



Greater East Tamaki
Business Association Inc.

Submission to the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2020-2023

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

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Please note that we have focused on the outcomes and initiatives that pertain primarily to the East Tamaki business precinct.

About GETBA

GETBA is the Business Improvement District business association for the greater East Tamaki business precinct, which includes Highbrook Business Park. The area is a major commercial industrial employment hub for 30,000 people, and a key economic contributor regionally and nationally.

GETBA advocates for business and property owners in the economic development of greater East Tamaki; provides a conduit to business support, education, resources and networking; enhances the safety and security of East Tamaki; and promotes the area as a great place to do business and to work.

Post COVID focus

Over the coming year a significant focus for GETBA will be assisting our local businesses navigate their way forward in the post COVID economic environment. We see a role for ourselves and indeed the Local Board in promoting the opportunity to transform as opposed to returning to business as usual or a wait and see approach. We will be encouraging uptake of digitisation/Industry 4 in manufacturing, showcasing business resilience, sustainability, and promoting 'local'.

We feel strongly that continued investment by local government in capital projects, infrastructure improvements and local activities/projects are crucial to the region's economic recovery.

Outcome 1: People in our communities feel safe, engaged and connected

GETBA supports this outcome.

Community Safety

GETBA's crime prevention initiatives in partnership with key stakeholders are valued highly by our members and the Counties Manukau East Police. Business burglaries in the East Tamaki business precinct have reduced by 77% since 2006.

We have in the past and are happy to continue to share our experience and expertise with other business communities within the Howick ward.

Community engagement/connectedness

We value our role as a conduit between the Greater East Tamaki business community and the Local Board, informing our business owner/managers of Local Board plans and activities that pertain to them and giving feedback on their behalf as required.

Outcome 2: Well planned public spaces that support active, healthy and sustainable lifestyles

GETBA supports this outcome.

Greenmount Landfill to Park

While the document states that this site is unlikely to be ready within the three years covered by this plan,

we would like to see the new park on the former Greenmount Landfill site progressed as soon as is safely possible. It will give local businesses and their staff opportunities for healthy recreation and respite during the working day.

We look forward to having further input into the development as there are members who can contribute to components of the Park and a local focus would be meaningful.

Waste reduction facilities, services and activities

GETBA also supports the Council's vision for zero waste by 2040 and values the Local Board's intention to advocate for landfill diversion facilities and initiatives for south east Auckland, and its support of business initiatives and education to reduce waste to landfill.

We have developed a waste minimisation workstream and are actively involved in reducing waste to landfill in the East Tamaki business precinct through awareness-raising and several waste minimisation initiatives.

Outcome 3: Heritage local arts and cultural diversity are valued

GETBA supports this outcome.

Outcome 4: Our natural environment is protected, restored and enhanced

GETBA supports this outcome.

On the land: Greenmount Landfill to Park

While the document states that this site is unlikely to be ready within the three years covered by this plan,

we would like to see the new park on the former Greenmount Landfill site progressed as soon as is safely possible. With large scale native planting, cycling and walking, informal active recreation and play and passive areas for sitting and viewing the landscape, it will give local businesses and their staff opportunities for healthy recreation and respite during the working day.

We support the Local Board's advocacy to collaborate with us as a key stakeholder to make this happen, and look forward to having further input into the development as there are members who can contribute to components of the Park and a local focus would be meaningful.

Around our coast: waterway pollution prevention

We appreciate the industry pollution prevention education programme follow-up programme recently undertaken in East Tamaki, funded by the Local Board. We would like to see a couple of follow-up events held on a local site exhibiting best practice, undertaken by the same consultant. These have been held in business precincts bordering the Manukau Harbour and funded by the Manukau Harbour Local Boards.

Along our streams: Otara Waterways and Lake project

Whilst this project is not specifically identified in the Plan, GETBA understands that the intention is to support community led activities related to this remediation project. We feel it is important as part of the project catchment falls within the Howick ward. It is disappointing that while there is general mention of partnering on planting and restoration programmes and cleaning up waterways, this particular project is not specifically identified for funding in the draft plan.

Outcome 5: A prosperous local economy supporting business growth and opportunity

GETBA supports this outcome, and the prioritisation of Local Board effort towards working with business associations to support local businesses post COVID.

In representing the most significant employment hub in the Howick Local Board area, GETBA sees the importance of a skilled workforce and supports the Local Board's intention to work with key partners and stakeholders to facilitate opportunities for training and skills development matched to employer needs. We are happy to explore an initiative to link our employers with local schools/job seekers to facilitate young people into work.

Over the coming year a significant focus for GETBA will be assisting our local businesses navigate their way forward in the post COVID economic environment. We see a role for ourselves and indeed the Local Board in promoting the opportunity to transform as opposed to returning to business as usual or a wait and see approach. We will be encouraging uptake of digitisation/Industry 4 in manufacturing, showcasing business resilience, sustainability, and promoting 'local'.

Outcome 6: Effective and accessible transport choices

GETBA supports this outcome. The efficient movement of people and freight is crucial for enabling local economic prosperity.

Road network

It is imperative that the Local Board advocates for the retention of funding for the widening and upgrade of the severely congested and unsafe Smales Rd/Allens Rd intersection (currently planned for 2025-2028). GETBA is working with Auckland Transport on several smaller intersection improvements at congestion hotspots within East Tamaki including Springs Rd/ Lady Ruby Drive/Kerwyn Ave and Cryers Rd/Trugood Dve, but these have been postponed by the pandemic. Advocacy by the Local Board on our behalf is most welcomed as the efficient movement of people and freight is key to the ability of local businesses to improve productivity and attract and retain staff.

We support the Howick Local Board advocating for continued planning for east west connections between the Airport, Onehunga, Otahuhu, Mt Wellington and through to East Tamaki. Despite the East West Connections programme previously focusing on SH1-SH20 (a more central – west link), we urge the Howick Local Board not to neglect to include this programme as it relates to the East in advocating for transport and roading serving East Tamaki and beyond.

Public transport

Local Board advocacy for the timely completion of the AMETI Eastern Busway and for the Airport to Botany Rapid Transit Network are priorities for GETBA. With suitable connections into and across our business precinct the latter will improve the commute of East Tamaki employees who reside in the south west, and employment prospects for job seekers residing in the south west.

Active Travel

GETBA supports the Howick Cycling and Network Plan especially as it relates to enabling improved connectivity into and around our business precinct. We see it as not just a recreational travel mode but a commute option.