

IN THE MATTER

of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”)

AND

IN THE MATTER

of an application for approvals (Notice of Requirement to Alter Designation 3900: Auckland Prison in the Auckland Unitary Plan, Resource Consent and Outline Plan Waiver) by Department of Corrections on behalf of the Minister of Corrections - Project FTAA-2603-1179 (Auckland Prison Capacity Increase)

**UPPER HARBOUR LOCAL BOARD RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO
COMMENT**

The Panel have also directly invited comments under s53(2) of the FTAA from the following:

- a. Upper Harbour Local Board and Paremoremo Residents and Ratepayers Presentation

In correspondence it has been confirmed that this is provided in response to the invitation to comment from the Panel.

This contains the following:

1. Minutes confirming Local Board resolution on their views on the Proposed Notice of Requirement to alter Designation 3900.
2. Letter referred to in sub point b of resolution dated 26.02.26 setting out Local Board opposition.
3. Paremoremo Ratepayers and Residents Association (PRRA) presentation of survey results regarding the proposed Auckland Prison expansion referred to in sub point n of the resolution.

11.8 Local Board Views on a Fast Track Approvals Act notice of requirement to alter Designation 3900 Auckland Prison from the Ministry of Corrections in the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part)

The Senior Policy Planner, Jo Hart, and the Principal Project Lead, Joe Wilson, were in attendance to support the item.

The Community Response to Auckland Expansion Survey Results presentation by the Paremoremo Ratepayers and Residents Association was tabled by the Chairperson Anna Atkinson. A copy is available with the meeting materials.

The Upper Harbour Local Board memo , dated 26 February 2026, in opposition to the proposed expansion of Auckland Prison and requirement for public notification was tabled by the Chairperson Anna Atkinson. A copy is available with the meeting materials.

Resolution number UH/2026/88

MOVED by Chairperson Anna Atkinson, seconded by Member Uzra Casuri Balouch:

That the Upper Harbour Local Board:

- a. **whakarite / provide local board views on the Fast Track Approvals Act substantive application for a Notice of Requirement to alter Designation 3900: Auckland Prison in the Auckland Unitary Plan (Operative in Part)**
- b. **table letter from the local board dated 26 February 2026 opposing the proposed expansion of Auckland Prison.**
- c. **does not support the proposed alteration to Designation 3900 to enable expansion of Auckland Prison from 681 to 1,220 prisoners, on the basis that the scale and intensity of development is inappropriate for the Paremoremo location and exceeds the capacity of existing or planned infrastructure**
- d. **does not believe that any regional or national benefits would outweigh the significant and localised negative impacts and community wellbeing of Paremoremo residents. We consider there are other parts of Auckland that are more suitable and closer to where the residents come from**
- e. **raises concern that the proposal is being progressed under the Fast Track Approvals Act process, which limits public participation, compresses assessment timeframes, and constrains robust consideration of long-term environmental, infrastructure, and community impacts. Considers that a full publicly notified Resource Management Act Process is the better process to go through**
- f. **tuhi tīpoka / note that the existing road network is not adequate to accommodate increased traffic volumes, including:**
 - i. **congestion and safety issues at the Dairy Flat Highway / The Avenue intersection**
 - ii. **constrained and hazardous access via Brookdale Road, including blind corners and slip risks**
- g. **kohuki / consider that the proposed trigger-based infrastructure upgrades will not sufficiently offset the extra traffic this prison will cause, especially through Albany Village. The intersection at Dairy Flat Highway / The Avenue is only a small proportion of the traffic issues through Albany that this prison expansion will exacerbate. The Lucas Creek bridge on Dairy Flat Highway and Gills Road intersection cause choke points through Albany and any prison expansion needs to consider the whole of Dairy Flat Highway not only the intersection of Dairy Flat Highway and The Avenue**
- h. **tuhi tīpoka / note that Paremoremo is a small semi-rural community with a distinct character, and that further expansion of the prison will adversely affect local amenity, perceptions of safety, traffic volumes, and overall community wellbeing**
- i. **emphasises the importance of protecting the character and liveability of Paremoremo for existing residents**
- j. **expresses concern about the cumulative environmental effects of the proposal, including large-scale earthworks, vegetation clearance, watercourse modification, and staged construction over an extended period**
- k. **tuhi tīpoka / note that the rationale of housing prisoners close to their home communities does not apply in this location, other parts of**

- Auckland are far closer to home communities than Paremoremo which does not even have public transport
- l. express concern about changes to the Prison Village and impacts this could have on existing residents, including long term tenants of housing in The Village and also residents in the wider community. Currently tenancies at The Village are strictly monitored for behaviour, there is an expectation from the community that this will continue
 - m. express concern that the proposal is inconsistent with previous government assurances that the prison would not be further expanded, and that progressing the proposal may undermine public trust in the New Zealand Government
 - n. share the feedback from the Paremoremo Residents and Ratepayers showing that 95 percent of people did not support the expansion of the prison, with over 85 percent of the community having issues with issues with the following:

 - i. broken government promises (88 percent)
 - ii. infrastructure concerns (91 percent)
 - iii. safety concerns (91 percent)
 - iv. village transfer concerns (93 percent)
 - v. near whanau does not justify expansion (94 percent)
 - o. table the deputation presentation by the Paremoremo Residents and Ratepayers Association on 4 December 2025
 - p. if the proposed alteration to Designation 3900 does proceed the Upper Harbour Local Board:

 - i. requests upgrades to roading infrastructure. Not only the intersection at the corner of The Avenue and Dairy Flat Highway intersection but also to the Lucas Creek bridge on Dairy Flat Highway and the Gills Road / Dairy Flat Highway intersection
 - ii. requests upgrades and safety enhancements to Brookdale Road as a significant proportion of prison traffic comes that way not just through Albany
 - iii. if the roading upgrades in i and ii above do not occur we request regular monitoring of the effects of the prison expansion on the wider roading network
 - iv. consider that while complying with the requirements of the Public Works Act, every effort should be made to ensure that the ongoing operations of The Village are in line with current expectations of residents
 - v. requests that The Hall (505 Paremoremo Road) should be bookable and usable by residents of Paremoremo including as a community emergency hub
 - vi. supports the proposed perimeter planting such that the prison isn't seen from any roads, request that this is completed regardless of changing the designation as currently the prison is very visible and not in keeping with the rural nature of the surrounding community. Many residents feel that the Department of Corrections is not being a good neighbour, allowing such large concrete buildings to be so visible. Inmates of Paremoremo prison have a tree nursery, it could be a great project for inmates to grow trees to beautify the prison.

