

Date: 16 September 2022

**To: Natasha Yapp, Democracy Advisor, Rodney Local Board
Chair, Deputy Chair and Members of the Rodney Local Board**

**Re: Letter to be accepted under the Public Forum, Rodney Local Board, Meeting 21 Sept 2022
in relation to Agenda Item (in Confidential) Sandspit Carpark: C1 Options to provide an
improved parking service**

Introduction

As I am unable to attend in person to speak at the Public Forum of the Rodney Local Board on Wednesday 21 September, please accept and table this letter.

Overview

1. Under the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Act 2014 (LGA), the Local Board is unable to make decisions at this meeting on any changes to the current operating procedures of the carpark at Sandspit, due to this being a Significant decision for the Kawau Island community, with which there has been no consultation to inform a decision.
2. We humbly request the suggested proposal outlined in this letter be moved into Extraordinary Business, enabling a decision for it to become an agenda item at the next available Local Board meeting.

Informed decision making

We do not believe it possible for the Rodney Local Board to make an informed decision during this meeting on any matters affecting the current operations of the carpark at Sandspit, as no consultation with the affected community of Kawau Island has occurred.

The Kawau Island community have made a number of submissions to the Proposed Draft Rodney Local Parks Management Plan, outlining the gaps of that plan for the social, economic and cultural Values for Allotment 340 Parish of Mahurangi SO 43479, being the land on which this carpark is situated. Those submissions include a request to rename the carpark the 'Kawau Island Carpark', directly reflecting the purpose for which this land was attained.

Residents and ratepayers of Kawau Island provided funding for Rodney County, and subsequently Rodney District Council, to purchase land specifically to ensure the ongoing availability of parking and other amenities to service the community of Kawau Island. Under the LGA this arguably makes the carpark a Strategic Asset, at the very least any decisions around it are Significant to the community of Kawau Island, and consultation is required.

It is unclear whether the Local Board is aware of our community funding initiatives, which might be accessible for improvements acceptable to Kawau Island ratepayers.

Significant for the Kawau Island community

In addition to the fact our community funded the purchase of this carpark to ensure its ongoing service for Kawau Island ratepayers, there are several other factors making this a Significant decision (as defined under the LGA).

The carpark is the only location accepted by insurance companies for vehicle insurance, for permanent residents of Kawau Island (ie a Kawau address is their only/primary location). Insurance companies will not accept a Kawau Island address as properties on the island are not deemed to have vehicle access under the appropriate classifications they use. Without access to that carpark, permanent residents are unable to gain vehicle insurance.

With no public transport or ride-share options available from Sandspit, permanent residents require cars for taking children to school, commuting to work and shopping for supplies. Covid has changed the island community, with a number of families and people with full-time employment on the mainland, now calling Kawau home. Commuting to primary/secondary schools, as well as to the Hibiscus Coast PT Terminal and City workplaces occurs daily.

There are a number of ratepayers with secondary dwellings on the island, accessing the island infrequently as well as for extended periods, and/or a desire to share their holiday homes with others, placing even more pressure on the carpark.

Without the appropriate community consultation, it would be impossible to make an informed decision on a fair or equitable allotment of spaces or fee structure.

Due to the significant influx of permanent residents living on Kawau Island over the past four years, the Kawau Island Residents and Ratepayers Association is shortly undertaking a survey of all ratepayers, businesses and services to the island, to identify and provide factual clarity around the demographics and requirements of our community. The results of this survey will be available in early November.

A survey for this carpark was widely circulated by Council to Sandspit and other mainland residents earlier this year. It was selectively sent to a few Kawau ratepayers, in its closing days. The survey design showed a lack of understanding of the purpose for which this carpark exists, with questions skewed to day tripper or mainland residents' use of the surrounding reserve and boat ramp. To use those survey results for any decisions would disadvantage the community of Kawau Island.

The mainland communities of Sandspit, Warkworth and others within the Auckland Region, have historically accessed any available parking as summer guest overflow parking, campground visitors, or parking while launching boats. Those communities are well served by road-side parking in the surrounding streets, the Brick Bay Road Reserve, short term parking alongside the Playground at Sandspit Reserve, and boat ramps at the local Marina and numerous other bays close by. The community of Kawau Island has no other choice.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge the work Beth Houlbrooke has done for our community. Noting that with the passing of time and changes within our community, there are but a few remaining Kawau Island ratepayers on her circulation list, which by her own admission needs updating. The distribution and circulation of information through her emails pertaining to this carpark, is selectively limited consultation that does not adhere to the requirements under the LGA, therefore does not provide the Board with sufficient information about Kawau Island community interests and preferences, to enable an informed decision.

A proposed way forward

There is no dissention around paying for carparking. What is of concern, is how those rates are equitably set for ratepayers (e.g. Resident Parking Permit as per those used in inner-city suburbs?), business and essential services, vs day trippers, and the fair allotment of spaces to ensure our community can function. Like any other seaside carpark, tensions arise from Dec through February, with no issues evident throughout the rest of the year.

Because of the complexities around the requirements on this carpark, we propose the establishment of the 'Kawau Carpark Advisory Group' to ensure the Local Board receives appropriate recommendations, so that informed decision-making can occur.

Indicative representation for this committee could be:

Chair: Local Board Member

Members: Kawau Island Ratepayer (Permanent Resident, retired)
Kawau Island Ratepayer (Permanent Resident, full-time employment)
Kawau Island Ratepayer (Permanent Resident, school-aged children)
Kawau Island Ratepayer (Holiday home)
Kawau Island Ratepayer (Trust ownership)
Kawau Island Resident and Ratepayers Association representative
Sandspit Resident and Ratepayers Association representative
Mana whenua representative
Kawau Cruises representative
FENZ Kawau Island representative (for emergency services)
business operating on Kawau Island representative
Technical Expert from Council (or appropriate CCO)

KIRRA is prepared to initiate and manage the Terms of Reference, consult with the community on appropriate member representation, calls for members and undertake secretariat duties for this advisory group. This is not a group with any fiscal or governance accountabilities, merely a representational group that can oversee all management requirements of this carpark, providing reporting to the Local Board for informed decision making.

We humbly request you move the suggestion of an Advisory Group into Extraordinary Business, enabling a decision that would enable us to present a structured draft proposal through an agenda item at the next available Local Board meeting. We anticipate this would include draft Terms of Reference, member representation and proposed appointees, and we would implement full engagement under IAP2 principles with our community in the drafting of this proposal.

Acknowledgement

In some ways we are a fortunate community, sharing our island paradise with Brown Kiwi, Kāka, Kōkako, Weka, Tui and the delights of seeing Orca and dolphins from our windows.

We are aware of the recently adopted Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway, and how that proposes to give effect to the required 64 per cent reduction in transport emissions contained within Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri Auckland's Climate Plan. We agree that transformational change in the way we all travel is required, however, to apply those principals in blanket form to this carpark is not currently feasible. There is no planned proposal for public transport services that would take our community from the commuter ferries to connecting services at Warkworth, nor are there any plans for electric vehicle charging stations, or to supply ride share services. There are no plans for a

connected cycleway from Sandspit to Warkworth, the current road being unsafe for non-vehicular travel.

Summary

We appreciate it can be challenging for the Local board to balance the tensions caused by the growth of the surrounding mainland area, and the requirements of services to maintain the social, economic, cultural and well-being of our Kawau Island community.

We look forward to receiving your response,

Nga mihi nui,

On behalf of Kawau Island Resident and Ratepayers Association,

Sue-Ellen Craig

phone: 021577685

email: emailsueellenrcraig@gmail.com