Balance per Xero	4,355.85	34,018.90	- 21,294.47
Difference (should be nil) GST refund	-	-	-