

Submission Template

How to make a submission for Auckland
Council Emergency Budget Consultation.

Auckland Council has released its emergency budget, in response to the hit COVID has had on our economy. They want your feedback on some of the key changes they're making to our budget with some information around what impact these changes will make.

Inspiring Communities have led a series of consultations with a diverse range of community organisations across Tāmaki Makaurau and we have developed what people said into collective responses that you can copy and paste from as below.

Make sure you, your family, your friends and others you know, have their say!

There are two options you can choose from to do this and we recommend you do both:

1: SEND EMAILS TO:

- the Mayor (phil.goff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)
- your local board chair (find your local board here <https://bit.ly/3hymXqY>)
- councillors (find your local councillor here: <https://bit.ly/2YCCmy3>)

You can download an email template here: <https://bit.ly/emailforemergencybudget>. You can copy and paste from that link if you wish and send it directly to the elected members of your choice.

2.0 FORMALLY RESPOND VIA THE SUBMISSION PROCESS:

To make a submission please use the submission form on the Auckland Council website (press the “Have your say” button). Submissions close at midnight on June 19, 2020:

https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/have-your-say/topics-you-can-have-your-say-on/emergency-budget/Pages/default.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0B58A_6fzEiUTD1qGABVWTCa-pv5tMzn0acgqAC6vecZBTbqkG-xDPR3

There are four questions for your submission and all are voluntary to answer. You can copy and paste the text below for your submission if you agree with our position.

QUESTION 1. General rates increase for 2020/2021

Council is proposing an average general rates increase of either 2.5 per cent or 3.5 per cent for 2020/2021.

Which increase do you support?

- 2.5 per cent average general rates increase
- 3.5 per cent average general rates increase
- I don't know

WE RECOMMEND CHOOSING 3.5%.

WHY (you can copy and paste this response into your submission):

2.5% would mean significant cuts to assets like libraries and climate change mitigation measures and no chance to improve quality of life around the city in equitable ways. 3.5% is our only option to have a chance at setting our city up for a positive future.

QUESTION 2. Rates postponement for ratepayers impacted by COVID-19

Council is proposing to introduce a COVID-19 Rates Postponement Scheme. This will allow ratepayers who are struggling financially as a result of COVID-19 to defer up to \$20,000 of their rates for the 2020/2021 year. At the end of the postponement period ratepayers would have until 30 June 2022 to pay off the balance (including interest and administration fees).

What do you think of this proposal?

- I support the proposal
- I don't support the proposal
- I don't know



WE SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL.

WHY:

We support this proposal because it will assist people and small businesses with their cashflow and will help support businesses not to fail.

QUESTION 3. Suspending the targeted rate paid by accommodation providers

Restrictions on travel and mass gatherings due to COVID-19 have resulted in us reducing our spending on visitor attraction and major events. We are proposing to suspend the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (APTR) which helps fund these activities until 31 March 2021. The APTR will only be charged for the last three months of the next financial year (2020/2021) as we increase our spending in this area. This proposal will assist the accommodation sector who are struggling financially.

- I support the proposal
- I don't support the proposal
- I don't know

WE DON'T SUPPORT THIS PROPOSAL.

WHY:

We would prefer the rate was reduced and paid into a fund that is targeted to the domestic tourist market. This is already a national campaign and will benefit both out of town tourists and locals alike.

QUESTION 4. Other feedback - what is important to you?

OPEN QUESTION

You can copy and paste the following recommendations into the box:

It is important to me that community groups are a part of the decision making ongoing. We need to be included in seeing where the spending is going. Why does the document suggest that the Council will still run an after-tax surplus for the year of over \$300 million? I appreciate the need to have funds available for contingencies but given the current circumstances, I urge Council to aspire to a lower surplus.



It is important to me to see an investment focus not an austerity focus. We want to invest in wellbeing. The council can be a seed funder for these ideas (the money could also come from the central government.) Scaling out so that it is fit for purpose, not a roll out, there has to be an understanding that this will look different in different areas.

It is important to me that the Council explores the recycling of community assets, communities should be offered any assets first and supported to take those up. Ideally with council retaining ownership and oversight but not interfering for future generations. Help to support community groups but don't tell us how to do our work. There is a lack of opportunities in this budget, we would like to see the community-supported to step up.

It is important to me that the Council does not defund any action to resolve the urgent crises that Auckland is already facing, namely our homelessness and climate change.

Thank you for submitting!

