



Greater East Tamaki  
Business Association Inc.

## Submission to the Howick Local Board Draft Three Year Plan, August 2011

From the Greater East Tamaki Business Association Inc (GETBA).

GETBA appreciates the willingness of the Howick Local Board to engage with our Association.

In comparison to the original Howick Local Board Draft Aspirations document this Draft Plan is very lean. A number of priorities have disappeared \*.

### Supporting Economic Growth: Transport Planning

We welcome 'supporting economic growth' being identified as a priority for the Local Board, and the importance of effective and efficient transport links to the economic and social well being of the Howick Ward.

We appreciate the identification of congestion points raised by GETBA earlier, the prioritisation of AMETI and the inclusion of GETBA's integrated travel planning in the Draft Plan.

We are currently in discussions with Auckland Transport with regard to GETBA implementing a Transport Programme in the East Tamaki area. The programme in addition to raising awareness and lobbying on transport infrastructure would include engagement with businesses and the development of projects that focus on promoting the use of diversified travel options. The maximum that Auckland Transport will contribute is \$15,000 towards a 20 hr/week Project Manager. We would greatly appreciate advocacy support on our behalf to Auckland Council for funding the balance of \$15,000.

We need to speed up the development of transport infrastructure with both freight corridors and public transport into, across and within the East Tamaki employment hub, and to and from the Port and Airport.

Note also that GETBA supports the design and build of the South Eastern Corridor by 2015-20, which involves a high quality strategic transport link between SH1 Mt Wellington/East Tamaki and SH20 Onehunga/Gloucester Park I/C and a reconfigured Eastern Corridor (AMETI) project. Included in the project is the SH1-20 East West corridor link.

We would welcome the Local Board's strong advocacy support of this strategy as it affects the Howick Ward. While the Local Board has an understandably local focus it is important to see the 'local' within a South/East Auckland context and vision, and advocate for important infrastructure projects which may be physically located outside the area but which will benefit the Local Board's constituents.

### Supporting Economic Growth: Economic and Business

GETBA has a well attended regular event programme and would welcome the opportunity to be involved in discussing the form of any proposed Business Leaders Network. GETBA in representing the businesses within the East Tamaki commercial industrial area welcomes the opportunity to engage with the Howick Local Board on a regular basis to discuss issues affecting the businesses in our area.

With regard to the identification of street-scaping and place-shaping initiatives in the Harris Road/Springs Road area, it is disappointing to see that there is no funding attached to this, purely advocacy. Because there are no established brackets on power poles in this area we are unable to fly Rugby World Cup banners. An investment of \$40,000-\$50,000 in brackets on key roads/intersections would enable GETBA to enhance the sense of place of this growing commercial industrial area, *“East Tamaki - a great place to do business”* and to attract new businesses and employment into the area. GETBA seeks funding for this from the Local Board’s capex budget for Local Street Environment and Town Centres. If this is not forthcoming GETBA seeks the Board’s advocacy support to Auckland Council for this funding.

### **Encouraging Participation in the Community: Democracy and Engagement**

It is noted that the Local Board will fund and resource a range of ongoing forums in portfolio areas including ‘safety’. GETBA in partnership with NZ Police would like to seek funding for a series of crime prevention forums targeted at the GETBA business community. While we have a good level of crime prevention awareness/alertness in the area the local Police are concerned at the increase in suspicious activity and targeting of theft of metal and consider that it is timely that we undertake a focused education programme together on security procedures and resources, CPTED, and the importance of reporting suspicious activity/crime.

### **Protecting our environment and heritage**

GETBA supports the Local Board’s initiatives to protect the natural environment and would welcome further initiatives to promote waste minimisation in and for the business sector. There is no waste collection or recycling service for the East Tamaki commercial industrial area.

### **Indicative Budget: Economic Activities**

**Local business area planning and infrastructure** - has no budget, opex or capex.

**Local street environment and town centres** – has both opex and capex, but it is not clear what is covered by this expenditure line, other than the town centre developments outlined on page 17.

\* One of the initiatives which has seemingly disappeared in the Draft Plan is the China Town Burswood precinct. We would like to see a renewal project funded for this Ti Rakau/Burswood/Torrens precinct. GETBA currently has a crime prevention project under way in partnership with the NZ Police and Asian Council for Reducing Crime in this precinct. This area is made up of primarily retail businesses, largely Asian migrant, on the doorstep of a residential community. The BECA CPTED report emphasises that it is important that this area with a China Town complex and shops and services including medical centre, church, gym, restaurants etc is recognised as a distinct community of interest and developed so that it looks cared for and is an attractive and safe place to live, work and play. It is currently poorly served with streetscaping and public amenities such as bus stops, but upon renewal/revitalisation could well be a feature on the Howick Ward ‘tourist map’.

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