

Submission to Auckland Council: The Auckland Plan and Long-term Plan (10-year Budget)

Lodged on behalf of:

The Auckland Yacht & Boating Association Inc.

Introduction:

As this submission is on behalf of all who enjoy our coastal environment, the foreshore, harbours and gulf, for sport and recreation and well-being it concerns a number of the Local Boards and the city in its entirety individual responses for each Local Board is deemed irrelevant.

It is the concern of the Auckland Yachting and Boating Association Inc. that there is no Regional Plan for the protection of this most valuable asset used by over half the population, our aquatic sports field:

The estuaries, rivers, shorelines, beaches, the coastal environment, marinas and mooring areas, the Harbours and Hauraki Gulf –

for their sport and recreation and, most importantly, their physical and mental well-being.

Auckland Regional Yachting & Boating Facilities & Future Proofing:

In 2017 Sports AKtive published a plan for future proofing sport in Auckland. In this plan the only mention of any aquatic sports apart from swimming pool facilities, was rowing on the Tamaki River and sailing on the Hauraki Gulf.

In response, and on behalf of the Auckland Yachting and Boating Association and in association with Yachting New Zealand, I lodged a document with Sports AKtive,

“Auckland Regional Yachting and Boating Sports Facilities & Future Proofing” which included spread sheets of the 110+ clubs and sporting activities that use our coastal marine environment and their shore facilities. Many of these facilities also serve as community assets.

This document was acknowledged and accepted by Sports AKtive. It was also tabled at an Auckland Council meeting and accepted.

(Copies of this document and the spreadsheets are available from the AYBA)

In February, 2024 I received the information from Sports AKtive inviting submissions on the Long Term Plan 2024-2034. On these documents, the only aquatic references are the Surf Life Saving Association and the Marine Centre at Hobsonville. The Hobsonville centre is not a new venue but is replacing a boating and sailing facility lost to the development of residential apartments.

Again, there is no mention in these Sports AKtive documents of our largest recreational area, the coastal environment and the sports and recreation it supports.

Again, not only on behalf of **the Auckland Yacht & Boating Association Inc. (AYBA)** and our member clubs but also on behalf of the one million++ people that use our estuaries, rivers, shorelines, beaches, the coastal environment and the Harbours and Hauraki Gulf for their sport and recreation and, most importantly, their physical and mental well-being, we lodge this submission.

Over 64% of Auckland's population of all ages and ethnicities use our aquatic environment for their sport and recreation and well-being.

The **AYBA** represents the Yachting and Boating Clubs of Auckland of which there are over 47 affiliated Clubs. These numbers do not include the tens of thousands of members of the public and their families, who do not belong to clubs or organisations but swim, sail, paddle, wind surf, fish and motor on our waterways and harbour or enjoy a coastal walk or sand castles and fish and chips on the shore!.

A Regional Plan:

There is an urgent need to protect our maritime environment and a need for an overall Regional Plan of all our coastal and aquatic assets from the rivers and estuaries of our upper harbours to the islands and Hauraki Gulf. We must ensure that the increasing population will continue to have access to this recreational arena to enjoy their aquatic preferences.

Following a presentation by the AYBA and the Auckland Marina Users Association to the Environment, Parks and Reserves Committee at which the AYBA and AMUA expressed the need for a **Regional Plan** we were told by the chairman that:

“The Coastal Locations are Increasingly Attractive to Alternative development.”

An alarming statement that does not guarantee the ongoing existence of the shoreline as we know it. Too often what is a regional asset enjoyed by ALL Aucklanders is looked on by the Local Boards as “their patch” just serving the demands of their local residents! These important **Regional Assets** are dwindling as development moves in! Where Auckland was governed by 5 Boroughs and Cities and a Regional Association it is now governed by 21 local Community Boards and there is **NO Regional Planning for our Coastal Environment and our Parks and Reserves.**

Climate Change & Rising Sea Level:

With the threat of coastal inundation from storm surges and rising sea levels and the increased flood waters in our estuaries:

“The Alternative development of Coastal Locations must NOT be a consideration!”

