

Purpose: To represent and advocate for all Auckland city centre residents to Auckland Council and other relevant agencies/organisation. The purpose of such representation is to make known the concerns of residents, to work for the best possible living environment and to support community building in the City Centre.



**ccrg.org.nz**

CCRG submitted on and agreed with the 10 year budget - it is a good and agreed work in progress, and there are no major changes in what is being proposed now. And we have submitted on this annual Budget/plan

For the wider budgetary picture:

We support:

- an increase in the annual charge to base service waste management charges.
- the need to increase fees and charges on specific services where costs have risen.
- the Legal transfer ownership of Panuku's waterfront properties to council

For the Local Board specific changes related to the City centre:

We support Agrichemical-free weed control, though emphasise that it must be accompanied by a commitment to maintaining agreed levels of service.

We support environmental initiatives like stream restorations but would like to see Waihorotiu in the mix.

Arts & community – we definitely support LB funding of more city centre local and community events and initiatives – especially targeted at our more isolated & marginalised city centre residents, of which there are many.

CCRG is pleased that we are working with a responsive, positive and forward thinking Board that shares many if not most of the same aspirations that we do. We also recognise that the area of the WLB extends well outside the city centre and that not all councillors or perhaps future hopefuls (since we are in election year!), or non-city centre residents always really understand what it is to live in the city centre.

We believe City centre Residents occupy a unique sphere within Auckland - no such other distinct group exists in Auckland that is so easily identified geographically, and spatially (as we all live in apartments). Nowhere else in Auckland has the level of growth, daily change (both good and bad) noise, disruption, construction, dynamism and so on. ... It's a long list. We are both a playground and testing ground for the whole city and country.

That's what makes it so great to live in, mostly. And Yes, we accept that there are benefits as well as downsides and trade-offs.

But there is also a perception that the old "CBD" is a blank slate that exists devoid of life and you can do whatever you want to it, without any justification or consequences. It's is an inherited and deeply embedded mind set, that deliberately ignores, marginalises and minimises the legitimate concerns of residents.

Just because we have chosen to live in the CC doesn't mean we have given up all rights to basic civilised needs.

And there are basic needs that all humans need - sleep being a big one. I am a human. My 60,000 city centre residential neighbours - they are all human too.

So, we'd like the Local Boards understanding, support and commitment to fighting against the attitude that says 'you chose to live here so you have to put up with anything'.

Other priorities that we would like the Board to (in most cases continue to) advocate for and support us in are:

Much better maintenance of public spaces in the city centre, and a solution to the dire, and much abused, commercial refuse collection.

The same applies to street furniture that is regularly damaged and not repaired.

Advocacy for more public space in the city centre - it doesn't have to be large expensive tracts - corner pocket parks are just as useful.

Advocacy & Support so that LED billboards are brought under an agreed regulatory framework that recognises Residents have the same rights as people living elsewhere when it comes to noise and light pollution. Currently, the effects on people in vehicles is given weight, but not residents looking out at these billboards 24/7.

We can't wait until every available street corner, and blank wall is covered, with absolutely no consideration for the individual as well as cumulative effects of these on residents.

Support for a council family wide effort in seeing the City Centre Amenities Project funded and implemented – Amenities are critical social and cultural infrastructure– plentiful, accessible and well-maintained amenities are a marker of a great city where people want to live & work in and visit.

We want to see the Central Wharves strategy rapidly developed, with Captain Cook wharf being quickly developed as the cruise ship wharf, and Queen's wharf public space prioritised as envisaged when it was purchased from POAL for \$40 million. Get designs and RC process started now and Marsden removed, and funding secured.

We strongly support all efforts to make our streets safer, for active modes, and efforts to detune and prioritize traffic from our streets such as 30kph zones across the whole city centre, Access For Everyone, red light and speed cameras are all an essential part of this mix. Pedestrians – safety for, ease of movement – this must be at the top of the priority list.

Air pollution is another critical issue, and city centre residents clearly the most at risk – POAL, AT, Council, NZTA, have to be reminded at every turn to rapidly make the changes needed to provide clean breathable, non-carcinogenic air.

We strongly support community building efforts such as the splendid Ellen Melville Centre. We expect the Board to drive efforts to achieve an operations and management plan for the Centre and Freyberg Place in conjunction with city centre residents that empowers and prioritises residents.

We support efforts to combat homelessness, including the Council's support to the City Mission's Home ground. And we think the amenities plan supports this aim as well.

We need support at ACCAB and elsewhere to ensure that the densest residential areas in NZ - areas such as Nelson/Hobson get the attention they deserve, and not the disregard and neglect they currently endure.

We would like the Board to work as closely as possible with Residents & to advocate for them to ensure that residents are considered a major stakeholder in pretty much anything that goes on the city centre - events being a key one, recognising and taking into account the reasonable needs of residents for sleep, parks to relax in, and access to their daily lives.

To date, we have found the Board to be very responsive to, and supportive of residents' concerns and understanding of our distinctive place in the Waitematā Local Board area. And we thank them for their work, and look forward to continuing to work with them on the above issues.

In the vast range of groups and interests vying for a voice, influence, and recognition in the city centre, we believe city centre Residents must have priority at the top level - we live here, this is our home. We put the 'People' permanently in the City. And as we say - What's good for residents is good for the City.

Adam Parkinson

CCRG Secretary