Consultation on the draft Local Board Plans 2026

Written Feedback

Rodney Volume #2

23 June 2026 to 23 July 2026

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Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#348

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Mahurangi Equestrian Advocate Group

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**2**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	3
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	2
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	2
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Use of ULR connecting to public ares to form shared trails which include equestrians. Unfortuntately, horses have only been mentioned on multi-use parks page 12 (where applicable) and not regarded a significant part of the community despite Rodney having some of the highest horse ownership in the country and the strong local economic benefits.

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?**
   (Select up to 3 options)

   Improved parks and public spaces,Better walking/cycling connections,Safer roads

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not well at all

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   The need for a dedicated all-weather equestrian facility in East Rodney is critical for the safety of our riding community and well-being. MEAG has submitted feedback to the local board.

MAHURANGI EQUESTRIAN ADVOCATE GROUP

Equestrians in Rodney

Intro

- For the new members of the board, the beginning of this presentation you may not have seen the first slides
- Apologies if repetition but it is important to summarise where we have evolved from
- The following slides summarise a survey we did on facebook alone to understand the equestrians in our area an justify the continue lease of Matakana Pony Club (MPC)
- The results, when presented to Greg Sayers, evolved in to Mahurangi Equestrian Advocate Group (MEAG)
- As MEAG, we have actively involved ourselves with the Regional Parks, MCTT, local elections etc.
- We would like to be Stakeholders for Equestrians in the Rodney area

Key results from a questionnaire on behalf of Matakana PC

- Riders are multi-generational; kids, mothers and grandmothers
- Riders are primarily female[1]

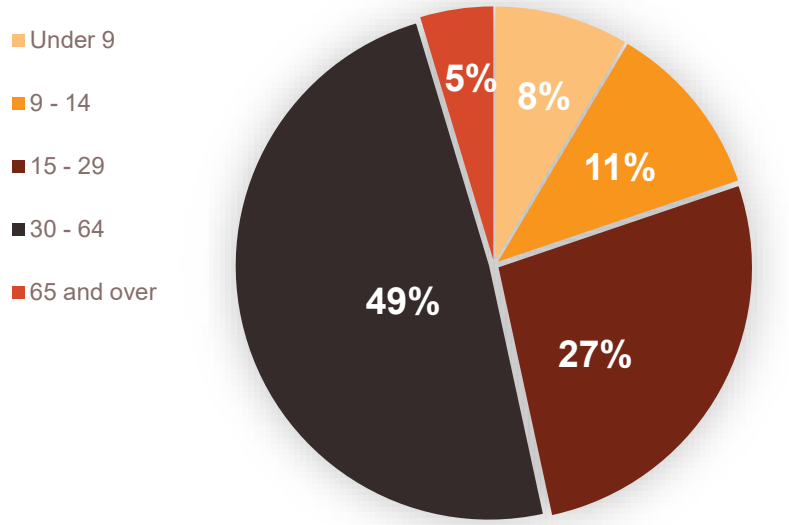
MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION 2

The overall membership profile for ESNZ and NZPCA is summarised below:

ESNZ	33%	44%	
	AGED UNDER 18	AGED 19-50	92% FEMALE
NZPCA	45%	44%	
	AGED UNDER 18	AGED 26+	93% FEMALE



Number of Riders in your household and ages:



Women and girls' participation

Our aim is to see more women and girls physically active through play, active recreation and sport.

SPORT NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Government

"We know that women and girls are underrepresented in decision-making roles within sport and active recreation, there are clear participation differences, and opportunities for females in sport and active recreation are not always fair and equal"
PETER MISKIMMIN, CEO SPORT NZ, OCTOBER 2018

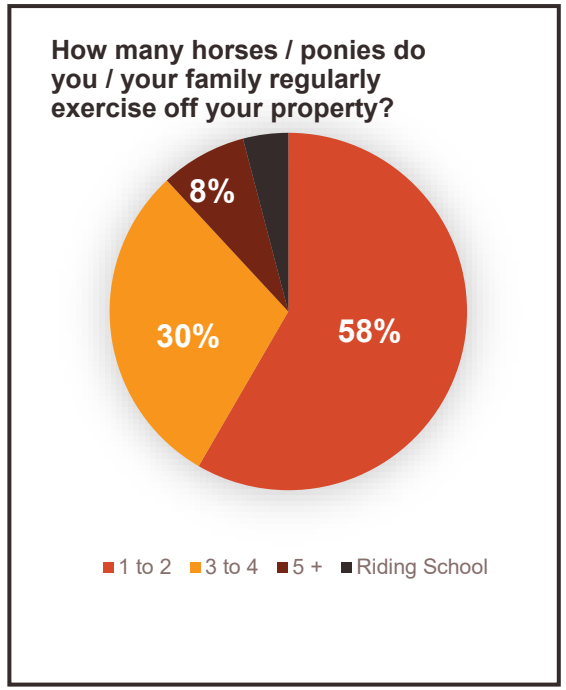
- Vision – "Enabling women and girls to realise their potential in and through sport and active recreation."
- Three key priority areas that underpin the strategy:
  1. Leadership – more women and girls are leading, working, coaching and volunteering at all levels.
  2. Participation – more women and girls are physically active.
  3. Value and Visibility – women and girls in sport and active recreation are valued and visible.

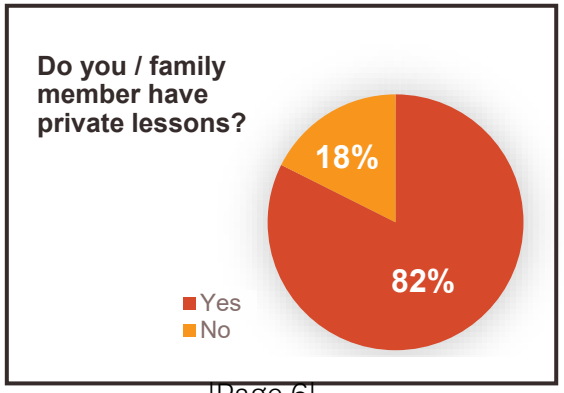
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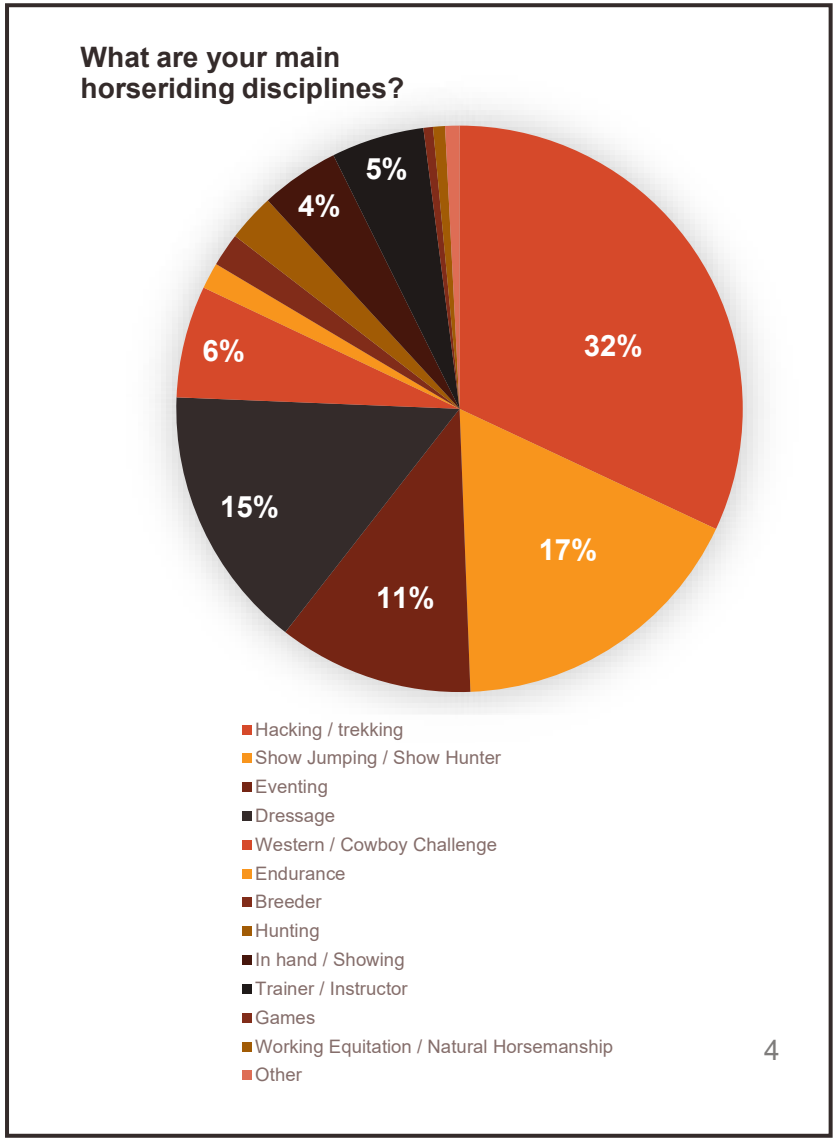
1: 100% of Matakana PC members are female / 98.5% of questionnaire respondents are female
2: National Equestrian Facilities Strategy 2023

Key results from a questionnaire on behalf of Matakana PC

- Around the 739 horses identified in the Warkworth area are exercised OFF the property
  - NB: This is not a total number of horses owned by responders. There will be horses on properties that are young, retired, brood mares etc. that are not included in this number – we are trying to ascertain shared, public access, not horse ownership.
- Of the large list of riding disciplines, around 455 require an all weather equestrian facility to conduct their sport
- 82% invest in private lessons, requiring an all weather equestrian facility



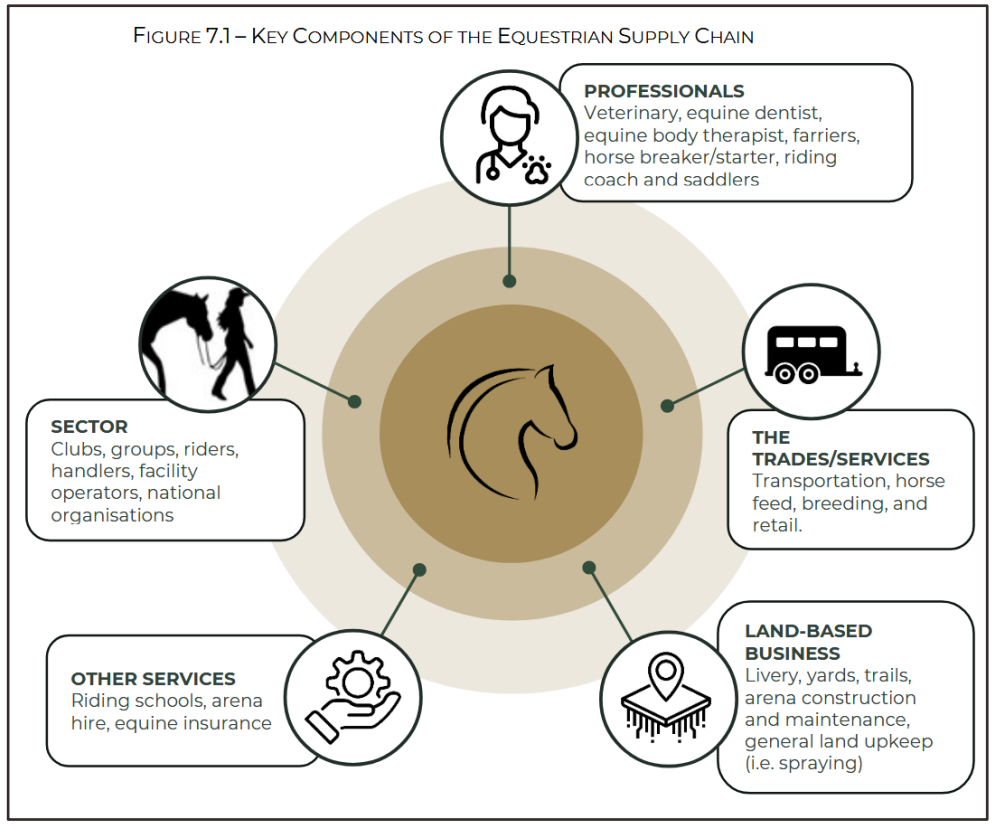




Key results from a questionnaire on behalf of Matakana PC

- Equestrians make a substantial economic contribution at the local, regional, and national levels, distinguishing them from many other sports and recreational activities. Key components of the equestrian supply chain are outlined in Figure 7.1[1]
- Some of the key findings in a 2012 University of Waikato research document[2] *(13 years ago so these numbers will be considerably higher now):*
  - Estimated 80,000 sport horses in New Zealand
  - $12,500 average total annual spend per horse
  - Contributes over $1 billion to the New Zealand economy annually, this is greater than 0.5% of GDP
  - Directly sustains the equivalent of 12,000 full time equivalent (FTE's) jobs
  - Sport horse owning land owners spent an additional $5 billion on land purchases to support their interests

FIGURE 7.1 – KEY COMPONENTS OF THE EQUESTRIAN SUPPLY CHAIN





Total Spend = $17,231 per horse pa

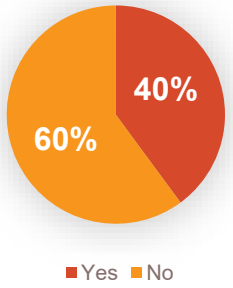
Chat GPT: To adjust $12,500 NZD from 2012 to its equivalent value in 2025, we can consider the cumulative inflation over that period. According to data from the World Bank and OECD, the New Zealand dollar has experienced a cumulative inflation of approximately 23.12% from 2012 to 2022 . Assuming an average annual inflation rate of around 2.5% for the subsequent years, we can estimate the 2025 equivalent.Official Data
Using this approach, $12,500 in 2012 would be approximately equivalent to $17,231.39 NZD in 2025.

1: National Equestrian Facilities Strategy 2023
2: Economic Impact Report on the New Zealand Sport Horse Industry July, 2012

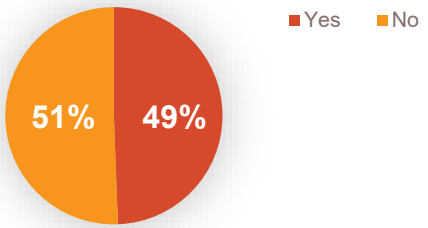
Key results from a questionnaire on behalf of Matakana PC

- Existing statistics do not represent full equestrian activity in our area and this questionnaire helps to fill the gaps:
  - 55% or respondents do not have a family member belonging to NZPCA
  - 60% or respondents do not have a family member belonging to ESNZ
  - 92% of people said ‘yes’ to riding in Regional Parks or public spaces but only 49% have a permit
- In this area, the only Regional Park with a dedicated parking and marked horse tracks is Ātui Creek (NB: Pacific Rd now significantly improved)
- Other public spaces identified do not have horse parking or designated areas
- 80% of respondents would use the Matakana Coastal Trail
  - NB: The 19% ‘Maybe’ will be because their horses are unsuitable to mix with cyclists – equestrians won’t put themselves or others at risk.

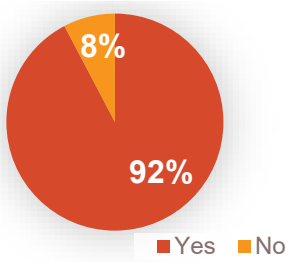
Are you registered with ESNZ?