- vii. investigate transport solutions to reduce transport congestion, including a comprehensive operational staff visitor shuttle network, or work with Auckland Transport to put in a public bus network.**

CARRIED

26th February 2026

Re: Opposition to Proposed Expansion of Auckland Prison and Requirement for Public Notification

The Upper Harbour Local Board does not support the proposed expansion of Auckland Prison.

The potential scale and long-term impacts of further prison development is not consistent with the infrastructure of the location. Paremoremo is a small, semi-rural village with a distinctive character, and further expansion of the prison will directly affect local amenities, perceptions of safety, traffic volumes, and community wellbeing.

We consider that this proposal requires full transparency and genuine community participation.

The Upper Harbour Local Board has significant concerns around roading, infrastructure and changes to the designation of the prison village.

- The surrounding road network is insufficient to accommodate additional traffic. The intersection at the bottom of The Avenue already experiences regular congestion, safety issues, and delays during peak times—problems that will only be exacerbated by expansion.
- The road access from the other side (Brookdale Road) is subject to regular slips and has many blind corners. Extra traffic here will add to existing concerns.
- There are already wastewater infrastructure constraints and issues within the existing prison. Any increase in demand raises serious questions about system capacity, required upgrades, and associated environmental effects.
- We are concerned about any changes to the designations that currently apply to the property the prison owns on the other side of Paremoremo Road (The Village). Residents are currently assured that no one with links to the prison can live in 'The Village' and seek to have this designation remain.

The cumulative environmental and infrastructure impacts of large-scale construction and intensified activity at the site must be carefully assessed before any decisions are made.

We also highlight that Auckland Prison's stated policy of housing inmates close to their home communities does not apply in Paremoremo, as no inmates have Paremoremo as their home community. This rationale therefore cannot be used to justify expansion.

Of further concern is the commitment previously made by government ministers that the prison would not be expanded following its last major development. Considering further expansion, particularly through a fast-track process, would contradict those assurances and undermine public trust.

The fast-track consenting pathway is not appropriate for a development of this scale and significance. It limits public input, compresses assessment timeframes, and restricts the careful consideration required for decisions that will affect Paremoremo for decades.

For these reasons, the Upper Harbour Local Board does not support any expansion of Auckland Prison. If expansion is nevertheless considered, it must be processed through the full, publicly notified RMA process.

Yours sincerely,



Anna Atkinson
Chairperson
Upper Harbour Local Board



Sylvia Yang
Deputy Chairperson
Upper Harbour Local Board



Kyle Parker
Local Board Member
Upper Harbour Local Board



Uzra Casuri Balouch
Local Board Member
Upper Harbour Local Board



Selena Wong
Local Board Member
Upper Harbour Local Board



Rebecca Huang
Local Board Member
Upper Harbour Local Board

Community Response to Auckland Prison Expansion [SEP] Survey Results

Presented by Paremoremo Ratepayers and Residents Association (PRRA)

Presenter

Andy Riley

Contact

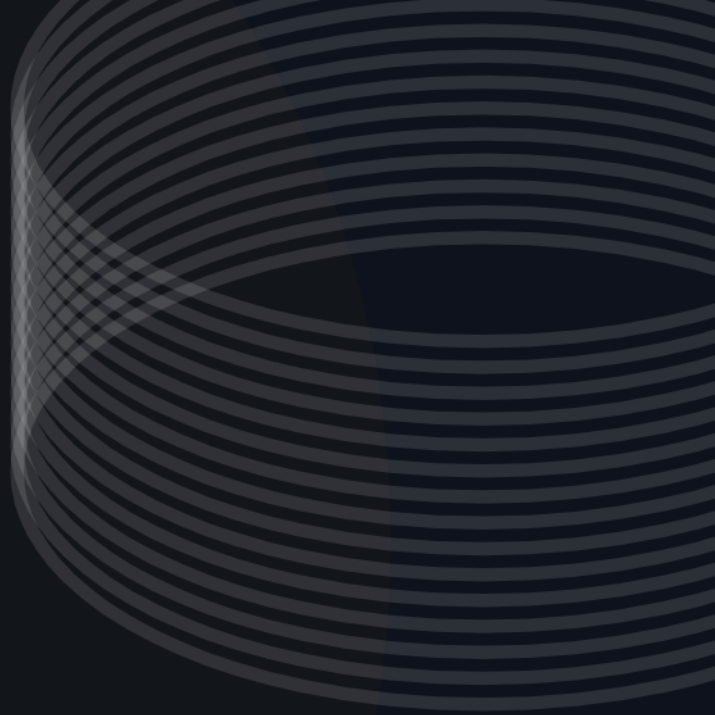
prra@gmail.com

Last updated

September 2025



Context



CONTEXT

Survey Methodology

- * 17 question survey
- * Conducted Sept 14-24, 2025
- * 600 flyers distributed within radius zone
- * Promoted on Paremoremo Area Facebook Group



