CHAIR'S REPORT 2025/26

Welcome to all business owners and members, Councillors and Local Board members.

I took over as Acting Chair at last year's AGM when Dave Pizzini stood down after three years in the role, and was formally elected Chair at the first Board meeting following. This report covers governance over the 2025/26 year, alongside the strategic work the Manager's Report sets out in full.

Governance

The Board met regularly through the year, in January, February, March, April, May, June, July and August 2026, with quorum achieved at every meeting.

Alex Davidson of Global Security resigned from the Board in June, having declared his conflict of interest in relation to security-related services throughout his time on the Board. Teena Rhind and Gareth Brown, both elected at last year's AGM, did not continue through the year. I thank all three for their contribution.

Our Local Board representatives also changed over the year. Marshal Ahluwalia represented Manurewa Local Board through to his period of leave, with Italia Tipelu-Marsters and, more recently, Heather Andrew representing the Board in that seat. Topou Folau represented Otara-Papatoetoe Local Board for part of the year, with Jeet Singh and alternate Sandeep Saini now in that role. We're grateful to each of them for the time they've given to WBA alongside their Local Board duties.

On compliance: WBA completed its re-registration under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 ahead of the 5 April 2026 deadline, adopting the updated constitution members approved at last year's AGM. McLaren Guise Associates continued as our auditor for the year. The Finance Committee, chaired by William Brown, reviewed its Terms of Reference in July and confirmed them without amendment, and continued its oversight of WBA's financial position and the Delegated Financial Authority Policy through the year.

Strategic Achievements

The Manager's Report covers this year's work in full, including the truck parking advocacy that took us to a Parliamentary Select Committee in Wellington, the Precinct Ambassador approval, Wiri's selection as the lead case study for the University of Auckland's Future Urban Industry research project, and Auckland's confirmation as co-host of the 2027 IDA World Towns Leadership Summit. I'd encourage every member to read it.

From a governance perspective, the Board's role has been to test and approve that work: weighing the cost and structure of the Precinct Ambassador proposal, satisfying ourselves on the advocacy strategy as transport functions shift from Auckland Transport to Auckland Council, and keeping the budget and targeted rate implications of each decision in view.

Thank You

Thank you to the Board for your engagement and the quality of debate you've brought to some tough calls this year.

I want to particularly acknowledge William Brown, who stands down this year after six years of continuous service on the Board. William has chaired our Finance Committee for the last several years, and the financial discipline and clear reporting WBA now has is in large part down to him. That's a long time to give to an organisation like ours, and on behalf of the Board and our members, thank you, William.

Thanks also to Gary for his leadership of the operational team through a demanding year, and to Diana and Michelle for the work they do on the ground every week that members actually see and feel.

Brett Jones, Chairperson, 21 October 2026