



# VICTORIA SHORT

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FOR

**ALBANY WARD COUNCILLOR  
2022**

“I am proud to announce I will be challenging the incumbent Councillors for an opportunity to represent our community around the top table as one of the two Albany Ward Councillors”

# ABOUT ME

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**Auckland Council is in crisis and an urgent change in direction and strategy is needed now.**

For the last 3 years I have led the Hibiscus and Bays Local Board as Deputy Chair emphasising transparency, accountability and action. Prior to this, I spent 6 years advocating to Council and Central Government on behalf of our residents as electorate agent for MP's Hon Murray McCully then Erica Stanford. I am a volunteer trustee for Life Education North Shore, a member of the Institute of Directors, an executive member of a local business association and an active volunteer with many of our wonderful community organisations.

My laser focus is on prudent expenditure of ratepayer funds, crime prevention, protecting our environment, improving transport choices and upgrading our ageing infrastructure.

I am a strong independent candidate, offering a fresh collaborative approach underpinned by results and accountability. Our residents deserve more and I will deliver.

“In my current elected role at Auckland Council, I have been extremely outspoken about the poor value for money ratepayers are receiving. In the last few years, rates have dramatically increased while services have decreased”



# WHAT I STAND FOR

I am proud to be challenging the current Councillors for an opportunity to represent our community around the top table as one of the two Albany Ward Councillors. Being able to represent our Local Board as the Deputy Chair, I have seen first-hand the missed investment opportunities for our area, a council that ignores the views of our residents, and the lack of respect and appreciation for your rates.

**A vote for Victoria Short ensures:**

- ✔ **Decision-making that considers future long-term implications**
- ✔ **A focus on core council business**
- ✔ **Stricter accountability and oversight of Auckland Transport, Auckland Unlimited, Watercare, Panuku**
- ✔ **An emphasis on community needs rather than personal politics**
- ✔ **Complete transparency in decision-making with no conflicts of interest**
- ✔ **A collaborative approach with the Mayor and other elected**
- ✔ **Councillors for the direct benefit of residents within our community**
- ✔ **An accessible, approachable, and available Councillor who is always willing to listen and engage**

“We have been left behind and our rates are funding infrastructure projects outside of our area”



# INFRASTRUCTURE

The Albany ward is growing at an exponential rate. This will only be exacerbated by the National Policy Statement on Urban Development which will see rapid intensification of our housing stock.

Our area is already under significant infrastructure strain. Congestion is crippling our transport arterial routes, we have limited and unreliable public transport options, and whenever we have a spot of rain the beaches are closed for days due to contamination.

We need a long-term infrastructure vision and plan for our area.

**A vote for Victoria Short will ensure strong advocacy for:**

- ✔ **Overdue critical upgrades on our storm-water network to keep our beach-goers and marine environment safe from contamination**
- ✔ **A focus on improving roading assets to cater for future housing development growth**
- ✔ **A significant increase in the budget for footpaths and accessible walking tracks**
- ✔ **Improved parking capacity at the brilliantly successful 'Park n' Ride' facilities**
- ✔ **Establishment of a centralised 'Project Office' which oversees and co-ordinates CCO projects and forces collaboration, economies of scale and minimises community disruptions**
- ✔ **A preference for local suppliers and contractors wherever practicable**

“There are a number  
of immediate changes that need to be made at  
a Governing Body level, most importantly actively  
listening to our communities needs with a focus on  
delivery”



# CULTURAL CHANGE

Through my current elected role at Auckland Council, I have witnessed first-hand a staff culture that is at times stressed, frustrated, misguided, elitist and defeated.

A cultural change is needed immediately to lift staff productivity, well-being and resilience for the benefit of all Aucklanders.

**Through leading by example, Victoria Short will strive to:**

- ✔ **Ensure that there is a culture of putting the customer and ratepayer at the heart of every interaction and decision-making process**
- ✔ **Focus the external communication strategy to one of proactive community engagement instead of reactional justification**
- ✔ **Make sure that our community's involvement and submissions to public consultations are taken seriously and materially impact the council decision-making process**
- ✔ **Force Auckland Council to be accessible and available for open, honest feedback from our community on areas for improvement**
- ✔ **A review of the Code of Conduct and complaints process for elected officials with accountability and repercussions if it is breached**
- ✔ **Build an internal appreciation within Auckland Council that revenue is earned by hardworking ratepayers and expenditure must be treated with care and respect**



“Our local environmental and restoration groups save the council money through their volunteer hours, but also educate our residents on pest control, transform and restore our native bush and provide a safe-haven for indigenous species to thrive”



# COMMUNITY FACILITIES

It is the core function of Auckland Council to provide and maintain a range of facilities for the enjoyment and utility of our residents. North Auckland has been forgotten, with many of our facilities falling into disrepair and in urgent need of significant remedial work. Further to this, new development areas have been ignored by council, and newly planned facilities fall short of the expectations of our residents. Auckland Council now expect Central Government and developers to provide these services. However, both parties are reluctant to do so to the disappointment of our residents.

**A vote for Victoria Short will drive:**

- ✔ **Increased guaranteed long-term funding for Local Boards to advance overdue maintenance programmes on existing community facilities**
- ✔ **Equitable operational funding arrangements for community facilities north of the harbour bridge (on par with other areas of Auckland)**
- ✔ **An extension to community lead programmes designed to tackle youth antisocial behaviour. Further facility activation will allow for youths to engage with sports, leadership and development pathways, and wellness initiatives. These programmes have been very successful in other areas of Auckland**
- ✔ **Be a loud, outspoken voice to ensure that areas in North Auckland are not forgotten and have their voices and expectations heard**
- ✔ **Ring-fencing the developer's contribution levy to be spent in the local area in which it was generated**
- ✔ **Advocate for a new council facility for Millwater, Milldale and Silverdale area**

“The City Rail Link project will now cost Auckland Council billions more than initially budgeted and offer our community little to no benefit for the congestion and connectivity problems we encounter on a daily basis”

# TRANSPORT CHOICES

Recently I was severely disappointed to learn that almost all transport projects I have advocated for over the past three years are being either deferred or cut completely. The project prioritisation process at Auckland Transport is neither transparent nor inclusive of our community's views and is open to far too much political influence from Central Government.

**Your vote for Victoria Short will allow us to:**

- ✓ **Advance much-needed overdue roading projects such as Glenvar Road, The Avenue, capacity improvements to the Whangaparaoa Highway, amongst others**
- ✓ **Advocate for the increased frequency and more consistent ferry services from Hobsonville and Gulf Harbour, including weekend services**
- ✓ **Ensure that the new Climate Action Targeted Rate is spent evenly across Auckland so that we too can enjoy the benefits locally**
- ✓ **Advocate for the funding and construction of the Hibiscus Coast Bus Terminal at the Whangaparaoa end of Penlink**
- ✓ **Improve the sad state of our footpaths so vulnerable residents can remain safe and stay integrated and supported by our wonderful community**
- ✓ **Commence discussions about progressing a rapid transit system north of the harbour bridge**



“I will bring the needs of our community to the forefront of every council debate, discussion and negotiation. Our residents should always come first, and I intend to champion our community requirements in Town Hall”



# CONTACT

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