Total responses

183

Live within 3Km

84%

Non-corrections employees

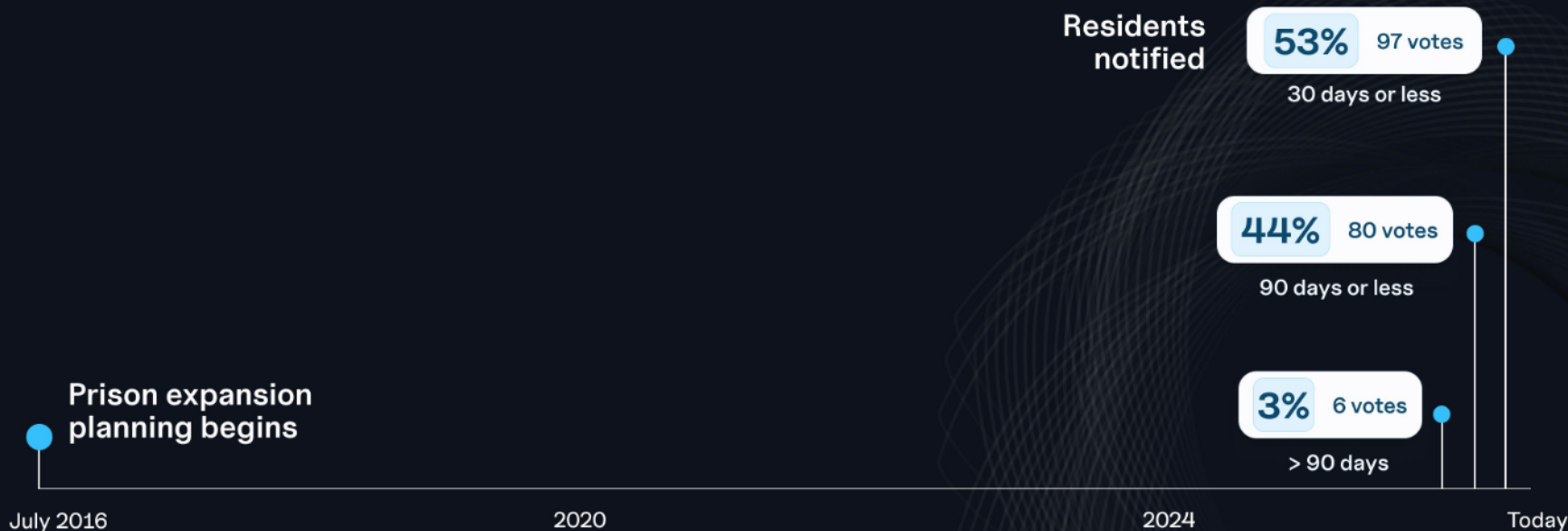
98%

Provided contact info for follow-up

76%

+266% increase from first survey

When did residents learn about the prison expansion?



Survey question: When did you first hear about the prison expansion?

AWARENESS

97% of residents became aware in the last ^[SEP]90 days,
despite planning beginning in 2016

1 of 2 residents

Did not have knowledge of the prison expansion ^[SEP]until last 30 days

Only 6 residents

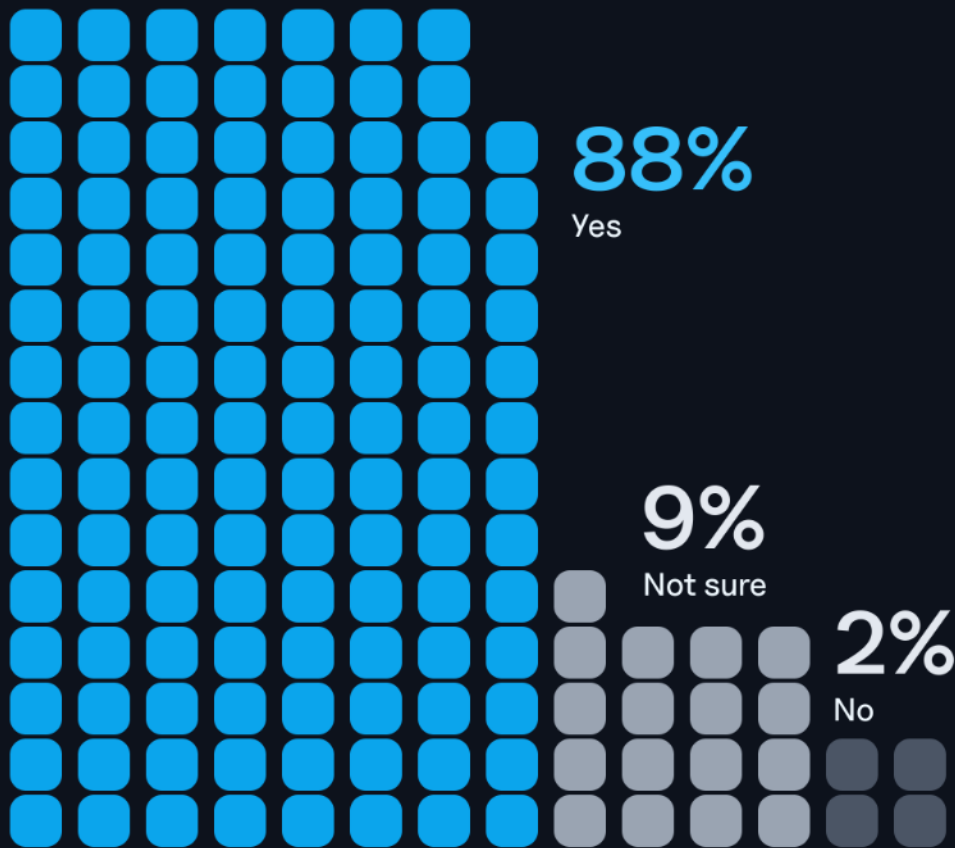
Had knowledge about prison expansion ^[SEP]for more than 3 months

