

29 January 2024

Tēnā koe Debbie,

Ngā mihi o te tau hou. Happy new year. I hope you have had a chance to restore over the summer break and are looking forward to a productive year ahead.

I'm writing to inform you that my own family had a surprise change in circumstances over the summer with an exciting career opportunity put to my husband a few days before Christmas. This opportunity is out of Auckland, and it's an opportunity we have accepted.

This situation has forced me to make the tough decision to resign from my position as elected member and Chair of the Devonport-Takapuna Local Board a few months earlier than the end of the political triennium. After being supported by my family over the last five and a half years to do my job, it's now my turn to support them.

My final Local Board business meeting that I will Chair is on February 18th. Thereafter Deputy Chair Terence Harpur will continue as acting Chair until March when the Board will select a new Chair.

I want to take this opportunity to assure you that my departure will not impact the good work the Local Board does in supporting the aspirations of the wider community, and that the only way I felt comfortable leaving earlier than planned, is knowing that I leave a committed, professional and collaborative local board in place, with incredible staff supporting them.

This is a bitter-sweet moment for me; I've loved representing our community for the last five and a half years. It has been an incredible opportunity, a challenge and a privilege. I am also excited about a new chapter for my family, and more time spent with my children before they get too big! My departure will make space for new leaders to emerge who can take their turn engaging in local governance and participating in local democracy.

Thank you for your support over the years. I have loved working alongside all of our community groups and partners, and I appreciate what you do to help the community thrive too. Your work has certainly not gone unnoticed.

For any future council matters, please don't hesitate to contact Deputy Chair Terence.harpur@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or Senior Advisor Maureen.buchanan@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz. I will remain available until end of day February 18th.

Nāku, nā | Yours faithfully



Toni van Tonder | Chairperson
Devonport-Takapuna Local Board
Deputy Chair | Tūpuna Maunga Authority