

Whau Ward Councillor Report

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2026

Sarah Paterson-Hamlin

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Introduction

Ngā mihi o te tau hou Pākehā!

Although it doesn't feel like the start of the year anymore, this is my first opportunity to report since 2026 began, and so much has taken place already! I hope you and your whānau spent a safe and enjoyable Christmas/summer period, wherever you were.

Key updates from Governing Body and Committees

Staff have been very busy over the summer period getting the Advisory Panels ready to be in place by the end of February. I'm very excited about the incredible range of highly impressive individuals who will be representing the experiences of diverse Aucklanders over the coming term.

It's been a full agenda to start the year, with Emergency Management, RMA changes, and rates capping all coming to the table among many other complex topics. Unfortunately, the main theme with these legislative changes coming from Central Government appears to be a lack of consideration for local government, short-term thinking, and disregard for any official or expert advice. However, Auckland Council's submissions on these topics have been a good response with some uncharacteristically strong feedback from our public servants, supported by the majority of Councillors.

A southern road trip gave me plenty of opportunities to explore playground infrastructure across the motu!



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Other updates & priorities

Other major topics on the radar include

- Plan Change 120
- Waste Minimisation
- Local Board re-organisation
- Transport reform
- CRL opening
- Economic development strategy
- Grants reform

The response to PC120 consultation was impressive, and staff are currently working through over 10,000 submissions. CRL testing over the summer saw some frustrating but unavoidable train service closures for us all over summer, but of course it all brings us closer to a rail network that can bring Auckland into the 21st century.

I've been pleased to see my advocacy in the Grants space when it comes to the impractical administrative burden for the non-profit sector has led to tangible results already, with a 25% reduction in standard accountability forms and other transparency initiatives on their way. There is still a long way to go before Auckland Council's grants processes can stand up to equivalents across the motu. I will be continuing to work hard in this area until Auckland Council has a granting system that truly supports community organisations.

*ASB Classic with Vincent
Lipanovich, Director of the NZ
Maritime Museum*



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Events & meetings attended

- 02.12.2025: Council Governing Body Meeting
- 03.12.2025: Budget and Performance Committee Workshop & Whau Local Board Business Meeting
- 06.12.2025: Avondale Street Sessions Performances
- 09.12.2025: Council Transport and Infrastructure Committee
- 11.12.2025: Council Community Committee
- 15.12.2025: Budget and Performance Committee
- 16.12.2025: Council Governing Body Meeting
- 16.12.2025: Policy, Planning and Development Committee Meeting
- 17.12.2025: Meeting with Auckland Transport
- 18.12.2025: Meeting with Director of Resilience and Infrastructure, Barry Potter
- 02.02.2026: Council Elected Members' Briefing
- 03.02.2026: Council Governing Body Meeting
- 04.02.2026: Site visit to Auckland Museum
- 04.02.2026: Council Policy, Planning and Development Committee Workshops
- 06.02.2026: Waitangi @ Waititi
- 09.02.2026: Safe Swim and Te Whau Pathway Trust
- 11.02.2026: Senior Parks Specialist
- 12.02.2026: Advisory Panel Lead Officer meetings
- 12.02.2026: Emergency Management Lead meeting
- 13.02.2026: Grants reform meeting

*Site visit to Auckland War
Memorial Museum*