Government promises, Fast-tracking, Infrastructure

HISTORICAL PROMISES

Residents expect government promises honored

- * 1988: Minister Geoffrey Palmer (650 limit)
- * 1993: Deputy PM Don McKinnon (650 limit)
- * 1996: CEO Mark Byers (680 limit)
- * 1997: DoC policy to locate prisons near whānau
- * 2016: DoC reports AKL prison not fit for expansion



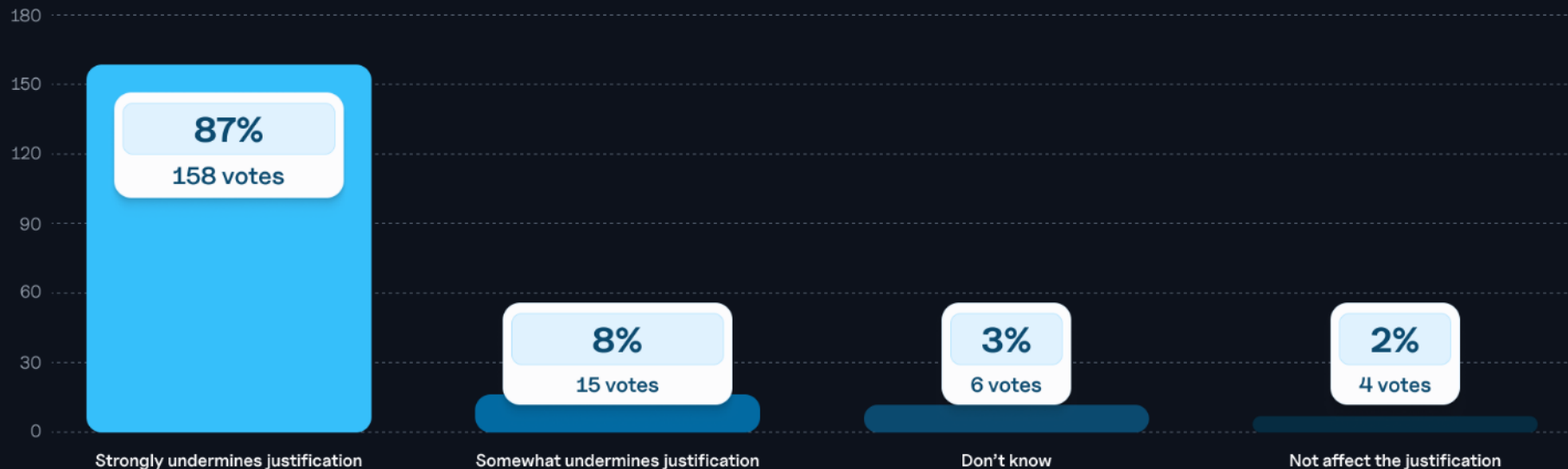
Survey question: Previous governments committed to cap the prison at 650-680 inmates. Should this commitment be honored?

VOICE OF RESIDENTS

"Obvious effort has been put from government to hide this proposal and proposal and fast track it. They have acted in bad faith"

"It's extremely disappointing the process is being handled this way... government was voted in by the very people now disregarding them"

95% of residents question the “near whānau” justification



Survey question: The Department of Corrections justifies the expansion by stating it helps prisoners stay near whānau (family/support networks). If most Auckland prison inmates are from OTHER regions (not Auckland/North Shore), this would:

QUESTION FROM RESIDENTS

“What percentage of inmates have immediate ^[L]_[SEP] family on the North Shore?”

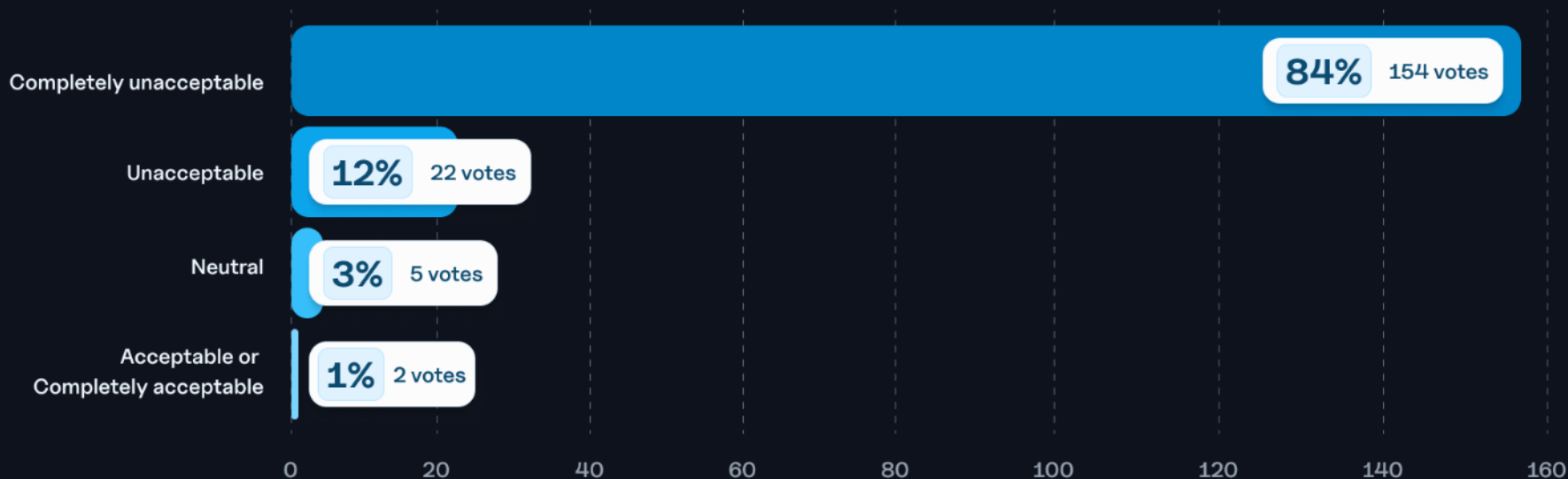
Residents made life decisions to purchase here based on government promises

88% of residents believe the government should honor historical commitments

- * Multiple residents (20-37 years) reference promises when purchasing
- * *"We were promised the prison would never expand... we accepted that promise would be honored" - 37-year resident*
- * *"Our primary concern is erosion of commitments made by both Labour and National when we purchased here"*
- * *"I have no confidence any promises will be followed through based on past experience"*

Residents made major life investments - homes, families, businesses - based on explicit government commitments. Breaking these promises undermines the social contract between government and community.