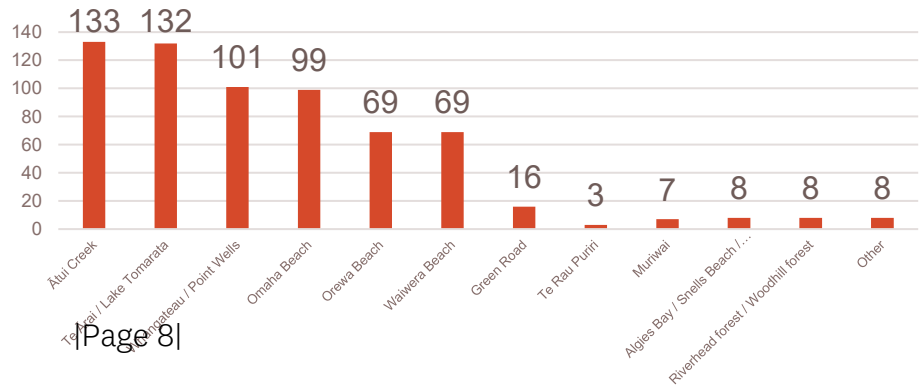
Do you / family member own a Auckland Regional Council Horse Riding Pass?



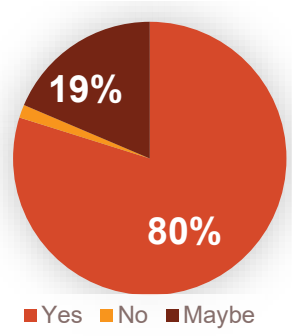
Do you / family member ride in any of the Regional Parks or Public spaces?



If yes, which ones?



Would you ride on the **Matakana Coastal Trail**, a shared pathway with bicycles and pedestrians (currently under construction) if horses were allowed?



National Equestrian Facilities Strategy 2023

- Rodney is under resourced and opportunities exist:

- There are a high number of sites to overall land mass in Auckland comparative to the rest of country (with higher membership per site).

Recommendation 1: *some opportunities appear to exist for exploring the possible consolidation of sites across wider Rodney. Short drive times/overlapping catchment areas and varying levels of membership exist. This will require more detailed analysis and stakeholder engagement.*

Recommendation 2*: Future provision should be explored within Rodney to reduce travel barriers (with focus placed on both day-to-day use and events to provide continuity of use) – this should be completed alongside Recommendation 1.*



- We are aware of the current *Auckland Council Equestrian Provision Study - Rodney Local Board Area* which is greatly appreciated. This gauges the need for facilities, but not necessarily the need for shared **Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways**

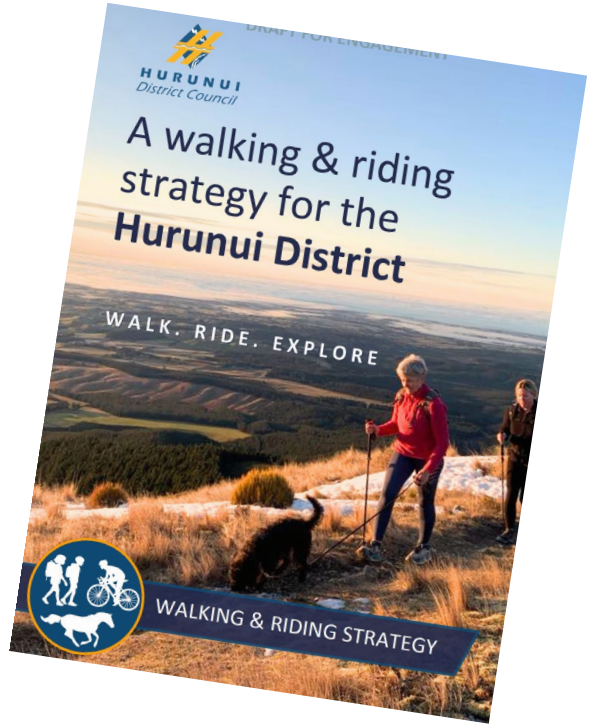
- This is how the MEAG was formed with the aim to be a Stakeholder with the Local Board to provide advice when required and work together to find solutions to shared facilities

- Many councils in NZ do not understand equestrians and have made decisions without considering them, plus the cost of maintenance. Kapiti is a classic example of when all users can come together and share open spaces successfully.

Kapiti Coast Example

- A combined **Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy** is successfully being used in Kāpiti Coast District, endorsed by the council and other agencies.
  "This strategy takes a broad view of walking so that people with physical or cognitive disabilities, limited or no vision or hearing and those in wheelchairs or on mobility scooters are included. Walking, cycling and horse riding are vital for healthy, happy individuals and safe, vibrant and sustainable communities. Providing facilities and support for these activities is a priority for the Kāpiti Coast District Council"[1].
- As with Kāpiti Coast, these bridleways become a visitor destination, bringing more to the community
- Tourism is now higher with cyclists, walkers, equestrian visiting the region and it is becoming a more attractive place to live for *Health and Wellbeing* and economic reasons
- There is now a 'Trail Trust' comprising of all user groups, that help with the maintenance costs so the council do not need to fund it all
- Equestrians need the least amount of track consideration – tracks do not need to be formed unless a wet area – Pacific Road is a great example of how the Regional Parks are gradually making it easier with tracks, dedicated parking areas and mounting blocks. They are actively asking MEAG's advice which is much appreciated.

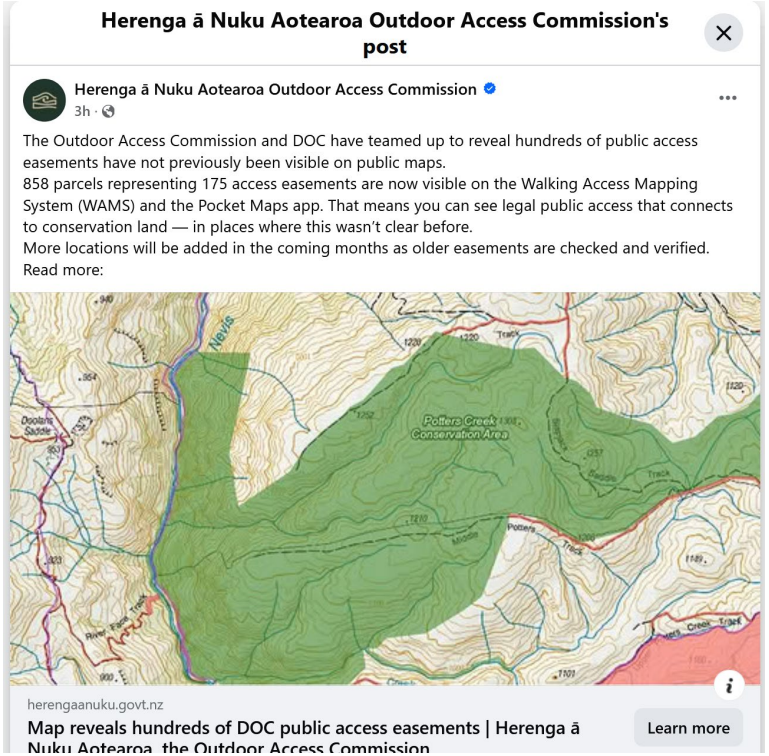




1: Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures. Cycleways, Walkways & Bridleways Strategy Dec 2009

Unformed legal roads

- We have also actively been actively corresponding with Herenga ā Nuku and attended live seminars of how to work with the local council
- Unformed legal roads provide the key for multi- users to share a space, as per the example with Kaipiti
- Ideally we would like 5 loop rides in our local area – other equestrians in the area will also have their wish list
- There are opportunities at:
  - Ti Point (10 ha – could be planted, shared use, more tracks) – could have access to the ‘gravel pit’ which also has access to the harbour
  - the Dome Valley
  - plus other identified routes in the local area to us
- Further routes can be identified in other Rodney areas

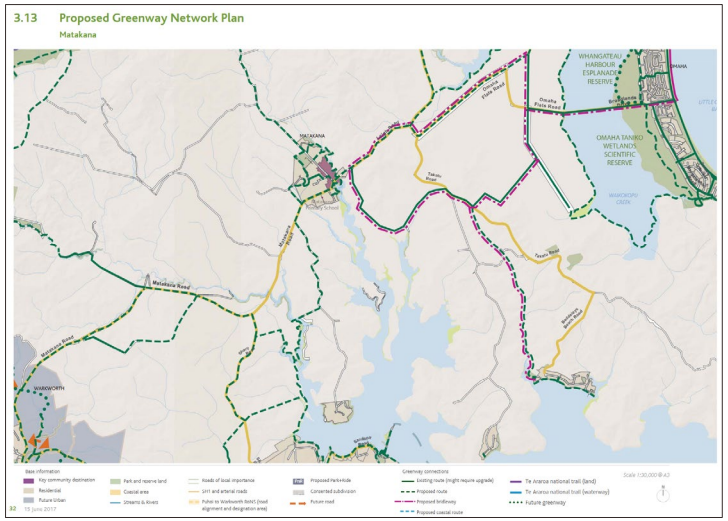


Rodney Greenways

- There are several proposed bridleways in the Rodney Greenways Plan: https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/about-council/local-boards/rodney/puhoi-pakiri-greenways-part-one.pdf
- One of our questions was why were we excluded from the Greenways proposal run by the MCTT
- To the right is the summary of the meeting with Matakana Coastal Trail – this lack of real information, for no fault of the people involved, shows a need us to be a Stakeholder to advise
- The feedback was from MCTT was to exclude horses and take it off their website
- MEAG is part of the NZEAN and we are currently doing a fact sheet about myth and fact (which includes horse poo) – hopefully these info sheets will help councils and groups with their decisions
- We have had very positive meetings with the Regional Parks and making great progress

NEW ZEALAND EQUESTRIAN ADVOCACY NETWORK





Item
MEAG, represented by Naomi Marshall, was keen to have a discussion with Meg Eriksen who was representing the Matakana Coastal Trail Trust (MCTT) and clarify whether horses are allowed on parts of it, all of it or not at all. If there are concerns, what they are and whether they are these issues that the MCTT can be reassured on. The Matakana Coastal trail website has a vision statement which finishes with "A trail that offers walking, cycling, mountain biking and horse riding paths for residents, visitors and tourists." Contrary to that, there is a sign on the Tongue Farm road at the start of the section leading to Takatu that says no horse riding.
• Meg clarified that the MCTT is working on the Point Wells to Matakana section, when finished there is a period of works liability which with be from private funding before works liability transfers to the council. • The section that already exists from Matakana to Omaha via Tongue Farm Road, Takatu, Jones road was constructed with funding from MCG and council now are in charge of the maintenance and future trail. • Future section Puhoi to Mangawhai are still in the design and cost stage by MCTT.
The impression was that there were some concerns from MCTT board, members of council and RLB regarding horses on the trail network, these being: • Health and safety of children, bicycles and horse on a shared path. • Damage to the path from horses, considering that average weight is probably 400kg. The path is constructed of gap 20/40 and the cost liability of repairs. • An exposure to tetanus risk is a human fell, had a cut that came into contact with horse poo.
Naomi responded to the above concerns with: • Offering examples of successful shared walking, cycling, horse riding trails in NZ, Kapiti council is a leading example. • Horses would only walk on the trail. If you had an unpredictable horse (usually ones that are young or naturally excitable) you would not be considering going on a trail with cycles or through busy areas. • Recommendations of good signage on trails regarding rules like give way and Poo picking. • Reassurance that the veterinary council recommends all horses in NZ and Australia are vaccinated against tetanus. Tetanus is caused by bacterium Clostridium tetani which can be found in soil, dust and animal faeces. I understand Tetanus vaccinations are strongly recommended and publicly funded in NZ for children. I think the risk of someone falling, cutting themselves and then rolling in poo must be minimal and bear in mind the bacteria is present in our soils. I spoke to my vet as well, she had never heard of that happening. A bigger concern was dog faeces.

MAHURANGI EQUESTRIAN ADVOCATE GROUP

Future Action:
• Naomi to send links to Kapiti coast shared trail and Hurunui Trails to Meg • Meg to feedback to the MCTT board the following week and then feedback to Naomi

Development of Assets

- Upgrading car parking used by equestrians in areas such as Whangateau, Lake Tomarata, Omaha etc.
- Including horses in loop tracks
- Maintain adequate open space - drainage in Jubilee Park to allow all year round community use
- Equestrian all weather arena surface that allows all year riding

To conclude

- Please involve us with
  - Opportunities for multi use tracks
  - Beach by laws
  - Reserve by laws
  - Consider a Trust involving walkers, cyclists and equestrians
  - Let's work together to make **Open Space** all year round, enjoyed by multi users, encouraging women, health & wellbeing and continue to create Rodney a destination and place to live

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#366

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Organisation: Mahurangi Pickleball Club Inc

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

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Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

They reflect the responsibility of Auckland Council and the Rodney area

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,More environmental restoration,Better walking/cycling connections

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

Feedback on Rodney Board three–year Plan from Mahurangi Pickleball Club Inc.

Supporting document

The Rodney plan acknowledges “As our area grows, we face increasing demands on parks, facilities and community spaces”. The board supports the Maori outcomes of Iwi ora (well-being), Huatau ora (future well-being) and Te Hapori ora (whanau and community well-being). The Rodney Local Board Plan 2026 expresses this vision in its statement “The strength of Rodney lies in its people, in its volunteers, community groups”. Guy Wishard, chairperson of the Rodney board, expresses the role of the Rodney Board in the introduction to the plan. He says “our role is to enable, support and partner so that together we can achieve more than any one organisation could on its own”. The plan is seeking to build connected, resilient communities supported by facilities and spaces for all ages and abilities that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.

In the plan the Board advises it seeks to prioritise resources by taking into account changing community needs and will consider advice on opportunities to work with external partners where this supports shared goals.

Each Local Board of Auckland City Council, under the focus area of Community, has the goal of providing gym facilities.

This submission from Mahurangi Pickleball Club Inc. outlines the development of pickleball as a fast-growing sport in this area and the need for council assistance to provide adequate facilities to meet ongoing needs of the ever-growing number of players enjoying this sport. Mahurangi Pickleball Club endorses Council support and partnership with the external provider Mahurangi Sports Collective, as plans are made to build a sports complex for Warkworth. The pickleball club would like this Auckland Council support, via Rodney Board, to continue and to be formally included in their documented three-year plan.

Mahurangi Pickleball Club continues to grow both in membership and in the number of weekly playing sessions our members enjoy. The club had a 50% increase in membership from October 2025 to June 2026 and continues to attract new members weekly. The current membership is 213 players. To meet ongoing demand the club currently provides members with ten sessions, each two hours of play, on a weekly basis.

In June 2021 the Mahurangi Pickleball Club provided a monthly total of 17 sessions, with a total of 191 “player sessions”. In this context “player session” refers to the

cumulative number of players at all sessions for that month. In this respect if a specific person attended four sessions that month, then this player contributed 4 to the cumulative player sessions for the month.
In May 2026, the club provided 40 sessions with a total number of 824 “player sessions”. This demonstrates the rapid growth of pickleball in Rodney and is reflective of the global trend of pickleball being the fastest growing sport.

In addition to its weekly club sessions for members and visitors, the club introduces pickleball to youth via accepting invitations from school physical education teachers to introduce and develop this sport to teenagers at Mahurangi during the college P.E. classes. The club has donated pickleball nets to the college and pickleball is incorporated into their P.E. classes. To further meet the interest youth have in pickleball, the club recently held a holiday youth pickleball session. This was highly successful and the club plans to give youth the same opportunity in future school holidays.

The club currently is following the growth phases experienced in USA, with a ten to twelve year lag phase. Rodney Board can learn from this global growth of pickleball, and plan to provide facilities to meet the ongoing demand for its community members.

The sport of pickleball had its inception in USA in 1965. From humble beginnings and play in disused tennis courts and local community halls and gyms, many cities worldwide, now have purpose built pickleball courts. Globally it is thought there are now 80-120 million pickleball players. Our club members enjoy podium finishes in a variety of tournaments locally, nationally and worldwide. One of our Mahurangi Pickleball Club players won a gold medal at the 2025 NZ Open championship and enjoyed playing in the World Championships early in 2026. The growth of the popularity in the Rodney area will continue but will be stalled if there is a facility bottleneck.

