
HARBOUR SPORT SUBMISSION

Submission to:

Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Draft Plan

From:

Harbour Sport (North Harbour Regional Sports Trust representing 305,000 residents)
Sports House, Stadium Drive, Albany, PO Box 300-633
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INTRODUCTION

Research has shown that increasing community participation in organised sport and recreation contributes to social capital which acts as the social fabric that binds New Zealand communities. Sports clubs, community organisations, and recreational parks and facilities are important conduits for developing social capital and are good indicator of community strength.

The key benefits of increased social capital through community sport and recreation include:

- Building community sense of pride and belonging
- Increased social inclusion
- Reduced anti-social behaviour
- Educational programmes
- Improved health and well-being
- Economic growth
- Urban and regional regeneration

With almost 80% of Hibiscus and Bays residents actively participating in sport and recreation once a week, 98% of residents participating once a year and volunteering ingrained in the local community, the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board have a unique opportunity to make a considerable difference to their people.

Hibiscus and Bays has 78 sport and recreation clubs, 3 regional sport organisations and 92 sport and recreation facilities which cater for approximately 82,000 of your community residents and potentially 305,000 North Shore City and Rodney residents.

The North Harbour Region has one of the fastest growing populations in New Zealand, with clear indications suggesting that growth will occur around existing town centres in areas such as Hibiscus and Bays. These factors need to be taken into consideration when developing effective community strategies around sport, recreation, parks and facilities in the region.

Harbour Sport supports the key projects/initiatives outlined in the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan and encourages the Local Board Members to consider the following when making the final decisions:

- Development of partnerships with community organisations for the delivery of sport and recreation, including the continued provision of community funding
- Advocating to Auckland Council for the development of a 'Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy' as a key priority

- Leading the development of multi-agency partnerships (i.e. with local schools and clubs) that improve the delivery of sport and recreation
- Partnering with Local Boards in the development of sub-regional sport and recreation programmes and facilities
- Development of 'Community Sport and Recreation Hubs' where a number of sport and recreation opportunities can be offered
- Having a sport and recreation portfolio holder on the board who is the key contact for all related activities
- Continue provision for the upgrade of sport and recreation facilities to meet current and future growth demand
- Including sport and recreation specific KPI's within your local board agreement that will drive improved levels of service within the Auckland Council

Harbour Sport is a Charitable Trust that leads and supports the development of the North Harbour sport and recreation sector to provide quality sport, recreation and social experiences. We achieve this by partnering with key sector enablers and deliverers to ensure that there are enjoyable and equitable opportunities to participate.

Harbour Sport endorses the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board priority areas, particularly priority two: ***'Provide quality local parks, reserves and facilities for our community'***, priority three: ***'Build on the strong identity of our communities'***, and priority five: ***'Ensure that infrastructure is in place and meets the needs of our growing population'***. We believe that sport and recreation can play a significant role in achieving successful outcomes within your communities.

PROVIDE QUALITY LOCAL PARKS, RESERVES AND FACILITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Prepare a parks and reserves strategy to plan for the future and identify priorities and implement**

Harbour Sport would like to be considered as a key partner in the development of a parks and reserves strategy.

- **Fund the sport field development at Metropark**

Harbour Sport supports a feasibility study being undertaken for the development of Metropark. The need for sports fields may be less than the demand for netball courts and hockey turfs which needs to be considered. Harbour Sport would recommend that the Local Board also considers the very high demand on fields in the Long Bay and East Coast Bays area which will increase with projected populations swelling in the next 10 years. Planning and provision is required for an artificial turf in the Hibiscus and bays local Board area.

- **Identify where there are opportunities for public walkways and cycleways in the local board area**

Harbour Sport recommends that the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board commit to the ongoing development of public walkways and cycle lanes to provide sustainable options for active transport which will reduce road congestion and encourage recreational cycling.

Advocate for the buses to be able to carry bicycles in order to provide people with integrated public transport and sustainable transport options.

- **Develop and maintain partnerships with organisations what contribute to deliver recreation services and needs**

Harbour Sport advocate and actively promote all collaboration between Sport and Recreation organisations to streamline processes and become more effective together.

BUILD ON THE STRONG IDENTITY OF OUR COMMUNITIES

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Members to consider working with Harbour Sport and local sports organisations when making the final decisions.

ENSURE THAT INFRASTRUCTURE IS IN PLACE AND MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR GROWING POPULATION

Harbour Sport supports the provision allocated to the key projects/initiatives and would encourage the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Members to consider the following submissions when making the final decisions:

- **Identify where there are opportunities for public walkways and cycleways and advocate for their planning and development**

Harbour Sport recommends that the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board commit to the ongoing development of public walkways and cycle lanes to provide sustainable options for active transport which will reduce road congestion and encourage recreational cycling.

Advocate for the buses to be able to carry bicycles in order to provide people with integrated public transport and sustainable transport options.

CONCLUSION

Harbour Sport thanks the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board for the opportunity to comment on the draft local board plan. We hope that the comments and feedback will help support the decision making and provision allocation process.

We believe that the final Hibiscus and Bays Local Board Plan will be well placed to become a blueprint for future Sport and Recreation development in the Auckland Plan.

This submission supports the position that Harbour Sport currently holds within the North Harbour region and their involvement as a key stakeholder in any future development of sport and recreation in the Hibiscus and Bays communities.

If you would like further clarification of any of the areas raised in this submission, please contact Toni-Maree Carnie, CEO, Harbour Sport.

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Signature:

Date: **8th August 2011**