97% of the community opposes **fast-tracking** the prison expansion

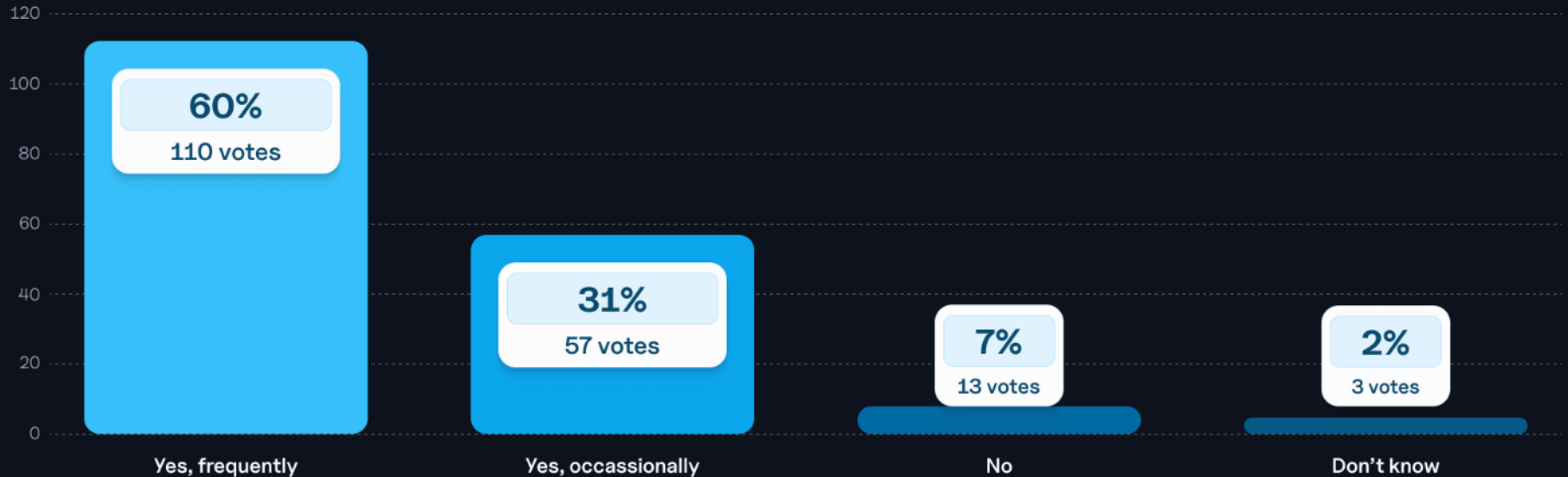


Survey question: How acceptable is using Fast-Track legislation (limited consultation) for this expansion?

VOICE OF RESIDENTS

"It's extremely offensive the government is planning on fast-track this large project while breaking their written promise to the locals"

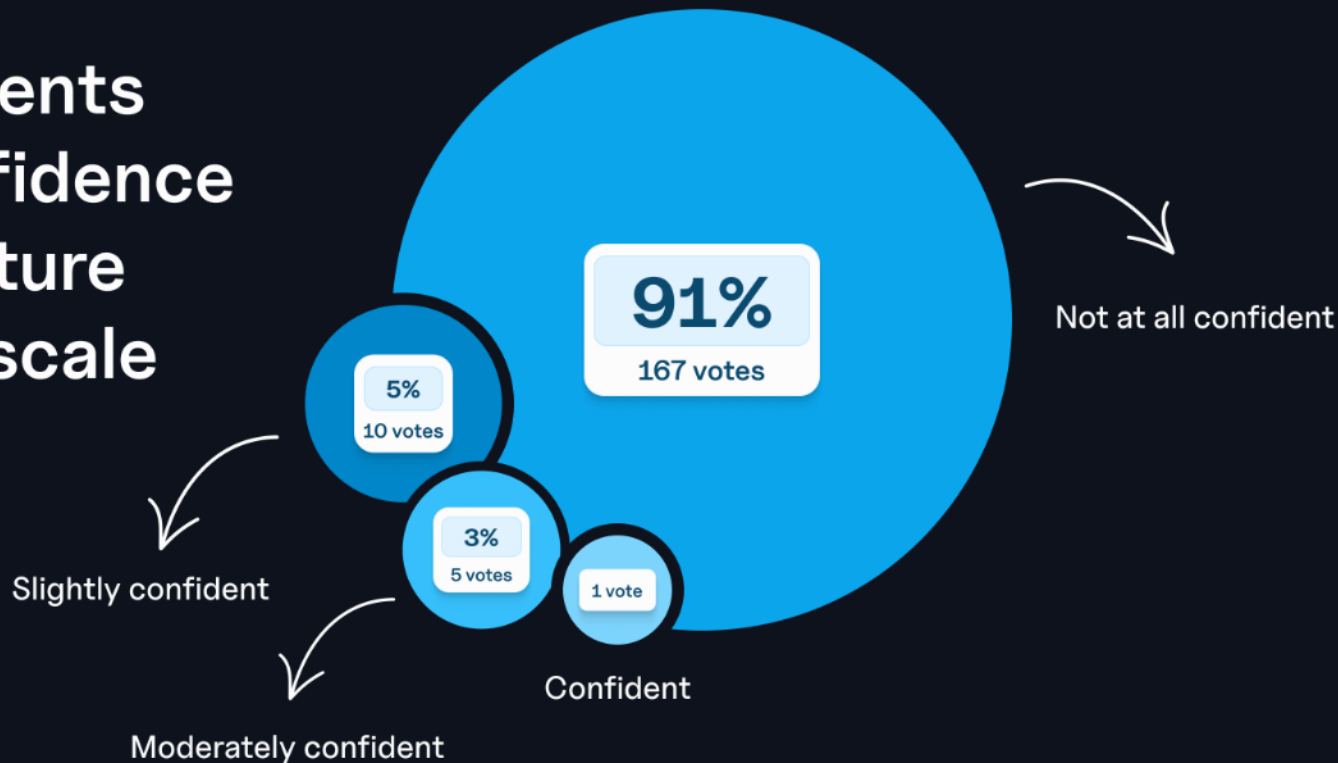
9 in 10 residents affected by current infrastructure problems