Our Mahurangi Pickleball Club serves players from a widespread geographical area. This is also reflective of the fact that Rodney Board itself serves the largest geographical area of all the 21 Auckland District Boards. Our players come from areas extending from Mangawhai, Wellsford, Kaipara, in the north of Warkworth to areas east of Warkworth including Omaha, Matakana and Leigh. Players also come from areas south east of Warkworth such as Snells Beach, Algies Bay and Sandspit, as well as from areas south of Warkworth including Mahurangi West, Puhoi, Orewa and Whangaparaoa.

The Mahurangi Pickleball Club currently uses the gym facilities of Mahurangi College, as well as the gym at Hope Church. One session a week is at the Mahurangi East Community Hall, Snells Beach, which is suited to novice players as there are space limitations between courts as well as between the courts and the walls. With the planned growth in population of Warkworth township, the Mahurangi Pickleball Club is at future risk of being unable to use the college gymnasium space as this school grows it student numbers. The four-court gym facility at Hope Centre has growth restrictions on the Mahurangi Pickleball Club. One such growth restriction is the limitation on being able to use the Hope Centre gym during

evenings as well as on Sunday when the church community is using the Hope Centre facilities. Each of these facilities have constraints on availability and usability which doesn't meet the needs of the community. This poses a growth restriction on providing pickleball for youth and younger working age players. The current age demographic of members in Mahurangi Pickleball Club Inc is some 80% of players in the 50+ age bracket. This is the age demographic experienced in USA twelve years ago.
With the provision of adequate pickleball facilities there is every expectation this sport will follow the same growth trends seen in USA and come to have a similar age demographic currently seen in USA of:
18-24 years 13% of players
25-34 years 17% of players
35-44 years 40% of players
44 – 64 years 15% of players
65+ years 15% of players
Younger players make use of weekend and evening play. Rodney pickleball players in the working age group and youth have their access to playing pickleball restricted without adequate facilities to provide for evening and weekend play.

Based on USA court-per-capita benchmarks and the NZ growth stage of pickleball, along with the current and projected population of Warkworth, it is estimated Rodney will need at least 20 pickleball courts by 2035. This is based on the ratio used in USA of one court per 1,000 to 1,200 residents and is based on a moderate growth of the popularity of pickleball in the Warkworth region and a growth unrestricted by a lack of facilities.

Mahurangi Pickleball Club Inc is seeking to provide adequate court playing spaces for its future members through its collaboration with Mahurangi Sports Collective. This collective appreciates the support the Rodney Board has given to them. The Mahurangi Pickleball Club Inc would like to see the ongoing support of the Rodney Board formally included in its three-year plan and would like to see the district plan include this statement of intent along with some details of how Auckland City Council, via Rodney Board, will support the ongoing provision and development of adequate gym facilities for its current and growing future community. This would show how the board will meet its goal of working with external partner(s) to provide the provision of a sports complex, a resilient, high-quality space and infrastructure that reflects local character and community needs.

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Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	2
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Please consider improving equestrian facilities

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

Improved parks and public spaces,Safer roads,Other, please specify:As the local climate becomes increasingly tropical, I recommend investing in improved equestrian facilities, including all-weather arenas and dedicated horse riding trails in the Warkworth / Matakana area. Riding on public roads is no longer a safe or practical option due to increasing traffic and associated safety risks. Enhancing these facilities would provide a safer environment for riders and horses while supporting the continued growth of the local equestrian community.

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   The area around Warkworth and Matakana need dedicated equestrian facilities, not only for pony club but also the wider equestrian community. The small areas we have access to are not drained and therefore only able to be used Nov- May approx. Investment in all year-round facilities such as fully drained grass surface or sand arenas would greatly benefit all.

   Assisting in providing off road walking tracks would also be amazing, road riding is too dangerous and identified potential bridleways as part of the Greenways project have excluded horses thus far.

MAHURANGI EQUESTRIAN ADVOCATE GROUP

Equestrians in Rodney

Intro

- For the new members of the board, the beginning of this presentation you may not have seen the first slides
- Apologies if repetition but it is important to summarise where we have evolved from
- The following slides summarise a survey we did on facebook alone to understand the equestrians in our area an justify the continue lease of Matakana Pony Club (MPC)
- The results, when presented to Greg Sayers, evolved in to Mahurangi Equestrian Advocate Group (MEAG)
- As MEAG, we have actively involved ourselves with the Regional Parks, MCTT, local elections etc.
- We would like to be Stakeholders for Equestrians in the Rodney area

Key results from a questionnaire on behalf of Matakana PC

- Riders are multi-generational; kids, mothers and grandmothers
- Riders are primarily female[1]

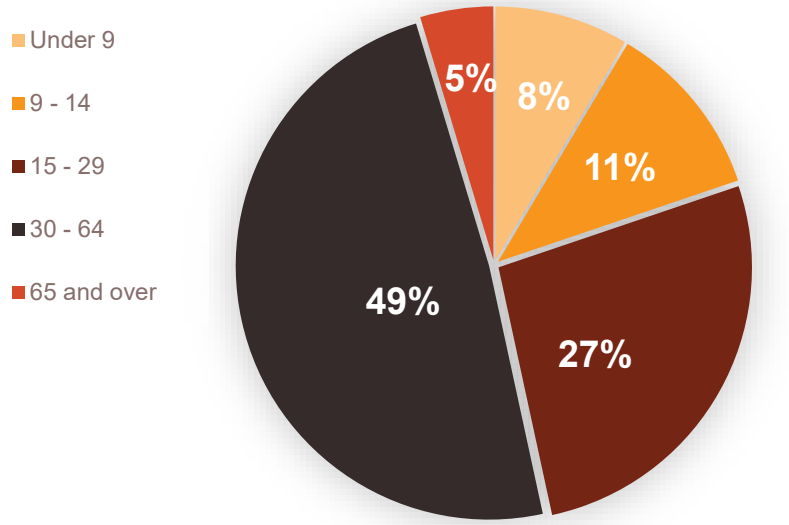
MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION 2

The overall membership profile for ESNZ and NZPCA is summarised below:

ESNZ	33%	44%	
	AGED UNDER 18	AGED 19-50	92% FEMALE
NZPCA	45%	44%	
	AGED UNDER 18	AGED 26+	93% FEMALE



Number of Riders in your household and ages:



Women and girls' participation

Our aim is to see more women and girls physically active through play, active recreation and sport.

SPORT NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand Government

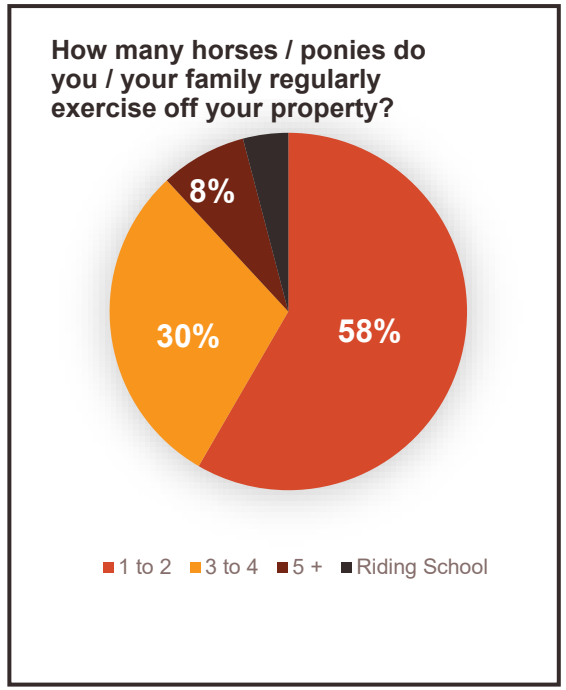
"We know that women and girls are underrepresented in decision-making roles within sport and active recreation, there are clear participation differences, and opportunities for females in sport and active recreation are not always fair and equal"
PETER MISKIMMIN, CEO SPORT NZ, OCTOBER 2018

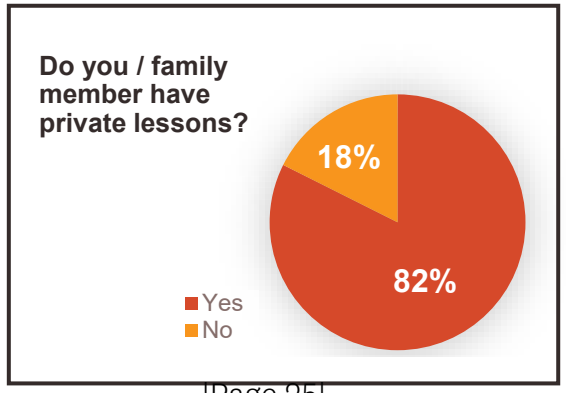
- Vision – "Enabling women and girls to realise their potential in and through sport and active recreation."
- Three key priority areas that underpin the strategy:
  1. Leadership – more women and girls are leading, working, coaching and volunteering at all levels.
  2. Participation – more women and girls are physically active.
  3. Value and Visibility – women and girls in sport and active recreation are valued and visible.

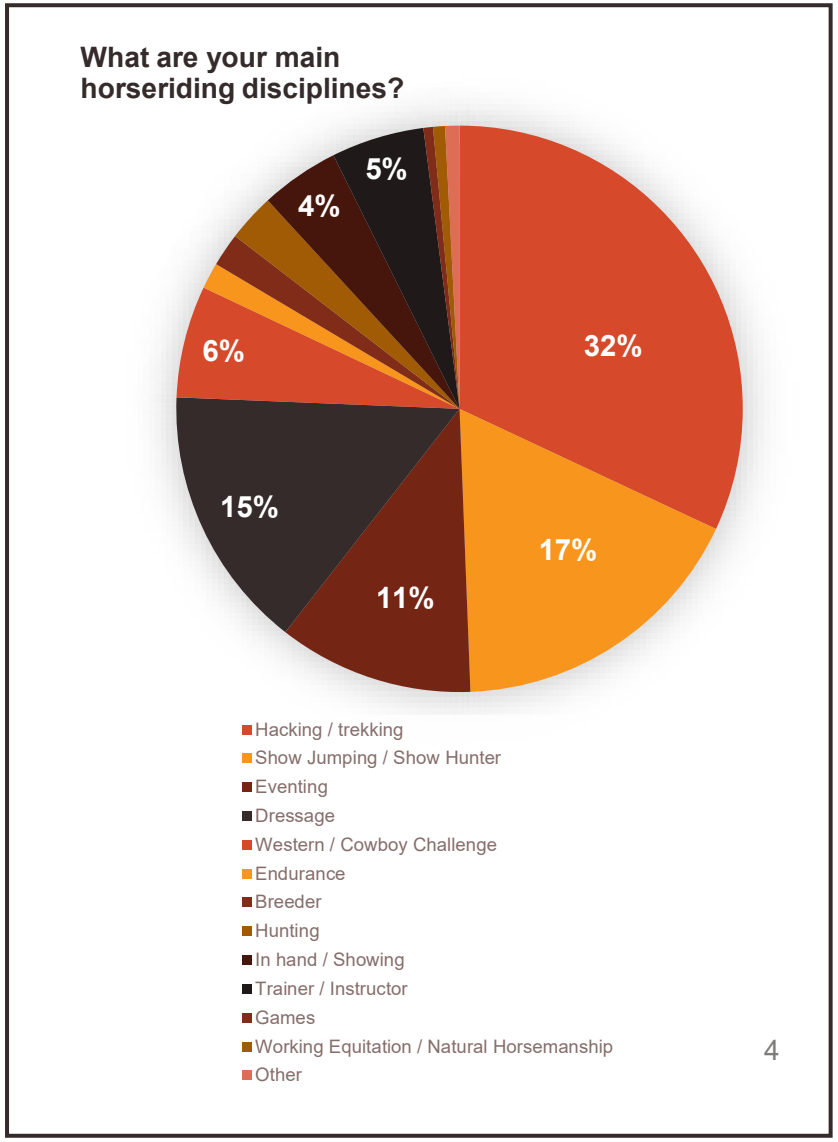
1: 100% of Matakana PC members are female / 98.5% of questionnaire respondents are female
2: National Equestrian Facilities Strategy 2023

Key results from a questionnaire on behalf of Matakana PC

- Around the 739 horses identified in the Warkworth area are exercised OFF the property
  - NB: This is not a total number of horses owned by responders. There will be horses on properties that are young, retired, brood mares etc. that are not included in this number – we are trying to ascertain shared, public access, not horse ownership.
- Of the large list of riding disciplines, around 455 require an all weather equestrian facility to conduct their sport
- 82% invest in private lessons, requiring an all weather equestrian facility

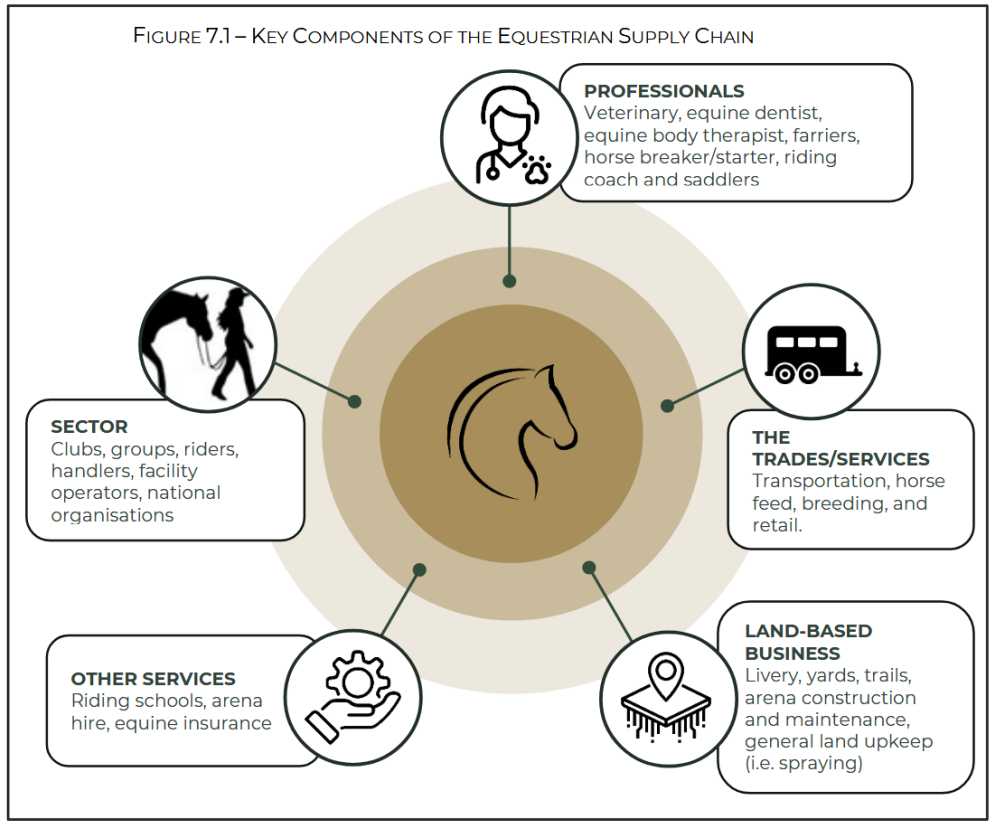






Key results from a questionnaire on behalf of Matakana PC

- Equestrians make a substantial economic contribution at the local, regional, and national levels, distinguishing them from many other sports and recreational activities. Key components of the equestrian supply chain are outlined in Figure 7.1[1]
- Some of the key findings in a 2012 University of Waikato research document[2] *(13 years ago so these numbers will be considerably higher now):*
  - Estimated 80,000 sport horses in New Zealand
  - $12,500 average total annual spend per horse
  - Contributes over $1 billion to the New Zealand economy annually, this is greater than 0.5% of GDP
  - Directly sustains the equivalent of 12,000 full time equivalent (FTE's) jobs
  - Sport horse owning land owners spent an additional $5 billion on land purchases to support their interests