Development of our shoreline reserves and aquatic related amenities for the benefit of ALL Aucklanders who enjoy our aquatic environment can be designed with the awareness of these threats and precautions can be under taken against predicted inundations.

Bio-security is a real and major concern in New Zealand:

Biosecurity requires an organised response from the Region and cannot be the decision of the independent Local Boards working in isolation.

The Auckland Council advocates education but compliance is impossible without the availability of facilities and this is of major concern to the neighbouring Northland and Waikato Regional Councils.

Local Boards must consider their assets as part of a Regional Plan their value to all Auckland.

The Regional Aquatic Sports Arena:

In excess of 100 sporting organisations, which cater for all ages and abilities, have a footprint on the foreshore of our rivers, harbour and beaches and the facility to ensure the safety of their members. Many have club rooms, some have storage and rigging areas, all require safe access to the water and all cater for the health and safety of their members and, when necessary, the general public. All are dependent on a large number of volunteers who all are involved with management, training and safety both ashore and on the water.

These organisations have ownership of, and manage and maintain their clubhouse facilities but most have tenure on Council land with a huge variation in the entitlement to occupy, the rentals payable, the tenancy agreements and the bylaws controlling the use of their sites and premises yet all are responsible for the maintenance of the buildings and grounds. Most are dependent on the income from public and community use but many are restricted by the Local Board by-laws. Without this added income many would struggle to pay the Auckland Council's rental fees and valuable community assets and venues would be lost!

Per head of population the cost of maintaining Auckland's largest recreation arena and the ongoing use and availability for ALL Aucklanders, and visitors, is MINIMAL.

The Long term plan 2024-2034 must ensure our coastal environment remains our greatest sports field!

While Sports Aktive highlights the major shortfalls of indoor and outdoor courts, playing fields and artificial turfs and indoor arenas the only reference to Auckland's largest playing field is the reference to cleaning up the water ways!!

The Draft Long term Plan:

As Sports Aktive have demonstrated the draft Long term Plan proposed by Auckland Council contains a Capital shortfall for sport and recreation of at least \$500m over the next 10 years. Even with the increase in funding shown in the draft Long term Plan, Council itself has said there will be a decreased level of service, deteriorating assets, and risk of failure and asset closure.

In accordance with Sports Aktive's statement:

To make sure that we build on its strengths and hold on to the things that are dear to us during this growth, we ask Council

- To prioritise the provision for sport and recreation along our foreshore.
- To preserve and protect all existing foreshore reserves and support the clubs and the aquatic sporting organisations
- To maintain and upgrade all the Council facilities such as launching ramps and shore access for the use of the entire general public.

Options & Opportunities:

- Protect all foreshore open space and the aquatic facilities on these shores.
- Permit limited storage of boats and equipment, parking and loading zones.
- Encourage and promote clubs as safety, environmental and educational centres for the local communities.
- Encourage and support working with schools.
- Encourage the general public to work with and support the clubs and their members with environmental and safety issues.
- Recognise the opportunity as training venues and information centres.

Catering for the Future:

With the projected population growth, smaller residential sections, apartment living, the loss of back yards for home storage and the drive towards the greater use of cycle ways, the need for storage and parking at the coastal venues is essential especially for the support craft. Sailing gear, paddle boards, waka, safety craft and are not compatible with public transport or cycling.

- Public Launching ramps and Trailer parks are necessary.
- The latest census was a lost opportunity to reveal the numbers and usage of our waterways and harbours as recreational sports arenas.

To invest in, and protect, our environment over the next decade support all the clubs and organisations that use our maritime world:

- As guardians of the environment!
- As educators of maritime safety!
- As local community centres catering, as currently, for the very diverse range of community activities.

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<https://aucklandcouncil.mysocialpinpoint.com/shorelineadaptationplans/map#/>