Survey question: Have you experienced local infrastructure problems (roads, power, sewage, water) in the area?

INFRASTRUCTURE

**91% of residents
have no confidence
in infrastructure
capacity to scale**



Survey question: How confident are you that local infrastructure (roads, power, sewage, water) can handle the expansion?

INFRASTRUCTURE

Documented **infrastructure** deficiencies from resident reports:

- * **Roads:** Dangerous intersections, no street lighting, no footpaths, potholes
- * **Sewage:** Pipeline failures documented over multiple years
- * **Services:** No public water, waste water or public transport
- * **Power:** Reliability issues
- * **Traffic:** The avenue and Diary Flat Highway intersection already beyond capacity.

Paremoremo Village

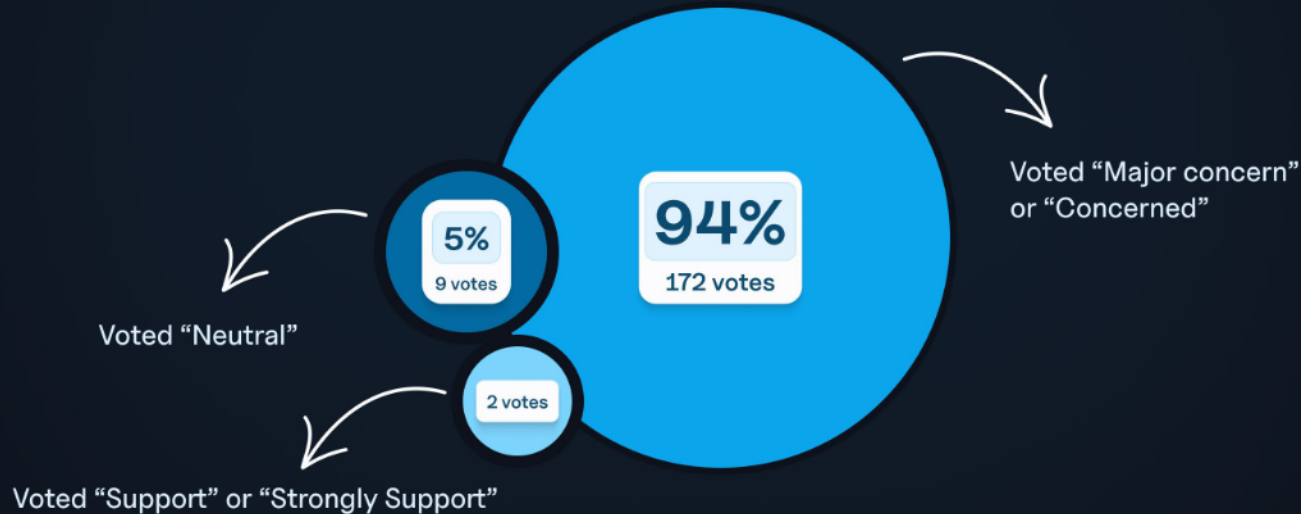
PAREMOREMO VILLAGE

Background

- * DoC owned residential community with 90+ units
- * All residents undergo mandatory criminal background checks
- * Zero tolerance policy for gang affiliations or criminal associates
- * Controlled occupancy protects surrounding community
- * Maintained successfully for 50+ years without major incident



Over 9 in 10 residents believe its critical to vet residents of Paremoremo Village



Survey question: The Department of Corrections plans to transfer Paremoremo Village (prison staff housing) to iwi or private development.
What is your view?

Key concerns about Paremoremo Village

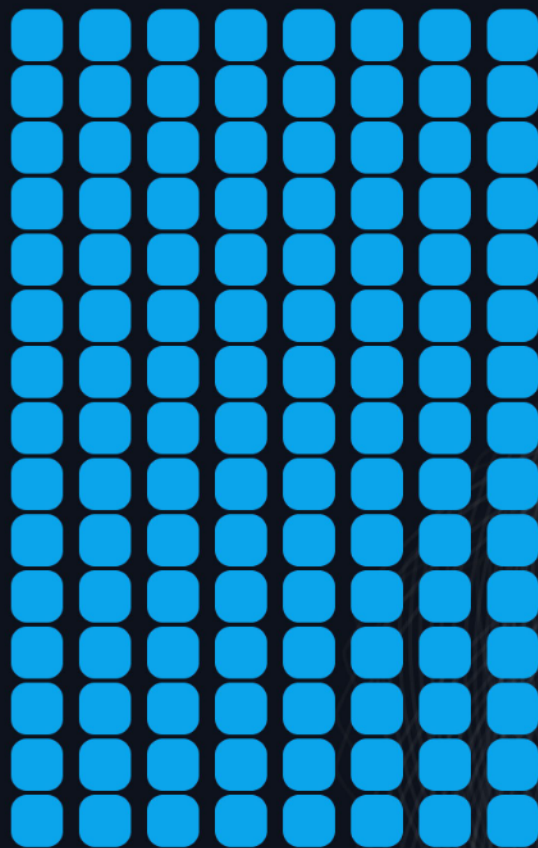
- * Non-vetted residents could compromise security
- * Loss of community safety buffer
- * Unknown development impacts
- * Gang associates could move in
- * Property values would drop