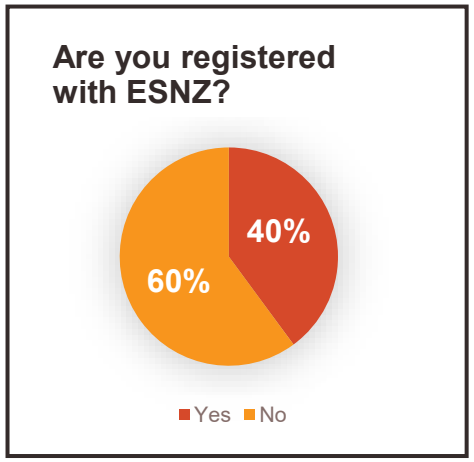
Total Spend = $17,231 per horse pa

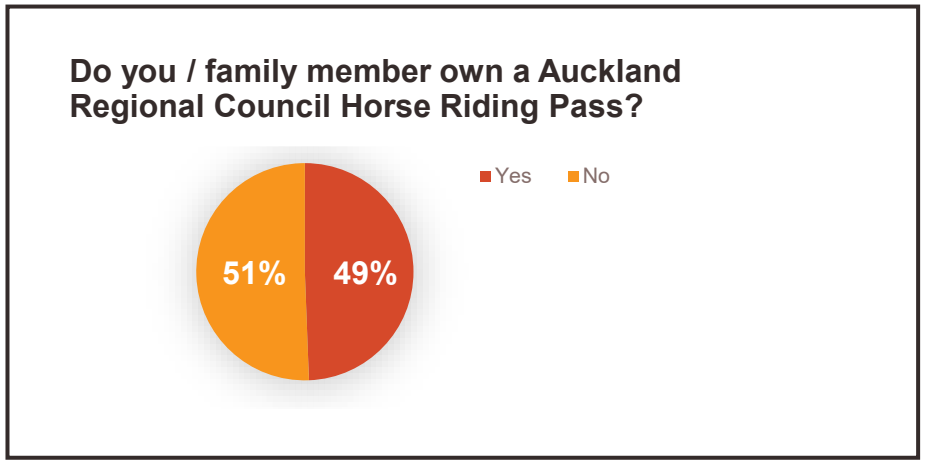
Chat GPT: To adjust $12,500 NZD from 2012 to its equivalent value in 2025, we can consider the cumulative inflation over that period. According to data from the World Bank and OECD, the New Zealand dollar has experienced a cumulative inflation of approximately 23.12% from 2012 to 2022 . Assuming an average annual inflation rate of around 2.5% for the subsequent years, we can estimate the 2025 equivalent.Official Data
Using this approach, $12,500 in 2012 would be approximately equivalent to $17,231.39 NZD in 2025.

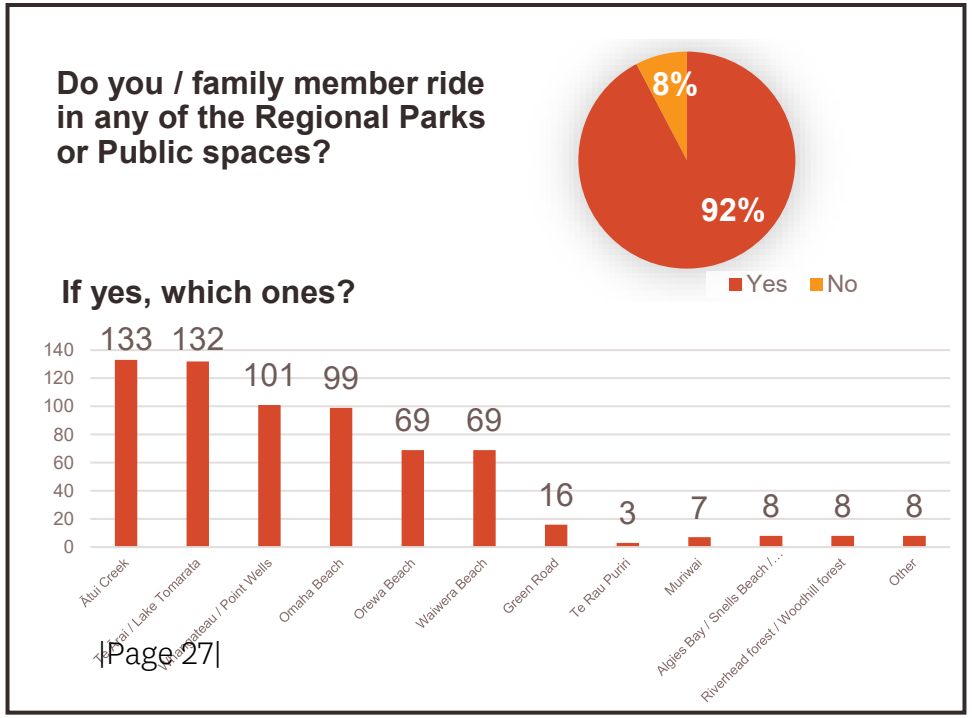
1: National Equestrian Facilities Strategy 2023
2: Economic Impact Report on the New Zealand Sport Horse Industry July, 2012

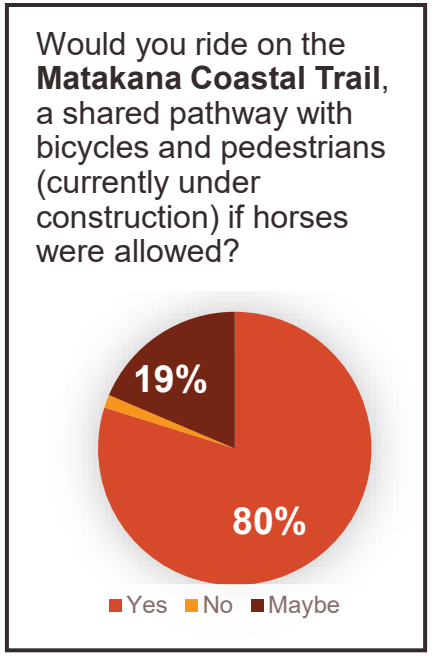
Key results from a questionnaire on behalf of Matakana PC

- Existing statistics do not represent full equestrian activity in our area and this questionnaire helps to fill the gaps:
  - 55% or respondents do not have a family member belonging to NZPCA
  - 60% or respondents do not have a family member belonging to ESNZ
  - 92% of people said ‘yes’ to riding in Regional Parks or public spaces but only 49% have a permit
- In this area, the only Regional Park with a dedicated parking and marked horse tracks is Ātui Creek (NB: Pacific Rd now significantly improved)
- Other public spaces identified do not have horse parking or designated areas
- 80% of respondents would use the Matakana Coastal Trail
  - NB: The 19% ‘Maybe’ will be because their horses are unsuitable to mix with cyclists – equestrians won’t put themselves or others at risk.









National Equestrian Facilities Strategy 2023

- Rodney is under resourced and opportunities exist:

- There are a high number of sites to overall land mass in Auckland comparative to the rest of country (with higher membership per site).

Recommendation 1: *some opportunities appear to exist for exploring the possible consolidation of sites across wider Rodney. Short drive times/overlapping catchment areas and varying levels of membership exist. This will require more detailed analysis and stakeholder engagement.*

Recommendation 2*: Future provision should be explored within Rodney to reduce travel barriers (with focus placed on both day-to-day use and events to provide continuity of use) – this should be completed alongside Recommendation 1.*



- We are aware of the current *Auckland Council Equestrian Provision Study - Rodney Local Board Area* which is greatly appreciated. This gauges the need for facilities, but not necessarily the need for shared **Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways**

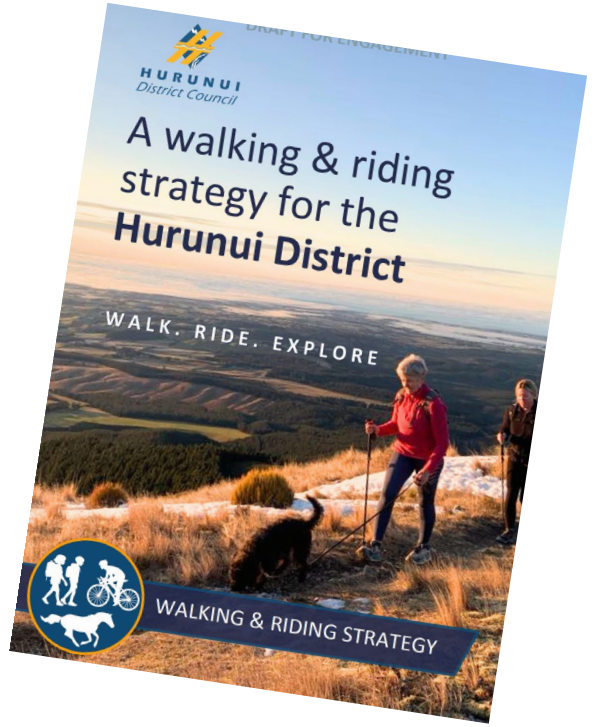
- This is how the MEAG was formed with the aim to be a Stakeholder with the Local Board to provide advice when required and work together to find solutions to shared facilities

- Many councils in NZ do not understand equestrians and have made decisions without considering them, plus the cost of maintenance. Kapiti is a classic example of when all users can come together and share open spaces successfully.

Kapiti Coast Example

- A combined **Cycleways, Walkways and Bridleways Strategy** is successfully being used in Kāpiti Coast District, endorsed by the council and other agencies.
  "This strategy takes a broad view of walking so that people with physical or cognitive disabilities, limited or no vision or hearing and those in wheelchairs or on mobility scooters are included. Walking, cycling and horse riding are vital for healthy, happy individuals and safe, vibrant and sustainable communities. Providing facilities and support for these activities is a priority for the Kāpiti Coast District Council"[1].
- As with Kāpiti Coast, these bridleways become a visitor destination, bringing more to the community
- Tourism is now higher with cyclists, walkers, equestrian visiting the region and it is becoming a more attractive place to live for *Health and Wellbeing* and economic reasons
- There is now a 'Trail Trust' comprising of all user groups, that help with the maintenance costs so the council do not need to fund it all
- Equestrians need the least amount of track consideration – tracks do not need to be formed unless a wet area – Pacific Road is a great example of how the Regional Parks are gradually making it easier with tracks, dedicated parking areas and mounting blocks. They are actively asking MEAG's advice which is much appreciated.

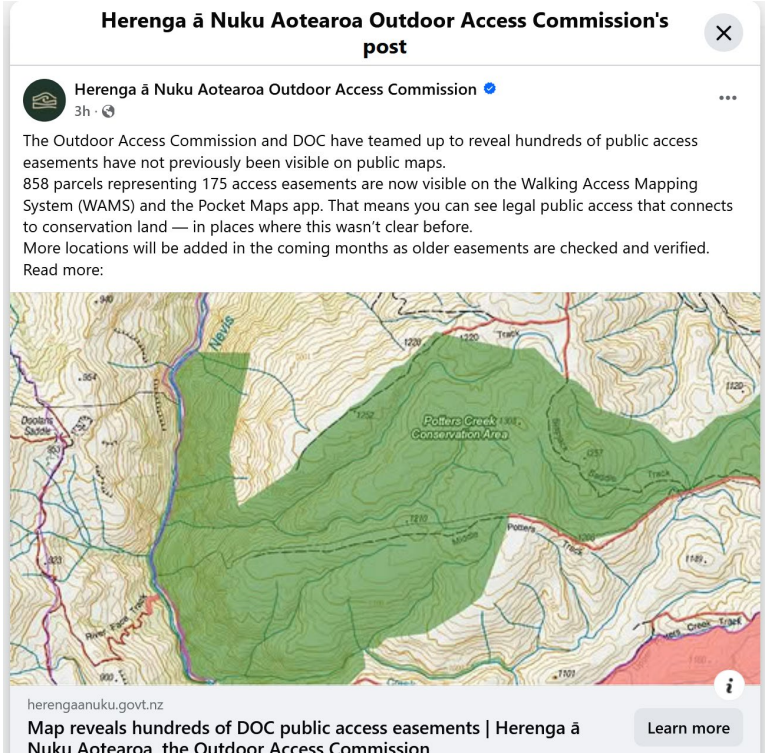




1: Kāpiti Coast: Choosing Futures. Cycleways, Walkways & Bridleways Strategy Dec 2009

Unformed legal roads

- We have also actively been actively corresponding with Herenga ā Nuku and attended live seminars of how to work with the local council
- Unformed legal roads provide the key for multi- users to share a space, as per the example with Kaipiti
- Ideally we would like 5 loop rides in our local area – other equestrians in the area will also have their wish list
- There are opportunities at:
  - Ti Point (10 ha – could be planted, shared use, more tracks) – could have access to the ‘gravel pit’ which also has access to the harbour
  - the Dome Valley
  - plus other identified routes in the local area to us
- Further routes can be identified in other Rodney areas

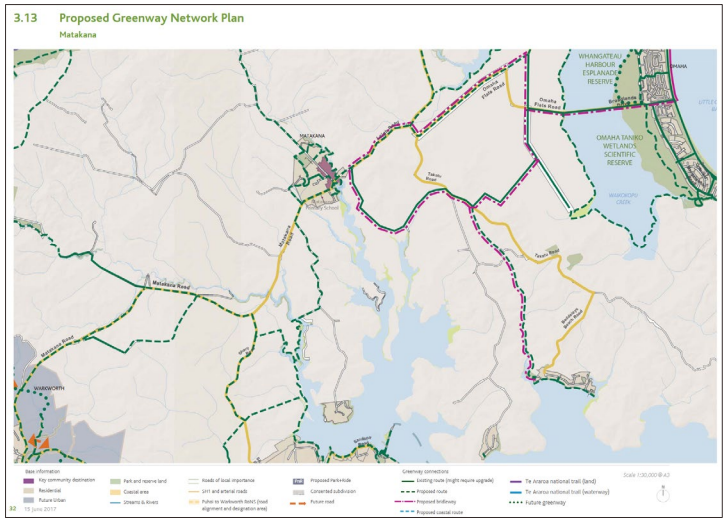


Rodney Greenways

- There are several proposed bridleways in the Rodney Greenways Plan: https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/about-council/local-boards/rodney/puhoi-pakiri-greenways-part-one.pdf
- One of our questions was why were we excluded from the Greenways proposal run by the MCTT
- To the right is the summary of the meeting with Matakana Coastal Trail – this lack of real information, for no fault of the people involved, shows a need us to be a Stakeholder to advise
- The feedback was from MCTT was to exclude horses and take it off their website
- MEAG is part of the NZEAN and we are currently doing a fact sheet about myth and fact (which includes horse poo) – hopefully these info sheets will help councils and groups with their decisions
- We have had very positive meetings with the Regional Parks and making great progress

NEW ZEALAND EQUESTRIAN ADVOCACY NETWORK





Item
MEAG, represented by Naomi Marshall, was keen to have a discussion with Meg Eriksen who was representing the Matakana Coastal Trail Trust (MCTT) and clarify whether horses are allowed on parts of it, all of it or not at all. If there are concerns, what they are and whether they are these issues that the MCTT can be reassured on. The Matakana Coastal trail website has a vision statement which finishes with "A trail that offers walking, cycling, mountain biking and horse riding paths for residents, visitors and tourists." Contrary to that, there is a sign on the Tongue Farm road at the start of the section leading to Takatu that says no horse riding.
• Meg clarified that the MCTT is working on the Point Wells to Matakana section, when finished there is a period of works liability which with be from private funding before works liability transfers to the council. • The section that already exists from Matakana to Omaha via Tongue Farm Road, Takatu, Jones road was constructed with funding from MCG and council now are in charge of the maintenance and future trail. • Future section Puhoi to Mangawhai are still in the design and cost stage by MCTT.
The impression was that there were some concerns from MCTT board, members of council and RLB regarding horses on the trail network, these being: • Health and safety of children, bicycles and horse on a shared path. • Damage to the path from horses, considering that average weight is probably 400kg. The path is constructed of gap 20/40 and the cost liability of repairs. • An exposure to tetanus risk is a human fell, had a cut that came into contact with horse poo.
Naomi responded to the above concerns with: • Offering examples of successful shared walking, cycling, horse riding trails in NZ, Kapiti council is a leading example. • Horses would only walk on the trail. If you had an unpredictable horse (usually ones that are young or naturally excitable) you would not be considering going on a trail with cycles or through busy areas. • Recommendations of good signage on trails regarding rules like give way and Poo picking. • Reassurance that the veterinary council recommends all horses in NZ and Australia are vaccinated against tetanus. Tetanus is caused by bacterium Clostridium tetani which can be found in soil, dust and animal faeces. I understand Tetanus vaccinations are strongly recommended and publicly funded in NZ for children. I think the risk of someone falling, cutting themselves and then rolling in poo must be minimal and bear in mind the bacteria is present in our soils. I spoke to my vet as well, she had never heard of that happening. A bigger concern was dog faeces.

