



## auckland north community and development

16 June 2020

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To: Auckland Emergency Budget 20/21  
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**Submission:** Auckland Emergency Budget

ANCAD is an incorporated society governed by a Board and was formed in 1974 and incorporated in 1979. It is a lead organisation in the community sector in Auckland North, with 150 plus member organisations. Within the mosaic of community development activity ANCAD connects, facilitates, inspires and drives community action designed to build community and improve quality of life for local residents. ANCAD is a respected and trusted partner of central government, local government, local businesses and community sector organisations. We run the largest community database and network meetings in north Auckland and possibly across the region. ANCAD celebrates 46 years of serving communities this year.

### **1) General Rates Increase for 2020/2021**

We support the highest increase of 3.5%

- We would hope that the 2.5% increase is not supported. This would create too many negative impacts to even be considered.
- In fact, we are disappointed a higher option other than 3.5% was not given.
- 3.5% increase is the bare minimum as it is important the Council does not cut spending of the many essential community services available across the city.

## **2) Rates postponement for ratepayers impacted by COVID 19**

We support the proposal

- ANCAD manages the North Shore Budget Service and due to COVID we are seeing an increasing number of families facing severe hardship at this time. Postponement of rates is the least we can do at this time for struggling families.
- In cases of extreme hard-ship we would like to see deferment of rates for a significant length of time to allow the individuals or family time to 'get back on their feet'.

## **3) Suspending the targeted rate paid by accommodation providers**

We support the proposal

- Like many tourism operators, accommodation providers have been impacted severely by COVID 19. We recommend putting this rate on hold as there is no need to spend this money on its targeted purpose.

## **4) Other Feedback**

- Auckland Council's proposed budget cuts are concerning for communities and the many essential services that are delivered across the region.
- Whilst we understand the need for cuts, we do not want to see the pandemic used to make wholesale cuts to many essential services relied on by communities. Instead we would like to see a recovery model that aligns with the central government approach of investing in our communities.
- This requires a proactive approach that isn't about wholesale cuts across the board. The impact of COVID has made many realise we can no longer adopt 'business as usual' thinking. We have seen how our climate can change with no cars on the road. We want to adopt measures that ensure a clean, green and resilient community. Making huge cuts across the region will undermine the work of central government with its investment in recovery.
- At this time many in our communities are struggling significantly. ANCAD believes it is important that Auckland Council continues to fully fund services that support whanau across the region. Many community organisations that provide these services are facing considerable loss of income with philanthropic endeavours reducing impacted by COVID. Without full Council support many will not remain sustainable and essential services may not be available where needed. This is a dangerous situation for communities. We are seeing a rise in poverty

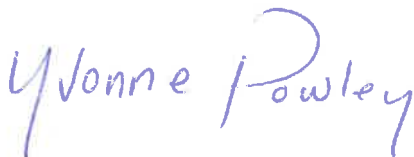
with an increase in food parcels and many not surviving on their reduced income through business failure and job losses.

- Local Board spending is important for the provision of local community activities, community houses and hubs, environmental projects, grant programmes and support for community projects. We do not want to see cuts that impact on our local community facilities and projects. It is important that communities are socially connected and able to be responsive to the needs in their communities particularly at this time when we are seeing a certain rise in community hardship.

In conclusion we are keen to assist in exploring community led opportunities and solutions in our recovery from COVID-19. At best, a 3.5% rate rise means reduced support to vulnerable groups and communities already. At worst, a lesser 2.5% rate rise is likely to generate permanent closures of some community facilities and services, reductions in community grants and local projects which communities and groups rely on. We are also concerned about cuts to our environmental and important climate change work and proposals.

We would like to see a whole new approach in thinking to better respond to the COVID impact to invest in communities and not just an approach of widespread cuts and 'business as usual' processes.

Yours sincerely



Yvonne Powley  
**Chief Executive Officer**