Safety, [L
SEP] Environment

SAFETY IMPACT

How the expansion affects resident safety

9 out of 10 residents reported safety concerns



90%

Residents who reported safety concerns



10%

Resident who did not report safety concerns



Survey question: How would doubling the prison size affect your sense of safety?

What residents said about safety

"Lived in area for 20 years... have to drop kids at school due to undesirables hanging outside prison... generally gang members"

"Prison visitors have been associated with crime in our area before"

"Past experience with inmates' visitors leaves us intimidated and afraid of home invasions"

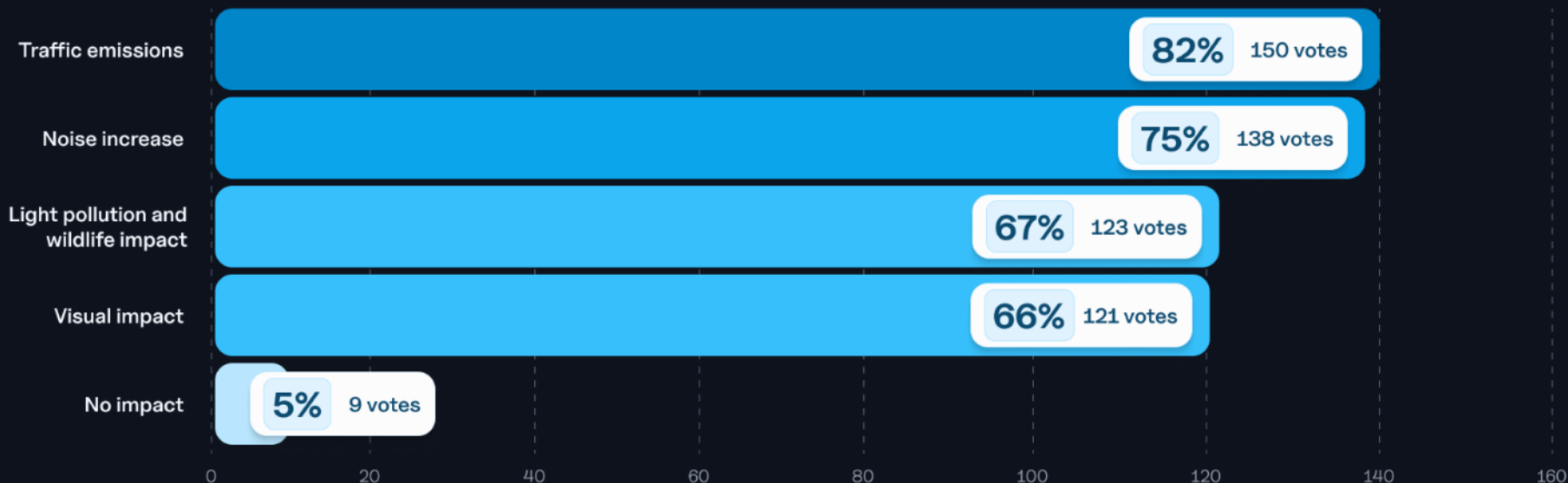
"I've lived here 30 years, still have mail pinched from mailbox on Saturdays (prison visiting day)"

Specific **safety concerns** from residents

- * Increase in gang presence in neighborhood and near school
- * Children safety at risk from prison visitors and traffic
- * Increase in local crime associated with visitors
- * Increase intimidation and fear of home invasions
- * Increased reckless driving on roads due to prison employees and visitor speeding
- * Increased mail theft

Doubling the prison population will increase documented safety risks in the community.