MAHURANGI EQUESTRIAN ADVOCATE GROUP

Future Action:
• Naomi to send links to Kapiti coast shared trail and Hurunui Trails to Meg • Meg to feedback to the MCTT board the following week and then feedback to Naomi

Development of Assets

- Upgrading car parking used by equestrians in areas such as Whangateau, Lake Tomarata, Omaha etc.
- Including horses in loop tracks
- Maintain adequate open space - drainage in Jubilee Park to allow all year round community use
- Equestrian all weather arena surface that allows all year riding

To conclude

- Please involve us with
  - Opportunities for multi use tracks
  - Beach by laws
  - Reserve by laws
  - Consider a Trust involving walkers, cyclists and equestrians
  - Let's work together to make **Open Space** all year round, enjoyed by multi users, encouraging women, health & wellbeing and continue to create Rodney a destination and place to live

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#439

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Muriwai Environmental Trust

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**3**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	3
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

No

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

More environmental restoration,Improved parks and public spaces,Better public transport options

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   See attached submission for recommended changes to the report

Submission on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

To: The Rodney Local Board, Auckland Council
From: Muriwai Environmental Trust (MET)
Date: July 20, 2026
Subject: Feedback on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026 – Prioritising Dune Restoration, Managing Beach Vehicle Access, and Establishing Ecological Prioritisation at Muriwai

1. Introduction & About the Muriwai Environmental Trust

The Muriwai Environmental Trust (MET) welcomes the opportunity to provide formal feedback on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026. Established in 2011, MET is a registered charitable trust dedicated to caring for, protecting, and enhancing the unique natural environment of the Muriwai and Waimauku areas. Our core vision is to ensure our coastal cliffs, native bush, and highly threatened dune ecosystems are preserved and thriving for generations to come.
Muriwai is one of the most visited coastlines in Aotearoa, attracting over 1.4 million visitors annually. This heavy human footprint, combined with historical vehicle impacts and the ecological trauma of Cyclone Gabrielle, places immense strain on our fragile environment. Muriwai Beach is known as ‘Te Oneone Rangatira’ to local iwi which means ‘The Chiefly Beach’ - it is time that we started treating it that way. We appreciate that the Local Board’s *Mihi* references the "sacred sands of Muriwai," and that the Chairperson’s message highlights the value of partnering with community volunteer groups.
However, to truly protect the ecological significance of this landscape, the final Local Board Plan must shift from passive monitoring to active, well-funded intervention - particularly regarding dune restoration, following through with the committed ANPR, gate, and paid permit for vehicle access to the beach, and the clear prioritisation of ecological health over recreation.

2. Key Focus Areas for Feedback

Focus Area 1: Dune Restoration and Biodiversity Protection

Under the *Natural Environment* section (Pages 15–18), the draft plan outlines an objective to *"Protect and restore indigenous biodiversity through conservation partnerships... and community*

stewardship." MET strongly endorses this goal, as it aligns directly with our active work in the 5 Mile Strip Reserve (aka ‘Korowai Dunes’ - MET’s project name to protect the "5 Mile Strip Reserve" of Muriwai Regional Park).

- **The ecological context:** The 5 Mile Strip Reserve (and the entire dune system of Muriwai Beach) supports highly threatened, critically endangered ecosystems. They are the exclusive home of the critically endangered and endemic Korowai Gecko, as well as native tātahi skinks, kātipo spiders, and, post cyclone closures, the return of kororā (little blue penguins). MET, in partnership with Auckland Council and mana whenua, maintains an extensive trapping network here to control mustelids, rats, and possums to safeguard these species.

  "Five Mile Strip is situated within Muriwai Regional Park on Auckland’s west coast. It extends out along the sand dunes for around 6.5 km north from the southern side of Okiritoto Stream. **This stretch of coast is highly significant from an ecological perspective, with sand dune ecosystems a national priority for protection.**" - Auckland Council Shoreline Adaptation Plan (Volume 3 Adaptation Strategies Whatipu SAP - as endorsed by RLB August 2025).
- **The need for active wording:** On Page 17, the draft plan states a key initiative is to *"Keep communities informed about climate-resilience projects like changes to beaches in Pakiri, and Muriwai."* This language is far too passive. "Keeping communities informed" does not prevent dune blowouts or restore ecosystems.
- **The threat of sand migration:** When fragile dune vegetation (such as spinifex, pīngao, and sand coprosma) is destroyed, it triggers massive sand migration and blowouts. This moving sand smothers gecko and skink habitats and buries developing back-dune forests. Additionally this has wider economic impacts on the forest and provides protection from storm surges and rising sea levels as outlined in Auckland Council shoreline adaptation plans and other reports commissioned by the Council. The Ecosystem Services Valuation of this land is estimated at $63045 per ha (per the EcoIndex Ecosystem Valuer - https://eco-index.koordinates.com/ using internationally recognised methodologies) this puts the value of 5 Mile Strip ecosystem services at $12,419,995.

MET Recommendation: *The plan must explicitly fund and support community-led ecological restoration and native re-vegetation of degraded dunes, rather than just funding public updates.*

Focus Area 2: Vehicle Access to the Beach

While the draft plan addresses the transport network’s safety and sealing requirements (Pages

26–28), it completely omits the ecological and social impacts of recreational vehicles driving on the beach and dunes.

- **Direct environmental destruction:** Four-wheel drives (4WDs) and motocross bikes are the single most immediate, visible threat to the Muriwai coast. Vehicles driven above the high-tide mark destroy fragile sand-binding plants, kill native lizards directly, and create severe dune erosion as has been pointed out by the Councils own ecologists and in numerous reports from council.
- **Public safety and conflict:** Muriwai beach operates under dual pressures as both a legal road and a premier regional park. The tension between recreational motorists, surfers, walkers, and horse riders is a long-standing issue. Dangerous driving behavior, unpermitted vehicles, fire, poaching, and abandoned vehicle wrecks pose ongoing safety hazards.
- **The limited and short-lived success of vehicle bans:** MET strongly supports the seasonal vehicle closures implemented over peak summer and Guy Fawkes periods to mitigate fire risks and protect beachgoers. The return of kororā (little blue penguins) to nest in the 5 Mile Strip Reserve directly correlated with periods when the beach was closed to vehicle traffic post-cyclone (they have now gone again). These should be maintained and expanded - while acknowledging that they have little overall impact on the environmental outcomes.

MET Recommendation: *The unrestricted "right" to drive recreationally on a highly threatened ecosystem is outdated. The Local Board must take a firm stance on pushing on with and tightening the permit system and push council to implement a paid permit system, ANPR system and physical barriers (gate) at the Muriwai access point, and push council for the development of a long term plan for better protection and monitoring of the beach and dunes, particularly in the 5 Mile Strip and the beach adjacent. These protection measures should include: 1: strong and well funded enforcement of no-vehicles in the dunes; 2: dusk-till-dawn closure to protect kororā, reduce antisocial behaviour, fire risk, poaching, and illegal firearm use. 3: continued and potentially expanded seasonal closures but removal of misleading messaging around the environmental protection purpose of these. 4: an actual long term plan with fixed deadlines and clear accountability for missing these.*

Focus Area 3: Ecological Protection over Recreation

Under the current environmental objectives, the draft plan states an intention to protect ecosystems: *"...while ensuring these environments remain safe, accessible, and actively maintained for public recreation and water-based activities, where appropriate."*
MET strongly urges the Local Board to remove or heavily qualify this conditional clause. While we support safe public recreation in designated areas, placing this qualifier within the *Natural Environment* objectives dilutes the primary goal of conservation and creates an inherent conflict

of interest.

- **Dilution of intent:** Environmental objectives must remain single-mindedly focused on the health, biodiversity, and health of the landscape. Tacking on recreational mandates implies that ecological protection is only valid if it does not interfere with human convenience.
- **The "access vs. protection" paradox:** Muriwai is already being severely compromised by unmanaged open access. The dunes cannot be "actively maintained for public recreation" while simultaneously being restored as a fragile habitat for endangered geckos, skinks, and birds. In highly threatened or fragile ecosystems, ecological protection *must* take precedence over public access.
- **The weakness of vague qualifiers:** History shows that vague terms like "where appropriate" are routinely exploited to justify damaging recreational activities (such as off-road driving or destructive dune driving) at the expense of environmental health.

3. Requested Amendments to the Draft Plan

To ensure these issues are meaningfully integrated into the council's LTP, MET requests the following additions and text amendments:

Amendments to the Environmental Objective Phrasing (Pages 15–16)

- **Amend the primary environmental objective conditional clause:**
  - *Current Text:* "...while ensuring these environments remain safe, accessible, and actively maintained for public recreation and water-based activities, where appropriate."
  - *Proposed Text:* **"...while ensuring that any public recreation or water-based activities allowed within these spaces are strictly managed to be low-impact, sustainable, and secondary to the primary objective of ecological protection and habitat restoration."**
  - *Alternative (Preferred) Option:* **Delete the clause entirely.** The *Natural Environment* section should focus exclusively on environmental outcomes. Public recreation is already heavily championed and catered to in the "Parks and Recreation" section of the plan.

Amendments to the "Natural Environment" Investment Area (Pages 16–17)

- **Amend the Key Initiative on Page 17:**
  - *Current Text:* "Keep communities informed about climate-resilience projects like

changes to beaches in Pakiri, and Muriwai..."
    - *Proposed Text:* **"Partner with and resource community-led groups to execute nature-based resilience projects, including intensive native dune planting and weed management at Muriwai** and Pākiri beaches to combat coastal erosion and protect endemic biodiversity."
- **Add a new Key Initiative under ecosystem protection:** "Fund, implement, and advocate for targeted vehicle-mitigation strategies, including protective fencing, updated signage, and community education, to exclude vehicles and motorbikes from sensitive back-dune ecosystems."

Additions to the "Advocacy" Section (Page 17/18 & Page 28)

The Rodney Local Board must use its advocacy platform to push the Governing Body and relevant authorities for systemic change:

- **Add advocacy target (Regional Parks/Council):** "Advocate for Auckland Council Regional Parks to move forward with expediency the implementation of paid beach permits and ANPR system and/or gate to monitor access as has been approved and consulted on 6 years ago and funding allocated 3 years ago."
- **Add advocacy target (Governing Body / Auckland Transport):** "Advocate for a comprehensive review of the Beach Driving Bylaw to develop a long term plan for recreational vehicle access on Muriwai Beach, tighten the criteria, monitoring, and policing of vehicle permits, and the potential for vehicle-free ecological zones such as the beach adjacent to the 5 Mile Strip Reserve (a rare and endangered ecosystem and korowai gecko stronghold)."
- **Add advocacy target (Governing Body / NZ Police):** "Advocate for sustained, year-round funding for compliance monitoring and police enforcement on Muriwai Beach to curb illegal off-road driving in the dunes and manage anti-social behavior."

4. Conclusion

The Muriwai Environmental Trust stands ready to continue to work alongside the Rodney Local Board, mana whenua, and Auckland Council to deliver on the environmental goals outlined in this plan. Muriwai Beach and 5 Mile Strip Reserve is a regional treasure, but its ecosystems are at a breaking point. By formalising vehicle controls and supporting dune restoration in this Local Board Plan, we can ensure that the "sacred sands" of Te Oneone Rangatira - The Chiefly Beach - remain protected for the future.
We wish to speak to our submission at the upcoming local board public hearings.

Regards

The Trustees
Muriwai Environmental Trust
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Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#433

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: National Public Health Service – Northern Region

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

See attached file

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   See attached file

23 July 2026

Auckland Council

akhaveyoursay@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Local Board Plans 2026

Thank you for the opportunity for the National Public Health Service – Northern Region, Health New Zealand I Te Whatu Ora, to provide technical advice on Auckland Council's Local Board Plans 2026.



1. Introduction and overview

This technical advice is provided on behalf of the National Public Health Service - Northern Region (**NPHS-NR**), Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. NPHS-NR has statutory responsibilities to improve, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of people and communities under the Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Act 2022,[1] and local authorities have duties to improve, promote and protect public health under the Health Act 1956. The Local Board Plans 2026 (**the Plans**) will influence the conditions in which people live, learn, work, travel and connect across Tāmaki Makaurau. For that reason, NPHS-NR welcomes the opportunity to provide advice that supports healthy, safe, resilient and equitable local communities.

Our overarching and plan-specific feedback relates to four of the five focus areas in the Plans and reflects NPHS-NR's priorities for community health:

- Safe, accessible and active transport.
- Reducing alcohol, tobacco and vaping harm.
- Food security and nutrition.
- Improving air quality and heat resilience.
- Equitable and inclusive communities.

Across all Focus Areas in the Plans, NPHS-NR recommends that Local Boards uphold initiatives and objectives that contribute to equitable health outcomes and focus on those with the greatest need. This includes prioritising actions that benefit Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled people, children and young people, older people, migrant communities and communities experiencing higher deprivation.

[1] s3a Health NZ is mandated to 'protect, promote and improve the health of all New Zealanders'
s13(c) Health NZ is to 'promote health and prevent… ill health, including by collaborating with other agencies and organisations'
s14(1)(k) Health NZ is to 'collaborate with other agencies and organisations… to address the wider determinants of health'

It also includes working in ways that uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi, support meaningful engagement with mana whenua and mataawaka, and enable communities to shape local solutions. Areas where this is particularly relevant in a health context have been highlighted in the body of our advice.

Where NPHS-NR has not made a specific comment on a focus area, objective or priority within a Local Board Plan, this should be read as general support for the direction of that content. **Appendix 1** summarises the specific amendments NPHS-NR recommends for individual Local Board Plans. Recommendations about harmful commodities in Part Two: General Comments should also be taken as suggested amendments to all Plans.

2. General comments

NPHS-NR values the role Local Boards play in supporting community wellbeing and local action on the wider determinants of health.

In the Northern Region (Auckland and Northland), around 15% of adults reported hazardous drinking in 2024/25, a slight increase from 13% in the previous year.[2] An estimated 7% of adults in the region smoke tobacco daily, trending upwards slightly over the last three years.[3] Daily vaping is more common, with 10% of adults in the region reporting daily vape use - almost double the rate observed in 2020/2021 (6%).[4]

Physical activity and food security indicators also highlight areas where local action can support better health outcomes. Only 40% of adult Aucklanders are sufficiently physically active, and only 38% of children use active transport to and from school, an important proxy for physical activity.[5] For fruit and vegetable intake, only 4% and 6% of Auckland adults meet the guidelines, respectively, while 15% of children are missing breakfast more than 3 times during the week.[6]

NPHS-NR encourages the inclusion of clear objectives and initiatives in Local Board Plans to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products; improve active and public transport options; and increase access to nourishing food environments.

