

Why We Are Proposing Changes to the Constitution

One Mahurangi is proposing changes to its constitution so it is clearer, more practical and better reflects how the Association now operates.

These changes are not about automatically increasing the BID levy now. They are about getting the constitution right first, so members are protected, future decisions are transparent, and the BID funding model can keep pace with normal cost increases without the same issue arising again in future.

Member participation is extremely important. For the any changes to take effect, we need at least 50% of all eligible members to vote, so it is vital that businesses are engaged from the start. Whether you support the proposed changes or have questions, please take the time to read the information provided and make sure your vote is counted.

This is the first stage of a two-stage process.

The first stage is to update the constitution. The second stage, if members support the constitutional changes, will be to work with Auckland Council on a proposed change to the BID funding model. That funding change would then go to a formal ballot of affected members, expected to take place in October. If successful, any changes would be implemented from July 2027.

Why change is needed

The current BID funding model has been fixed since 2020. There is currently no practical mechanism in the constitution to review or adjust it as costs, priorities and the operating environment change.

At the same time, members are asking One Mahurangi to do more.

Through recent engagement, businesses have told us they want stronger advocacy, better promotion of Warkworth, more practical business support, improved communication, more sector-based engagement, and projects that respond to local issues and opportunities.

To deliver on those expectations, One Mahurangi needs a constitution that allows sensible future planning while still protecting members from uncontrolled or poorly explained funding changes.

Clarifying our role

One proposed change clarifies that One Mahurangi can operate across the wider Warkworth catchment, not only within the BID targeted rating area.

This reflects the work One Mahurangi already does and recognises that some activities are supported by sponsorship, grants, memberships and other non-BID income.

This does not mean BID funding can simply be redirected outside the BID area. The constitution will continue to recognise One Mahurangi's obligations under the BID Programme, Auckland Council BID Policy and the BID Targeted Rate Grant Agreement.

Protecting member interests

The proposed changes are designed to strengthen member protection, not weaken it.

We are proposing a clearer and more robust process for future constitutional changes that affect the BID funding framework. This includes increasing the quorum required for a Special General Meeting to 20 members and requiring a 75% majority before significant funding-related constitutional changes can be made. This ensures that major changes cannot be made by a very small number of people and that members remain in control of important future decisions.

BID funding framework

The proposed move to \$750 per commercial rated property is a catch-up adjustment, not simply an increase. The BID funding model has been fixed since 2020, with no CPI adjustment, while costs and member expectations have increased. Setting the new base at \$750, with annual CPI, creates a clearer and more sustainable model so the same problem does not happen again.

The proposed approach is to move to a clear, fixed BID funding model of \$750 with an annual CPI adjustment. This means the funding model would remain simple and predictable.

The annual CPI adjustment is intended to make sure the funding model can keep pace with normal cost increases over time. This avoids the current problem, where the funding model has remained fixed for several years and the real value of the funding has reduced.

In simple terms, the proposed model would:

- keep the contribution clear and easy to understand;
- provide certainty for members;
- avoid large catch-up increases after years of no movement;
- allow funding to move in line with costs through CPI;
- retain member safeguards and the formal BID approval process.

The constitution would establish this framework so members have confidence that future changes are controlled, transparent and understood.

What this allows One Mahurangi to do

The changes would allow One Mahurangi to plan more effectively and respond to what businesses have asked for. This includes work such as WarkworthNZ, business promotion, local marketing, sector engagement, networking, advocacy, security projects, town centre support and initiatives that strengthen the wider local economy.

Future activity would be developed through a new strategic plan, business plan and annual budget. Members would continue to approve the priorities and budget through the proper AGM and BID processes.

Future BID ballot

If the constitutional changes are supported, One Mahurangi will then work with Auckland Council on the proposed new funding mechanism.

A formal ballot of affected members is expected to be held in October. Members will be provided with further information before that ballot, including the proposed budget, the proposed funding model and what it would mean in practice.

If the ballot is successful, the new funding model would be implemented from July 2027.

In summary

This stage is about getting the constitution right. The proposed changes correct an earlier oversight, clarify One Mahurangi's role, strengthen member safeguards and create a transparent framework for future decisions.

They do not automatically increase the levy. They put the right protections in place before any funding model change is put to members through a formal ballot.

For further information contact: **Richard Hutchinson, 021 478745 or manager@onemahurangi.co.nz**