

CHAIR'S REPORT 2022/23 – DRAFT

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

It is my pleasure to reflect on our achievements and progress over the last 12 months, my first term as Chairperson. Before doing so, I acknowledge and thank our previous chairperson, Ben Robinson for his expertise and leadership during his three-year term, and ongoing support of me and the Board.

Shortly before last year's AGM, we recruited Gary Holmes as our General Manager. In the last year we have appointed two new staff members. Michelle joined us last November as our Marketing and Events manager and in August Diana joined us as our administrator and Member Engagement manager. Both quickly settled into their roles and are making valuable contributions.

In April we moved into these new premises from our old office at Inverill Ave. Through Gary's pro-activeness, he identified these offices for lease and with support from the Board, led the smooth relocation. We think this location will enhance our profile with our members and community, being in the middle of the Wiri Business District. The main area where we are seated is available for bookings by member businesses for meetings, seminars, and staff training sessions free of charge. We encourage you to take up this offer.

The Board's primary responsibility is to set priorities in our deliverables and allocate funding from your targeted rates. WBA is one of the largest Business Improvement Districts in Auckland region and our targeted rate levy is one of the lowest. I am pleased to inform you there is no increase in your targeted rates. We are proud of what we have been able to and continue to deliver with our member funds to benefit Wiri. Later in the agenda we will present our 2023/24 Strategic Plan and Budget for your approval. I commend that to you.

In line with our purpose and vision, we have many projects underway. I will mention a few of them:

- Expansion of our security camera network by adding 22 new cameras to monitor blind and hot spots.
- Investment in Puhinui Regeneration Project
- Upgrade our CRM with implementation of Hubspot
- Trial a new transport initiative for employees of Wiri District businesses
- Emergency preparedness and business continuity planning – to equip our member businesses for unforeseen challenges.
- Partnering with local high schools to create a dynamic pipeline for future employment and apprenticeships.

With a couple of board member retirements, we are keen to attract new talent to contribute to governance of this organisation. If you have the skill set and interest in growing our association, I encourage you to put your name forward later in the meeting.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow board members for your time and input and Gary, Michelle and Diana for your enthusiasm and hard work.

Dave Pizzini, Chairperson, 12 October 2023