[2] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[3] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[4] 2024/25 NZ Health Survey. https://minhealthnz.shinyapps.io/nz-health-survey-2024-25-annual-data-explorer/_w_9a4a831f8ccc4040a80cc15c9d98d87f/#!/explore-topics
[5] NZ Healthy Survey Data. https://www.health.govt.nz/publications/regional-data-release-new-zealand-health-survey
[6] See 6

The following suggested objectives and initiatives are intended to be practical options that sit within Local Board influence, partnership and advocacy roles. Suggested objectives and initiatives include:

Support community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. For example:

- Providing clear mechanisms for communities to raise concerns about alcohol harm, and ensuring those concerns can inform alcohol licensing processes and any future review of Auckland Council's Local Alcohol Policy.
- Supporting community members to navigate the process of applying for an alcohol ban area.
- Seeking feedback on community concerns about public areas that should be smokefree or vapefree.
- Collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared goals to reduce harm.
- Engaging with public health organisations, including NPHS-NR, to share information, strengthen local evidence and support community-led harm reduction initiatives.

Support community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. For example:

- Objecting to alcohol licence applications of concern and supporting community members or groups if they wish to object through this process. This process can also involve recommending stronger conditions on licences that can mitigate alcohol harm.
- Reflecting community preferences in any future review of Auckland Council's Local Alcohol Policy (LAP).

Promote safe, inclusive and healthy public spaces. For example:

- Prioritising provision of public events that are free from alcohol, tobacco and vapes.
- Ensuring signage is clear and visible in public smoke-free and vape-free designated areas.
- Reporting non-compliance of tobacco, vape or alcohol retailers through relevant channels.
- Raising community awareness of available mechanisms to make complaints about non-compliance. In the case of tobacco and vape retailers, this includes our smoking and vaping complaints toolkit.
- Support community provision of healthy food and drink, including urban agriculture, community gardens and well-located public drinking fountains.
- Support and invest in a comprehensive approach to play opportunities, including formal play infrastructure and initiatives that integrate play into public spaces and community settings, enabling participation by people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds.
- Improving road safety through evidence-informed measures such as lower speeds in high-pedestrian areas and on local roads, raised crossings, safer school travel environments, and other measures that support active transport and accessible local streets.
    - NPHS-NR strongly endorses the holistic framing used in Papakura's Plan under Focus Areas Three (Built Environment) and Five (Transport). This framing takes a determinants-of-health-based approach, and as a result NPHS-NR supports the use of this language across all other Plans.

3. Local Board Plans: Individual Technical Advice

Alongside this overarching advice, NPHS-NR provides targeted feedback for seven Local Boards: Henderson-Massey, Waitematā, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa, Papakura and Whau. These Local Boards were prioritised based on the higher numbers of alcohol, tobacco, and vape retailers in their areas, as well as the proportion of priority populations within Local Board Areas, including Māori and Pacific communities.

3.1 Henderson-Massey

NPHS-NR supports the plan from the Henderson-Massey Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports objectives associated with community aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vapes. Smoking data in the Henderson-Massey Local Board area reflects the efforts being made to decrease smoking-related harm, with 8% of adults smoking regularly in 2023, down from 15% in the Census five years prior.[7] We particularly endorse the initiative to support community safety approaches, specifically including alcohol harm reduction, and encourage the strengthening of this by collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared goals to reduce harm.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

[7] Tobacco Control Data Repository. https://www.tcdata.org.nz/new-zealand-census/cigarette-smoking-behaviour-prevalence-maps-2013-2018-2023/?name=Territorial+Authority+and+Auckland+local+board&x=-369170&y=1749118&zoom=10.

Objectives one, two and three support accessibility to active and public transport, which can contribute to improved physical activity, mental wellbeing, social connection and access to local services.[8]

NPHS-NR supports, in part, objective three of Focus Area Five: Transport. We recommend that road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments be explicitly referenced, as these measures can reduce injury risk and improve safety for people walking, cycling, using mobility aids or accessing schools and community facilities.

3.2 Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports objective three of Focus Area Two: Natural Environment. NPHS-NR also supports initiative five, objective three from Focus Area One: Community as this contributes to local food security and equitable access to nutritious foods. These measures can directly support improved health outcomes for local communities.

NPHS-NR supports in part:

- Focus Area One: Community

In the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu Local Board area, 14% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 20% in the Census five years prior.[9] We acknowledge the opportunity noted around having a culturally diverse range of active and established community groups that provide a strong platform for community-led transformation. NPHS-NR encourages the Local Board to support community participation in decisions about how alcohol, tobacco and vaping products are

[8] Sergio A. Useche, Francisco J. Llamazares, Cristina Marin (2024) Good for the planet… and for you too? Comparing five travel and health-related outcomes among active, motorized, and public transport commuters. Journal of Transport & Health, Volume 38, 101893.
[9] See 7.

sold, supplied and experienced in local neighbourhoods, including through local advocacy, community engagement and collaboration with public health partners.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports in part objective three and recommends that it explicitly include urban ngahere (forests) planting along road corridors and in high-heat areas. This would support efforts to improve air quality, reduce urban heat and strengthen wider health and wellbeing co-benefits.[10]

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports in part objectives one, two, and three. Road calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed limits are effective ways to improve safety and lower the risk of injury in local streets. As a result, NPHS-NR recommends that these measures be included as part of these objectives.

3.3 Manurewa

NPHS-NR supports the plan from the Manurewa Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports the initiative focused on upstream measures to reduce harm related to smoking, vaping, alcohol and other community harms. In the Manurewa Local Board area, 12% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 19% in the Census five years prior.[11] NPHS-NR strongly endorses the objectives and key initiatives to work with community partners to reduce harm and identify

[10] Iungman T, Caballe SV, Segura-Barrero R, Cirach M, et al,. Co-benefits of nature-based solutions: A health impact assessment of the Barcelon Green Corridor (*Eixos Verds)* plan. (2025). Environment International. 196: 109313
[11] See 7.

opportunities to increase community safety. NPHS-NR values the Manurewa Local Board's role in supporting community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. NPHS-NR also supports the objective to ensure community facilities are welcoming, accessible and designed so that everyone can use them.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objective three, initiative one, as this measure mitigates the negative health impact of poor air quality and helps to improve heat resilience in the local area. NPHS-NR also supports objective four, as this objective contributes to positive health impacts associated with food security and access to nutritious foods.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one to three as they contribute to increased opportunities for active travel, improved access to public transport, reduced transport barriers and broader health benefits associated with physical activity, social connection and access to essential services.

NPHS-NR supports in part initiative two, objective one of Focus Area Three: Built Environment. We recommend that people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing public transport are explicitly reflected as part of encouraging people to stop, spend time and participate in community spaces.

3.4 Ōtara-Papatoetoe

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objectives two and four (initiative one) in particular, as these priorities contribute to food security, education, and equitable access to nutritious foods locally. NPHS-NR also supports initiative two in objective four as it supports the ongoing efforts to mitigate negative health outcomes associated with poor air quality, as well as improving local heat resilience.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one, two, three and five.

NPHS-NR supports in part initiative one, objective two of Focus Area Five. We recommend that road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments are explicitly included to improve safety for people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing schools, services and public spaces.

NPHS-NR opposes in part the current framing of objective four of Focus Area Five because it may privilege general private vehicle access rather than the specific accessibility needs of people who have limited or no practical transport alternatives, particularly disabled people and their whānau. NPHS-NR recommends reframing the objective to focus on transport accessibility for disabled people, older people, whānau with mobility or access needs, and others who may need to use private motor vehicles. Suggested wording: "Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices."

We commend the initiative in Focus Area One: Community, and support the Ōtara-Papatoetoe Local Board to continue engaging with alcohol licensing and local alcohol policy (LAP) processes and encourage supporting community participation in how alcohol is sold and supplied in the local area. NPHS-NR opposes, in part, the initiative, as there is not currently a process through which the Local Board can oppose new vape shops. However, we encourage the use and promotion of the smoking and vaping complaints toolkit to report retailers that are non-compliant with legislation.

3.5 Papakura

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Papakura Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR strongly endorses the initiative to support community safety approaches, including alcohol harm reduction, and encourages the Local Board to strengthen this by collaborating with local community organisations and partners with shared harm reduction goals. In the Papakura Local Board area, 9% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 18% in the Census five years prior.[12] NPHS-NR also encourages initiatives that support community aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products.

NPHS-NR also supports initiative two, objective two within Focus Area One, as it contributes to food security and local access to nutritious food.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports objective three within Focus Area Two. This objective will help improve local environmental conditions by mitigating the impacts of poor air

[12] See 7.

quality, supporting urban cooling and strengthening community resilience to increasing temperatures associated with climate change.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment and Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports the Built Environment objectives in the Papakura Local Board Plan. We particularly note the Plan's positive approach to transport, including pedestrian safety and shaded areas. These measures can support active transport, improve local amenity and contribute to better air quality and heat resilience. NPHS-NR recommends that similar wording be considered for the transport and built environment sections of other Local Board Plans where appropriate.

3.6 Waitematā

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Waitematā Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR supports initiative eight, objective two as it contributes to priorities related to food security and access to nutritious food. NPHS-NR also supports priorities related to minimising alcohol and tobacco related harm, including vaping. In the Waitematā Local Board area, 4% of adults smoked regularly in 2023, down from 9% in the Census five years prior.[13] We encourage the Waitematā Local Board to continue supporting initiatives that are focused on further decreasing local smoking prevalence.

- Focus Area Two: Natural Environment

NPHS-NR supports initiatives two and three within objective one, as these initiatives mitigate the negative health outcomes associated with poor air quality

[13] See 7.

and improves local heat resilience. NPHS-NR also supports initiative five, objective three, as it contributes to food security and local access to nutritious foods. NPHS-NR particularly supports initiative three of objective three, as it helps build community connection around active transport and can strengthen the population health benefits associated with walking, cycling and other active modes.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

NPHS-NR supports objectives one (all initiatives) and two (initiatives three, four and six) as they support the improvement of active transport and mitigate the negative health impact of poor air quality, respectively.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one to five. These objectives support safer and more accessible transport options, encourage physical activity through active transport, improve access to employment, education and services, and contribute to reduced exposure to transport-related air pollution, which mitigates the negative health impacts associated with poor air quality.

There are no specific suggested amendments for Waitematā Local Board, other than the general comments in Part Two of this submission.

3.7 Whau

NPHS-NR supports the Plan from the Whau Local Board. In particular, NPHS-NR supports:

- Focus Area One: Community

NPHS-NR strongly supports the objective to collaborate with local community organisations, businesses and partners such as New Zealand Police to build safe local spaces. This objective could be strengthened by adding an initiative to

engage with public health organisations, including NPHS-NR, to share information, strengthen local evidence and support harm reduction initiatives. NPHS-NR also supports initiative three, objective one, as it contributes to healthy food environments and equitable access to nutritious food. NPHS-NR further supports initiative three, objective six, as it contributes to efforts to reduce the health impacts of poor air quality and urban heat.

- Focus Area Three: Built Environment

NPHS-NR also supports initiative two, objective one of Focus Area Three: Built Environment, as it contributes to reducing exposure to poor air quality and urban heat.

- Focus Area Five: Transport

NPHS-NR supports objectives one and three within the Whau Plan.

NPHS-NR supports in part objective two of Focus Area Five. We recommend including effective strategies such as lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures, particularly around schools and community facilities. These measures would support safer, more liveable streets and contribute to health and wellbeing objectives in Focus Area One: Community.

4. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide technical advice on Auckland Council's Local Board Plans 2026. NPHS-NR values its ongoing relationship with Auckland Council and Local Boards, and welcomes continued engagement on actions that support healthy, safe, resilient and equitable communities across Tāmaki Makaurau

Appendix 1: Overview of Suggested Amendments to Local Board Plans

Table 1: Henderson-Massey

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective three should explicitly include road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments to improve local street safety, particularly for children, pedestrians, cyclists and people using mobility aids

Table 2: Māngere-Ōtāhuhu

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Objective two should include ways that the Local Board can support community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally. Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products.
Two	Support in part	Objective three should include urban ngahere (forests) planting along road corridors and high-heat areas to support improved air quality, heat resilience and wider health co-benefits.
Five	Support in part	Objectives one to three should include road-calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed environments to improve road safety locally.

Table 3: Manurewa

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objective one should explicitly include people walking, cycling, using mobility aids and accessing public transport as part of encouraging people to stop, spend time and participate in community spaces.

Table 4: Ōtara-Papatoetoe

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Oppose in part	NPHS-NR opposes in part the initiative that seeks to oppose new vape shops, despite our support for harmful commodity reduction in communities. There is not currently a process through which the Local Board can oppose new vape shops. Instead, we encourage the use and promotion of the smoking and vaping complaints toolkit to report retailers that are non-compliant with legislation, and to include in the plan initiatives associated with community participation and engaging in future regulatory opportunities.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include road calming measures, raised crossings and lower speed limits to effectively improve road safety locally.
	Oppose in part	Objective four should be reframed to focus on transport accessibility for disabled people, older people, whānau with mobility or access needs, and others who may need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices.

		Suggested wording: "Provide safe and accessible transport options for people who need to use private motor vehicles, while continuing to support active, public and low-emissions transport choices."

Table 5: Papakura

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Three	Support in part	Objectives one and three should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.

Table 6: Whau

Focus Area	Stance	Detail
One	Support in part	Include support in the plan for community-led aspirations to reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and vaping products. Include support in the plan for community participation in decisions about how alcohol is sold and supplied locally.
Five	Support in part	Objective two should include lower speed environments, raised crossings and other road safety measures to improve local street safety, particularly around schools and community facilities.

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

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Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Nga Maunga Whakahii o kaipara development trust

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**2**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	2
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	1
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	1
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

see attachment

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Other, please specify:economic development

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   see below

KAIPARA

23 July 2026

Rodney Local Board

Local Board Plans

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Tēnā koe Rodney Local Board

Submission of Ngā Maunga Whakahī o Kaipara - Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

1. Introduction

Ngā Maunga Whakahī o Kaipara (NMWK) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026. As tangata whenua across much of the Rodney rohe, our iwi carries enduring responsibilities of kaitiakitanga, cultural leadership, and the protection of our taiao,

KAIPARA

whakapapa, and communities.

We acknowledge the Local Board's commitment to Māori outcomes, climate resilience, equitable access, and community wellbeing. This submission outlines the iwi's key priorities and the areas where strengthened partnership, investment, and recognition are required.

2. Key Priorities for Ngā Maunga Whakahī o Kaipara

Priority 1: Strengthen Mana ki te Mana Partnership

- The plan recognises the importance of Mana ki te Mana relationships with mana whenua. NMWK supports this direction and seeks:
- A formalised, resourced partnership framework between the Local Board and Ngā Maunga Whakahī o Kaipara.
- Early involvement in planning, design, and decision-making processes - not consultation after decisions are largely formed.
- Dedicated funding for Māori-led initiatives, cultural design integration, and co-governance participation.

Our expectation: A standing annual hui between the Board and NMWK Chairs, with shared work planning and transparent reporting.

Priority 2: Protect and Restore Te Taiao (Environment)

The plan identifies significant climate hazards, biodiversity loss, and pressures on waterways and coastal ecosystems.

NMWK priorities include:

- Kaipara Moana health: Restoration of tributaries, wetlands, dune systems, and riparian margins feeding into Kaipara Harbour.
- Kaitiakitanga-led restoration: Resourcing iwi-led programmes for taonga species, forested maunga, coastal ecosystems, and freshwater catchments.
- Climate resilience: Nature-based solutions, soil health programmes, and Shoreline Adaptation Plans that embed mātauranga Māori.
- Native plant nursery and community gardens: Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara, in partnership with Te Poari o Kaipātiki, has commenced feasibility planning for a native plant nursery and community gardens at Kaipātiki.

Our expectation: Local Board support and funding as the nursery progresses and is stood up in the 2027/28 financial year.

Priority 3: Cultural Identity in Public Spaces

The plan commits to embedding Māori identity, language, and values into local spaces.

