



Greater East Tamaki
Business Association Inc.

Submission to the Draft Howick Local Board Plan 2017

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

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Contact Details:

Jane Tongatule, GETBA General Manager

gm@getba.org.nz

Ph. 09 273 6274, 021 993 380

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

Outcome 2: Our future growth is managed effectively

We agree that future growth needs to be well planned for, particularly regarding infrastructure.

Transport infrastructure

- The congestion in the Gossamer Drive/ Ti Rakau Drive/ Trugood Drive/Cryers Road/ Harris Road area has got worse. While we appreciate the advocacy by the Local Board for the acceleration of AMETI and the Reeves Road flyover, this needs to be dealt with ahead of the planned AMETI timeframes. Auckland Transport's commitments to investigate these areas (esp Ti Rakau/Trugood/Cryers) in the interim have not eventuated. GETBA requests that the Local Board advocate strongly on our behalf.
- Similarly, congestion has worsened at the Allens/ Smales/Springs/Harris Road intersection, fed by population growth in the new Flat Bush and surrounding area. We would like to see Auckland Transport's deprioritisation and resulting delay in the widening of Smales and Allens Road/intersection upgrade raised by the Local Board and addressed, so that it is undertaken as soon as possible. The development of the Greenmount landfill into a park would logically provide the opportunity to leverage the implementation of this road widening/intersection upgrade in a more timely fashion. There are allied traffic safety issues at the corner of Sir William and Smales Roads.
- Despite the East West Connections programme currently 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. The Minister advised a GETBA

breakfast audience late last year that connecting to East Tamaki and beyond (link from Highbrook Drive to Gossamer) would be part of the second phase.

Water/wastewater

- We support the Local Board's advocacy to Watercare to ensure there is sufficient capacity and resilience in the wastewater network to manage future planned growth and services, and to align stormwater and wastewater infrastructure with growth.

Outcome 4: A treasured environment

We support a well-managed and treasured natural environment.

Otara Waterways and Lake project

- GETBA would like to see the Howick Local Board involved in the Otara Waterways and Lake remediation project, as part of the 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 identified for funding in the draft plan.

Industry Pollution Prevention Programme

- GETBA supports the Industry Pollution Prevention Programme whereby the Local Board has funded educational visits to businesses in East Tamaki. 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 events are currently being held in business precincts bordering the Manukau Harbour and funded by the Manukau Harbour Local Boards.

Waste Minimisation

- GETBA supports the provision of more opportunities to recover, reuse and recycle waste. 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 5: Our people are active and healthy

The new park on the former Greenmount Landfill site will give local businesses and their staff opportunities for healthy recreation and respite during the working day.

Greenmount Landfill to Park

- GETBA would like to see the development of the park and urban forest on the former Greenmount Landfill site progressed as soon as is safely possible. As a key stakeholder, we would also like to have input into the development as there are members who are able to contribute to components of the Park and a local focus would be more meaningful.

Outcome 6: A prosperous local economy

The first sentence in this section of the draft plan says the Local Board will attract new businesses to support the Howick economy and provide opportunities for training and skills development. This is probably worded better further on the same page where the terms ‘partnering’ and ‘facilitate’ are used, as it is only in collaboration with relevant stakeholders that the objective of ‘growth in local business activity which will provide increased employment’ will be achieved.

Economic development

- GETBA supports a co-ordinated approach to economic development.
- 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 stakeholders to facilitate opportunities for training and skills development matched to employer needs.

Support projects that will facilitate young people into work

- The draft plan does not say how this will be done. Other Local Boards have funded agencies like Youth Connections when they were in their early stages and in need of support, but Howick Local Board did not. GETBA would like to see this given more priority than has been done in the past.
- We receive frequent requests from schools, PTEs and educational institutions of all shapes and sizes across Auckland, looking for businesses to provide work experience and jobs for their students. GETBA already collaborates with key stakeholders on addressing issues of youth unemployment and facilitating improved pathways to employment. For example, we are a partner in the Employability Passport/Licence to Work programme led by COMET.

Transport connections

- The Howick Local Board must continue to advocate for enhanced public transport into and across the East Tamaki business precinct (NB East Tamaki includes the Highbrook Business Park), and for action to address congested local roads.