Resident concerns on environmental impact due to expansion

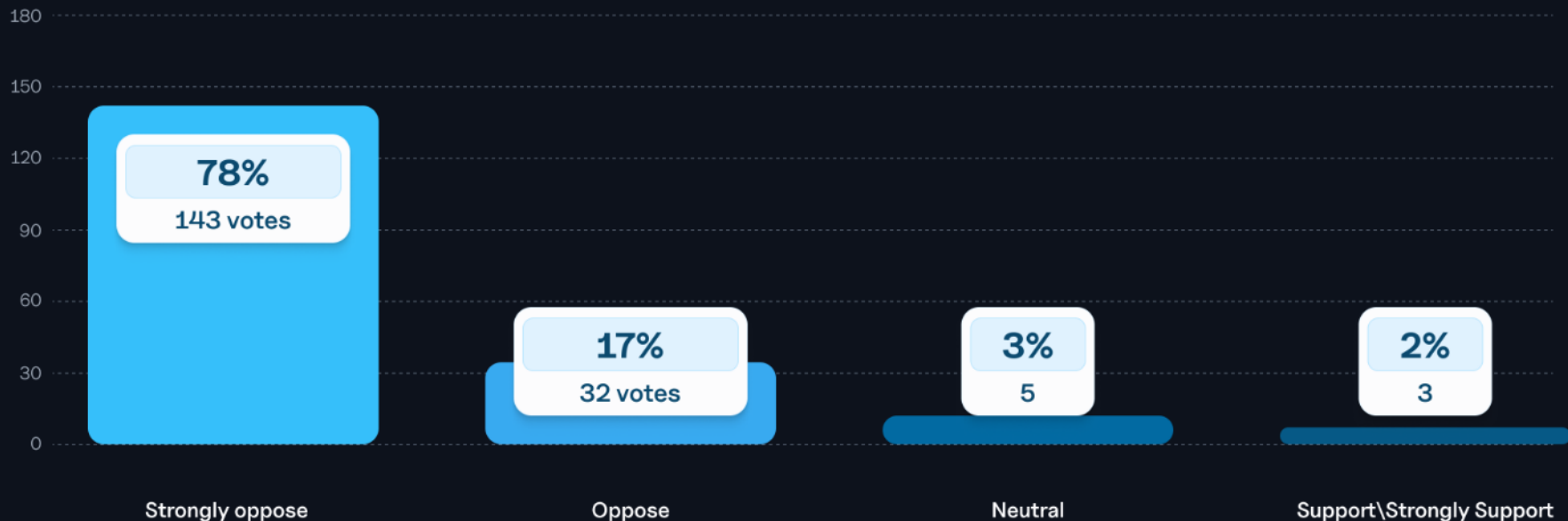


Survey question: Which environment impacts, if any, concern you about the expansion? (multiple choice)

Overall Community Position

OVERALL POSITION

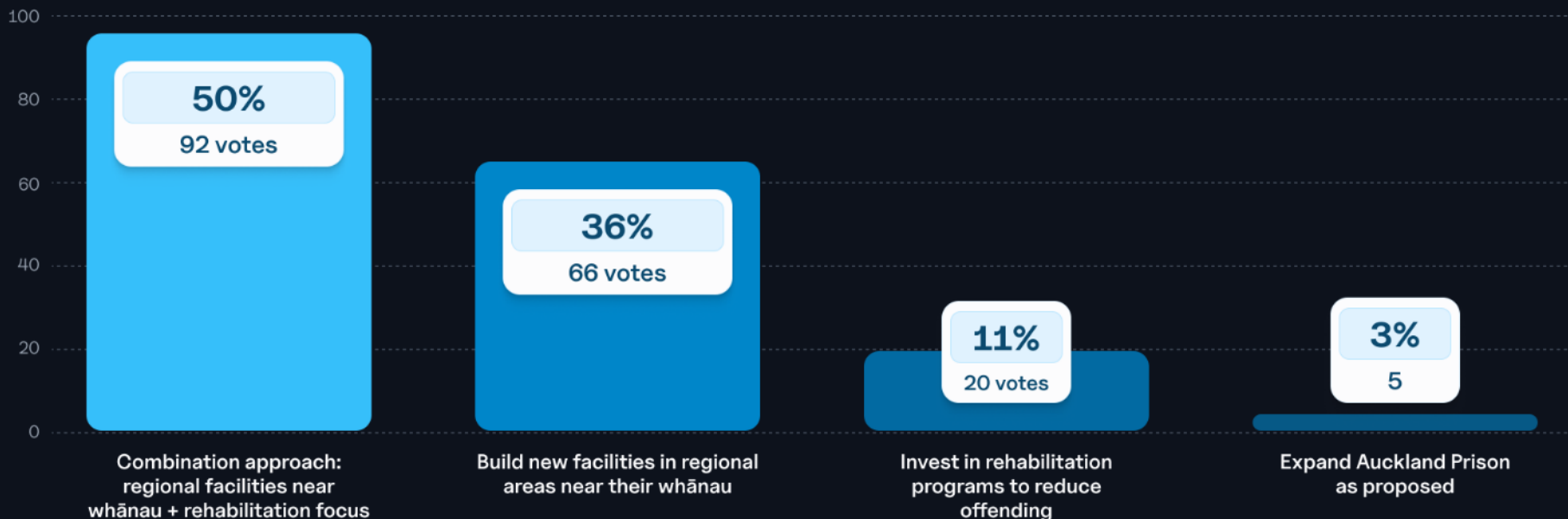
95% of community opposes prison expansion



Survey question: What is your position on the prison expansion?

OVERALL POSITION

95% chose alternatives over prison expansion



Survey question: Which approach do you prefer for managing prison capacity?

Areas of strongest community agreement

95%+

- * Oppose the expansion (95%)
- * Fast-track process unacceptable (97%)

85%+

- * Broken government promises (88%)
- * Infrastructure concerns (91%)
- * Safety concerns (91%)
- * Village transfer concerns (93%)
- * Near whānau does not justify expansion (94%)

Conversely: Only 3% support expansion

Critical questions from community

- * How will the government restore trust after breaking 30+ years of commitments?
- * Why is fast-track being used when this has been in planning since 2016?
- * What compensation will be provided to residents who purchased property based on the 650-680 cap promise?
- * What percentage of current inmates have family in the north shore?
- * What infrastructure upgrades are planned and funded for the community?
- * How will the Department of Corrections continue to support the Paremoremo village and resident vetting?

Appendix

Response authenticity measures:

- * 100+ emails addresses provided
- * Consistent patterns across all demographics
- * Specific incident citations and locations
- * 50+ written comments and concerns
- * Long-term residents (20-37 years) providing historical context
- * Detailed technical knowledge of infrastructure issues

Measures ensure high-quality, verified community input

Survey data



All responses raw

data^[1]_{SEP} <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1MJQzhFM75ve7gwvwyTAwaqqEt4PgHEBmHR45In6KwBA/edit?usp=sharing>



50+ detailed written

comments^[1]_{SEP} https://docs.google.com/document/d/14KIGJtU_wM0iWlaRlnlI36Oy_S_z4nSoEa8SZ8bemNM/edit?usp=sharing



Email verification list^[1]_{SEP} Upon request

Thank you

Presenter

Andy Riley

Contact

prra@gmail.com

Last updated

September 2025