NMWK seeks:

- Integration of Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara narratives, names, and design elements in parks, streetscapes, signage, wayfinding, and public facilities.
- Māori-led placemaking, cultural storytelling, hīkoi, taonga tākaro, and community events.
- Protection of wāhi tapu and cultural landscapes through planning and consenting processes.
- Māori public art and tribal boundary markers: Installation of iwi-designed artworks and markers identifying significant sites and Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara rohe boundaries.

Our expectation: A cultural design protocol jointly developed with NMWK and applied to all Rodney capital works.

Priority 4: Infrastructure and Growth that Respects Local Character

The plan acknowledges pressures from rapid development and infrastructure lag.

NMWK priorities include:

- Supporting increased growth in Helensville and Waimauku to enable improved local employment and business opportunities.
- Avoiding development in flood-prone areas and supporting high-quality, master-planned, integrated commercial and residential development—particularly in South Kaipara.
- Ensuring iwi involvement in spatial planning, structure plans, and major consenting decisions.
- Our expectation: Helensville and Waimauku are identified as a future growth area.

Priority 5: Transport Safety and Connectivity

The plan highlights rural road safety, limited public transport, and gaps in walking/cycling

networks.

NMWK priorities include:

- Safety upgrades on rural roads and state highways, especially high-risk corridors.
- Walking and cycling connections that link communities, schools, marae, and town centres.
- Improved public transport access for rural communities, including park-and-ride options.
- **Pedestrian safety upgrades on Mill Road and Commercial Road (Helensville):** Raised crossings, lighting, and traffic-calming measures.
- **Improved road and main street environments for Helensville**, Parakai, and Kaukapakapa.
- **Chip sealing and surface improvements for Commercial Road**, Helensville.
- **Intersection safety upgrade at Restall Road, Woodhill** to support increased tourism numbers and reduce crash risk.

Our expectation: Transport planning that incorporates iwi priorities for safety, access, and environmental protection.

Priority 6: Economic Development and Local Employment

The plan identifies uneven access to jobs and training.

NMWK priorities include:

- Support for iwi-led small business procurement, including grounds maintenance, construction, IT, design, accounting, and environmental services.
- Local skills pathways for rangatahi, including trades, digital skills, and conservation work.
- Sustainable tourism that reflects Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara identity and benefits local communities.
- Community hot-desk hub at Parakai: Support to expand Te Whare Oranga at 5 Rere Place to include a small business hot-desking service.

Our expectation: A Rodney-wide Māori procurement policy and partnership with NMWK on business development.

3. Summary of Key Requests

KAIPARA

Ngā Maunga Whakahī o Kaipara requests that the Rodney Local Board:

- Establish a formal Mana ki te Mana partnership framework with NMWK.
- Resource iwi-led environmental restoration and climate resilience programmes.
- Embed Ngāti Whātua ki Kaipara cultural identity in all public spaces and capital works.
- Encourage growth areas that demonstrate high-quality, well-integrated, master-planned developments that self-manage stormwater, wastewater, and traffic impacts.
- Prioritise rural road safety, active transport networks, and improved public transport access.
- Adopt a Māori procurement policy and support iwi-led economic development.
- Support place-based improvements in Helensville, Parakai, Kaukapakapa, and Woodhill.

4. Closing Statement

Ngā Maunga Whakahī o Kaipara remains committed to working alongside the Rodney Local Board to ensure that the future of Rodney reflects the mauri, identity, and aspirations of tangata whenua. We look forward to continued partnership and shared action.



Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#427

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: North Auckland Museums

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	3
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

I have attached a document outlining areas for Rodney Local Board to focus on including Heritage and Museums

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?

(Select up to 3 options)

More local activities and events,Improved parks and public spaces,Other, please specify:More focus is needed on heritage and museums and communities in the area

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   Yes please see attached/uploaded document.

Submission - Rodney Local Board Annual Plan 2026/2027

To: Rodney Local Board

Subject: Strengthening Investment in Rodney's Heritage, Museums and Cultural Identity

Tēnā koutou Rodney Local Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Rodney Local Board Annual Plan 2026/2027.

I support the Board's commitment to maintaining heritage sites, delivering arts and cultural events, investing in community facilities, libraries, placemaking initiatives and celebrating the diversity and identity of Rodney's communities. These priorities recognise the importance of creating vibrant, connected communities and preserving the unique character of our district.

However, I believe there is a significant opportunity to strengthen the Plan by providing greater recognition and support for Rodney's museums, archaeological heritage, historical societies and cultural organisations.

Rodney possesses one of Auckland's richest and most diverse cultural landscapes. It is home to significant Māori archaeological sites, early European settlements, maritime heritage, the kauri logging industry, agricultural history and historic townships. Preserving and sharing this heritage strengthens community identity, supports education, encourages tourism and contributes to local economic development.

Rodney is also unique within Auckland in having an established collaborative network of museums and heritage organisations through **North Auckland Museums** (formerly the Rodney Museums Association). This includes Warkworth Museum, Helensville Museum Te Awaroa, Te Hana Te Ao Marama, Albertland Museum, Couldrey House, Silverdale Pioneer Village and Puhoi Heritage Museum. Collectively, these organisations preserve nationally and regionally significant collections, deliver exhibitions and education programmes, undertake research, support volunteers and attract thousands of local, national and international visitors each year.

Despite this strong heritage network, the proposed Annual Plan contains no dedicated heritage programme, museum strategy or funding specifically supporting museums, historical societies or archaeological initiatives. This represents a significant gap in the Board's commitment to maintaining heritage sites and celebrating Rodney's unique identity.

I respectfully recommend that the Rodney Local Board expand its commitment to culture and heritage through the following initiatives.

1. Establish a Rodney Heritage and Culture Fund

Create a dedicated annual contestable fund to support:

- museums and historical societies
- archaeology groups
- iwi and hapū heritage initiatives
- community archives and oral history projects
- collection conservation and digitisation
- heritage interpretation and publications

- restoration of heritage places
- school and community heritage education.

2. Recognise North Auckland Museums as a Strategic Heritage Partner

Develop a formal partnership with North Auckland Museums to coordinate collaborative heritage initiatives across the district, including museum exhibitions, education programmes, research projects, heritage tourism, collection digitisation and volunteer development.

3. Support Heritage Events and Community Participation

Provide annual funding for organisations participating in:

- Auckland Heritage Festival
- New Zealand Archaeology Week
- National Conservation Week
- Matariki Events & Celebrations

Supporting these nationally recognised programmes would encourage collaboration between museums, mana whenua, libraries, schools, environmental organisations and community groups through exhibitions, guided heritage walks, archaeological tours, public lectures, cultural performances, conservation projects and educational activities.

4. Heritage Project Grants

Establish grants for local heritage projects, including:

- restoration of historic buildings
- archaeological investigations
- heritage interpretation panels and trails
- cemetery conservation
- historic landscape projects
- local history publications
- community exhibitions
- heritage research relating to the Rodney Local Board area
- digital heritage resources.

Why this matters

The Rodney Local Board already recognises the importance of maintaining heritage sites and celebrating community identity. Expanding support to include museums, archaeology and heritage organisations would build on these existing priorities while ensuring Rodney's stories, collections and cultural landscapes are preserved and shared with future generations.

North Auckland Museums already provides the expertise, collections, volunteers and partnerships needed to deliver meaningful heritage outcomes. By recognising this established network as a strategic partner and investing in dedicated heritage initiatives, the Board can strengthen community wellbeing, education, tourism and local economic development while safeguarding Rodney's unique cultural heritage for future generations.

Thank you for considering this submission and please get in touch if you wish to discuss this submission further.

Ngā mihi nui,

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#168

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: North West Country Incorporated

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
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Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	4
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	4
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	4

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Support for local businesses,Better walking/cycling connections,Other, please specify:Better water infrastructure

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   We would like to see the Rodney Local Board advocate for improved water infrastructure to Watercare not just the Governing Body. We support the economic development initiatives.

Rodney Local Board Plan Submission 2026/2027

From: North West Country Incorporated (North West Country Business Association)
To: Rodney Local Board

1. Introduction

North West Country Incorporated (NWCBA) represents businesses across the seven townships of the North West. Our purpose is to support local businesses so they can succeed, create jobs, and help our communities thrive. Our strategic plan places strong focus on business support, partnerships, economic development, and town centre improvements.

We welcome the opportunity to provide feedback on the Rodney Local Board Plan for 2026/2027.

2. Strategic Direction and Alignment With Council Priorities

Our 3-Year Strategic Plan 2026–2028 identifies several priority areas that align directly with Auckland Council's responsibilities:

- Growing business capability and performance.
- Partnering with agencies including Auckland Council, Auckland Transport and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited.
- Supporting local events and visitor attraction.
- Advocating for infrastructure upgrades across the district.

The Board Plan's focus on transport, water infrastructure, economic development and local board funding provides natural alignment for our goals.

However, more investment and coordinated delivery is required to ensure our area is not left behind.

3. Economic Development in the North West

3.1 Expanding the Focus Beyond Tourism

While tourism is important to our region, business success must go wider than visitor numbers. Many local enterprises are non-tourism businesses who need stronger economic development support—especially in capability building, access to tools, and growth planning.

We are working with The Better SMB through the PerformIQ business performance tool, which helps businesses:

- Measure key metrics,
- Identify strengths and weaknesses, and
- Build a roadmap for higher performance.

This partnership directly supports our Board Plan's goal of providing business excellence programmes and training.

We encourage the Rodney Local Board and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to recognise and support this work as part of regional economic development. We are currently sharing our collaboration with The Better SMB to the wider Business Improvement District network.

We seek that Rodney Local Board and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited also consider investigating and promoting this tool for all businesses in the region to support their expanded business knowledge and performance.

4. Destination Management Plan (Self-Funded)

NWCBA is currently developing a Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the wider region. We are fully funding this ourselves.

Our Strategic Plan sets a clear direction to formalise a Destination Tourism Organisation (DTO) and strengthen our partnership with Tātaki Auckland Unlimited. We will pursue this through the development of the DMP and creation of a tourism brand for the area. We are doing this collaboratively with One Mahurangi in the north west and Waitakere Ranges Local Board.

Our larger aim is to create a national riding/ walking asset that links the Waitakere Ranges with the Kaipara Harbour and the Mahurangi Coast. While this will unlock the north west for tourists and thereby support our operators, this ultimately increases Auckland bed nights and encourages more people to stay locally. Our DMP work will directly implement the Mayor's vision of Auckland being one of the world's most livable city and having a thriving economy that supports growth and opportunities for all.

To implement our DMP, we need:

- Support from Auckland Council through your planning and investment,
- Alignment from Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to provide ongoing support,
- Access to regional marketing platforms, and

- Coordination with transport and infrastructure planning.

We will continue to be a paid DPP partner with Tataki Auckland Unlimited however without partnership support, the DMP cannot reach its full potential. We thank the Rodney Local Board for their commitment to supporting this initiative through the Board Plan 2026.

5. Infrastructure Requirements

Economic growth is limited without strong infrastructure. We ask Rodney Local Board to prioritise the following needs.

5.1 Watercare Reticulation Gaps

Some commercial areas in our district still lack reticulated water and wastewater services, the hardest hit being Waimauku. This is a barrier to business growth, new commercial development, health and safety, and emergency readiness.

A clear example of the Waimauku Shopping Village, where they have been required to provide a 150,000L emergency water tank for community supply at their own cost. This is not sustainable for local business owners and indicates significant under-investment at a regional level when planning the development of the area.

We request Rodney Local Board advocate directly to Watercare to:

- Create a clear plan and timeline for reticulation in all North West commercial zones,
- Prioritise our town centres in the next capital programme, and
- Engage directly with NWCBA in planning and sequencing.

5.2 Roading Upgrades & Coordinated Infrastructure Delivery

Recent roading upgrades across the North West have created opportunities to bring critical services (especially water) at the same time. Too often these opportunities have been missed.

We ask that Rodney Local Board advocate to Auckland Transport and Watercare jointly (in collaboration with New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA)):

- Use future roading and rail upgrades as triggers for water and wastewater upgrades,
- Budget for North West works in alignment, and
- Coordinate early with our business association and the Rodney Local Board.

This approach reduces disruption, saves money, and delivers long-term benefits. This also allows the funds to be allocated through long term plans with plenty of space for collaborative planning. State Highway 16 and the rail network are due to upgrades in the next twenty years and these are reasonable timeframes for our community to know when infrastructure will be made available to them.

6. Alignment With the BID Policy and Annual Accountability

NWCBA continues to meet BID Policy requirements, including transparent governance, reporting, and engagement. We maintain strong financial oversight, committee governance, and community representation, as also reflected in our Executive Committee Charter. We will continue to collaborate with Auckland Council and the Rodney Local Board on local needs.

7. Gaps and Missed Opportunities in the Local Board Plan

We believe the Local Board Plan could better support our strategic direction by including:

1. Advocacy to the governing body to ensure a clear capital works timeline for North West water and wastewater,
2. Funding or partnership pathways for destination management that will benefit the whole region, and
3. Support for business performance initiatives (such as PerformIQ).

8. Summary of Requests

We ask Rodney Local Board to:

1. Support our Destination Management Plan and partner with Tātaki Auckland Unlimited to implement it.
2. Increase economic development investment that goes beyond tourism to support business performance and resilience.
3. Advocate to Watercare to prioritise North West commercial reticulation, including addressing the Waimauku water supply situation.
4. Advocate on the coordination of Watercare and Auckland Transport projects (in collaboration with NZTA), ensuring water upgrades are completed during roading/rail works.

5. Continue and expand town centre and place-making projects in partnership with NWCBA.
6. Recognise the North West as a key future growth area requiring fair and timely infrastructure investment.

9. Closing Statement

North West Country Incorporated is committed to supporting local businesses, building strong communities, and working closely with the Rodney Local Board. Our region is growing, energetic, and full of potential—but we need Council and Council-Controlled Organisations to partner with us so we can deliver the outcomes our businesses and residents deserve. We appreciate all the support that you can provide in this regard.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#280

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Northern Action group Inc.

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**2**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	2
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	1
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	1
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	1

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

See our response

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

Other, please specify:See our repsonse

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Not well at all

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

See our response

The Northern Action Group Incorporated

NAG submission on Draft Rodney Local Board (RLB) Plan 2026-2027

17 July 2026

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The Northern Action Group Incorporated

1. Introduction

A Local Board Plan should explain how the Board intends to improve Rodney, not simply describe the activities it intends to undertake.

Section 4.3.3 of AC's Governance manual broadly summarises what Local Board Plans provide – i.e they:

- outline the local board's vision, strategic priorities, and desired outcomes
- include key projects and initiatives
- reflect the aspirations and priorities of local communities.

..but Local Board Plans must do more than that.

Section 16 (1)(b) of the Local Government (Auckland Council) Act 2009 (the Act) says"

Each local board is responsible and democratically accountable for—

(b) identifying and communicating the interests and preferences of the people in its local board area in relation to the content of the strategies, policies, plans, and bylaws of the Auckland Council;

Section 20 says:

(2) The purpose of a local board plan is—

(a) to reflect the priorities and preferences of the communities within the local board area in respect of the level and nature of local activities to be provided by the Auckland Council over the next 3 years; and

(b) to identify and describe the interests and preferences of the people within the local board area for the purposes of enabling the local board to communicate those interests and preferences for the purposes of section 16(1)(b); and

(c) to provide a basis for developing the local board agreement for each of the next 3 years; and

(d) to inform the development of the next LTP, particularly in relation to the identification of the non-regulatory activities of the Council for which decision-making responsibility should be allocated to the local board; and

(e) to provide a basis for accountability of the local board to the communities in the local board area; and

(f) to provide an opportunity for people to participate in decision-making processes on the nature and level of local activities to be provided by the Council within the local board area.

(3) A local board plan must include—

(a) a statement of the default levels of service for local activities; and

(b) an explanation of each variation from the default levels of services proposed for the local board area, if any; and

(c) an estimate of the additional cost or the saving associated with each variation, if any; and

(d) an indicative local board budget, incorporating the estimates referred to in paragraph (c), that either—

(i) does not exceed the estimated funding allocation referred to in subsection (4)(b)(iii); or

(ii) exceeds the estimated funding allocation referred to in subsection (4)(b)(iii), but identifies how the expenses in excess of that allocation are proposed to be met from 1 or more local revenue sources.

The Northern Action Group Incorporated

2. Nature of the Draft Local Board Plan

NAG supports the preparation of a Local Board Plan and welcomes the opportunity to comment. However, we do not consider the draft document functions as a plan in the ordinary sense of the word. Nor in our view does it fulfil the requirements of the Act.

The plan should explain the outcomes the Board seeks to achieve, the strategic choices it has made, why those choices are preferred by the people in the Local Board Area and have been given priority over other possible actions.

This draft generally does not do that. It identifies activities and advocacy positions, but provides little explanation of why these have been selected as Rodney's priorities or how they were determined. In particular it does not show how it reflects the priorities and preferences of the community. Instead it is primarily a statement of what the Board intends to do.

Furthermore, the draft Plan fails to provide up to date performance metric data on the service level targets approved in last year's Agreement. That makes it impossible to evaluate whether rolling over the previous year's Agreement (which seems to be assumed) is what the people of Rodney seek or not.

This consultation is therefore defective if the people of Rodney cannot properly evaluate or support rolling over the previous year's agreement because the draft plan fails to provide up-to-date performance metric data.

As a result, it is difficult for the community to assess whether the Board's proposed programme reflects the issues that matter most to Rodney and whether alternative priorities have been considered.

Contrast this with what a plan that transparently discharges s20(2)(a) would look like: a plan that says "X% of respondents prioritised Y," or "community feedback on flood resilience led to Z initiative," so a reader — and a court, if it ever mattered — could trace priorities and performance back to the community rather than take the Board's word for it.

3. Non-compliance with Statutory Requirements

The draft Plan does not comply with all the requirements of the legislation quoted above. In particular, The most significant deficiencies are:

- It does not explicitly identify and communicate the interests and preferences of Rodney residents as required by sections 20(2)(b) and 16(1)(b).
- It does not include the default levels of service within the plan itself, instead providing a statement of a level of service statement and referring readers to the Long-term Plan. [Section 20(3)(a)]
- It does not identify variations from those default levels of service. [Section 20(3)(b)]
- It does not estimate the cost or savings of each variation. [Section 20(3)(c)]
- Its indicative budget is not linked to those variations as contemplated by section 20(3)(d).

The Northern Action Group Incorporated

3.1. Section 20(2)(b)

Requires: identify and describe the interests and preferences of the people…for the purposes of section 16(1)(b)

> Section 16(1)(b) makes local boards responsible for identifying and communicating community interests to the Governing Body regarding strategies, policies, plans and bylaws.

The draft plan contains many advocacy statements, but nowhere does it systematically identify the interests of Rodney residents, the preferences of Rodney residents, or how those interests should influence Auckland Council strategies or policies.

Instead, it mostly states what the Board intends to advocate. Those are different things.

For example:

“Advocate for more investment…”. is not equivalent to

“Rodney residents identified increased investment in regional parks as one of their priorities.”

The Act requires the second.

The Board needs to publish the engagement data/summary of the level and nature of interests and preferences that supports the priorities and advocacy in the draft.

The current draft does not visibly meet s20(2)(a) or (b) without it.

3.2. 20(3)(a)

This section says the plan must include a statement of the default levels of service

The Levels of Service section on page 30 simply reproduces high-level service statements. It then says the actual default levels of service can be found in the Long-term Plan.

The Act does not say: “refer readers elsewhere”, or “provide a level of service statement”. It must state the default levels of service. “Level” implies quantification, as in Performance measures.

Merely cross-referencing another document or including wording from it does not satisfy the requirement of the Act.

3.3. 20(3)(b)

This section requires explanation of each variation from the default levels of service..

There is no identification of whether the default levels of service for the past year have been achieved. This is a defect in the draft which makes it impossible to evaluate whether to continue them, whether any variation is proposed for the next three years, and whether that reflects Rodney people’s wishes.

In fact there is no section identifying any proposed variation, or explanation at all.

The Northern Action Group Incorporated

3.4. 20(3)(c)

Requires an estimate of additional cost or saving associated with each variation.

No initiative includes any incremental cost or incremental saving relative to the default service level.

The Financial Overview contains aggregate expenditure only but that is not what the Act requires.

3.5. 20(3)(d)

Requires indicative local board budget incorporating those estimates

The Financial Overview provides an indicative operating and capital budget, but there is no linkage to service variations. It does not incorporate costs associated with variations because none are identified.

Accordingly there is an indicative budget, but not the budget contemplated by s20(3)(d).

4. Section 16(1)(b)

The Local Board's responsibility is: identifying and communicating the interests and preferences...

Yet, throughout the plan the Board says: "We will..." rather than "Our community told us..."

The legislation expects the Board to act as the democratic voice of Rodney.

The plan rarely distinguishes between community interests, Board policy, and Council operational intentions. Consequently the statutory communication role is only weakly demonstrated.

5. Title Misleading

The title and reference on each page says the Rodney Local Board Plan 2026. In fact it is the three year plan for 2026/29 that the legislation requires after each triennial election.

This is misleading as the public may think the plan is for one year only and not a plan that will be used as the basis for review of AC's Long Term Plan.

The Board should rename the plan to properly represent what it is.

6. Inconsistency

The Plan has comments and initiatives under Five main Groupings: Community; Natural Environment; Built Environment; Economic Development and Transport, with further sub-sections: Challenges; Opportunities; Our Plan and Advocacy.

Under Transport, the Our Plan Section is instead headed Our Priorities, presumably because of uncertainties from implementation of the Transport Governance legislation.

These main groupings do not align with the Four categories of service levels which are: Local Community Services; Local Planning and Development; Local Environmental Management and Local Governance.

No explanation is provided for why there are no service levels for Built Environment or Transport. The only Service level for Planning and Development in the Agreement is that BIDs meet their agreed obligations. Apart from that being a requirement, rather than a performance measure, the activities of the 2 BIDs and their membership are way short of the aspiration for the whole of Rodney expressed in the plan narrative.

In the Financial Overview, the Operating Expenditure is grouped by: Community Services (**Community**); Local Environmental Management (**Natural Environment**); Local Planning – BIDs and Local Governance. Capital expenditure is just for Community Services (**Community**).

No entries for Built Environment, Economic Development or Transport are shown (and whether funding is provided for them or not)

There is no explanation for these inconsistencies in categories. While the Financial Overview is presumably for LDI and ABS funding (it doesn't say), there is no reason why other finances under control of the Board (like the RLBTTR) are not shown. The spending on these should be shown in its Annual Plan, so that the public can get a complete picture of planning for the Board's areas of responsibility.

7. Recommendation

The Local Board must provide an interim performance update on last year's service levels before finalizing the current year's text.

Then the Local Board Plan should:

- Publish the engagement data/summary of the level and nature of interests and preferences that supports the priorities and advocacy in the draft.
- Explain the principal issues facing Rodney that the Board is seeking to address;
- Explain why the identified priorities have been selected over other possible priorities using demonstrated community views
- Explain how the Board expects those priorities to improve outcomes for Rodney in terms of the interests and preferences of the people of Rodney; and
- Say how success will be measured and reported, and how this varies from what was agreed last year.

Otherwise the Plan is defective, likely non-compliant and possibly subject to challenge.

Furthermore, the Board repeatedly says "our plan", but nowhere does it explain how it planned.

A genuine planning document would normally show something like -

Rodney faces these major issues → these were the options considered → these are the priorities the people of Rodney prefer → therefore these are the activities we will fund and the advocacy we will undertake.

Instead, the document effectively begins at the last step: "These are the things we intend to do."

That is why it reads more like a work programme than a plan. It is not that the activities are wrong; it is that the reasoning connecting Rodney's problems to those activities is largely absent.

Furthermore, If the Plan does not clearly identify community priorities, does not identify variations in levels of service and does not identify the costs of those variations, then it becomes difficult for the Local Board Agreement to satisfy Section 21 because there is little concrete information for it to "reflect".

NAG supports many of the proposed initiatives. However, we consider the Plan would be significantly strengthened by becoming a clearer statement of the Board's strategic direction and by better explaining why the proposed priorities have been selected and how they reflect the interests and preferences of the people of Rodney and how they will improve outcomes for them.

This is in addition to providing a Section which explicitly meets the requirements of Section 20(3).

8. Impact of the Long Term Plan

The plan notes "The next long-term plan is due to take effect from 1 July 2027. This could change funding…and will affect how we achieve the goals set out in this local board plan."

That raises considerable uncertainty about the relevance of the plan for the last two years. The Plan is supposed to cover 2026/29. Yet after only the first year, a completely new Long-term Plan may alter operating funding, capital funding, priorities and delivery.

That means almost two-thirds of the Plan is explicitly acknowledged to be contingent upon decisions not yet made. Consequently, almost every initiative is effectively contingent.

From a planning perspective It substantially weakens the document. A genuine development plan would normally say "If funding changes, these are our priorities.", or say what the relative priorities would be under different funding scenarios. Instead, the Rodney Plan largely says "These are the things we would like to do." without explaining which are essential, which would proceed first, which would be deferred if funding changed, and which would not proceed.

9. General Recommendations

NAG recommends that the final Local Board Plan place greater emphasis on planning rather than simply describing activities.

In particular the final Plan should:

9.1. Explain the Board's Strategic Choices

The Plan should explain why the identified priorities have been selected instead of other possible priorities and show how they reflect the interests and preferences of the people of Rodney.

For example, why has the Board chosen to emphasise certain initiatives while giving relatively little attention to:

- improving Auckland Council's planning system
- strategic land acquisition
- public asset provision ahead of growth

- infrastructure funding reform
- value for money across Council
- community-led planning?

9.2. Strengthen Integrated Planning

The Local Board should recognise planning itself as one of its major leadership roles.

Rodney needs integrated planning that links:

- population growth
- transport
- water services
- public facilities
- parks
- community infrastructure
- funding.

Community-led integrated planning reflecting the interests and preferences of the people of Rodney should become an explicit objective of the Local Board Plan.

9.3. Focus on Public Assets Ahead of Growth

The Plan should advocate more strongly for acquiring and funding public assets before development occurs.

Strategic land acquisition for roads, parks, sports fields and community facilities is considerably less expensive before urban development than afterwards and results in better long-term outcomes.

9.4. Better Link Growth and Funding

The Plan correctly identifies infrastructure pressures arising from growth but gives relatively little attention to how those facilities will be funded.

The Board should advocate not only for more funding but also for better funding systems that ensure growth contributes fairly to the infrastructure and public facilities it requires.

9.5. Introduce Community-Based Planning

The Local Board should establish a funded Community-Based Planning Programme that enables communities to participate directly in planning the future of their towns and settlements, rather than primarily commenting on Council proposals after they have been prepared.

9.6. Measure Outcomes Rather than Activities

Future Local Board Plans and Annual Agreements should report against measurable outcomes wherever practical rather than simply reporting activities undertaken.

The community should be able to assess whether expenditure has improved outcomes.

9.7. Strengthen Advocacy

Advocacy priorities should identify:

- the outcome sought
- who is responsible
- the principal actions the Board intends to take
- how progress will be reported.

9.8. Improve Accountability

The Annual Local Board Agreement should clearly demonstrate how funded activities contribute to the objectives of the Local Board Plan and report regularly against those objectives using measurable indicators rather than activity counts or broad status reporting

10. Specific Recommendations by Plan Section

10.1. Community

NAG supports the emphasis on community resilience, parks, recreation and local identity.

Performance metrics for Level of Service

With the emphasis the Board has placed in Community Engagement commencing from 2025/26 spending nearly $1m on this activity in 2026/2027 this would be a good time to introduce a relevant service level performance measure that actually relates to its purpose.

Rather than measuring what are outputs from the perspective of AC's delivery (number of events delivered) the Board should measure what are outputs from the perspective of Rodney people (i.e what is the level of service received {and thus the benefit} across people who receive it and those who don't). Running events no one attends is like running empty buses! Its an activity performed that incurs a cost but provides no benefit to the people of Rodney.

Nor in the same way is the number of partner organisations relevant to what people receive, since the quality of what partners do and who in the community they do it for determines the benefit.

A possible useful metric for the community engagement programme NAG would like to see would be the percentage of Rodney people attending one or more events (avoid double counting).

The target should be at higher than the level of local election voting turnout (~40%) or the programme is engaging people who already care, not those voters who feel disconnected and disenfranchised.

If the target demographic for engagement is different for age groups (e.g. young people), the percentage from each demographic attending one or more events would also be a suitable measure.

We recommend the Plan:

- establish a funded Community-Based Planning Programme as a continuing activity

- strengthen support for community organisations that assist local planning and long-term development
- include measurable community outcome indicators rather than activity measures
- explicitly recognise the importance of planning future community facilities before growth occurs
- report annually on community outcomes achieved rather than programmes delivered.

10.2. Natural Environment

NAG supports the emphasis on biodiversity, waterways, pest control and climate resilience.

The key to achieving that alongside private development and rural and lifestyle growth is a community based and supported Development Plan as a framework for the Local Board's annual plan, decision-making and spending activities. Otherwise this RLB Plan is simply reactive and provides a vision without any direction on how to achieve it.

The RLB Plan should:

- better integrate environmental restoration with future land use and growth planning
- place greater emphasis on catchment-scale planning involving local communities
- advocate stronger measures to reduce sediment entering waterways before development occurs
- recognise that environmental planning should be integrated with infrastructure planning rather than treated separately.

10.3. Built Environment

This is the section where NAG believes the greatest improvements can be made.

The Plan should:

- advocate strategic land acquisition before development as part of an integrated Development Plan for Rodney.
- advocate public asset provision ahead of population growth
- explicitly support integrated development planning linking infrastructure, public facilities and land use
- strengthen advocacy that infrastructure should precede development rather than follow it
- include stronger advocacy for planning reform that better coordinates private development with public investment.

10.4. Economic Development

NAG supports encouraging local employment and thriving town centres. But there is no indication in the plan of the kind of business that Rodney residents want to see attracted to Rodney, or how the area should be planned spatially to encourage that.

Additional emphasis should be given to:

- protecting sufficient employment land
- encouraging employment close to where people live
- identifying the types of business "clusters" that Rodney people would like to see flourish here along with housing growth
- recognising that infrastructure investment is itself an economic development strategy
- supporting planning that enables local businesses to grow alongside residential development
- recognising the contribution of community-led initiatives to local economic resilience.

10.5. Transport

NAG strongly supports the emphasis on safer rural roads and improved transport connections. But it should say, for example, whether people want better and safer roads rather than speed reductions to improve safety, and better safer connecting roads rather than uneconomic, ratepayer subsidised, public transport over connecting routes.

The Plan should also advocate:

- transport planning integrated with future growth planning
- strategic acquisition of future transport corridors
- transport investment that keeps pace with population growth
- improved reporting on transport investment and management in Rodney
- greater emphasis on maintaining existing rural road assets to design standards.

10.6. Governance and Advocacy

NAG considers this section should be strengthened considerably.

The Board should advocate for:

- improved planning across Auckland Council
- fairer rating and funding for Rodney
- better alignment between growth and public infrastructure
- greater value for money across Council expenditure
- stronger community participation in planning
- transparent reporting of advocacy outcomes
- measurable reporting against Plan objectives
- regular review of Board priorities in consultation with Rodney communities.

11. Conclusion

NAG supports many of the initiatives contained within the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan.

However, the final Plan would be significantly strengthened if it evolved from primarily describing intended activities into a clearer statement of the Board's leadership role, the outcomes it seeks for the people of Rodney, and how and why these reflect the interests, preferences and priorities of the people of Rodney.

The Northern Action Group Incorporated

The Local Board has an opportunity to become a stronger advocate for Rodney by leading and supporting integrated community-based planning rather than primarily supporting and continuing existing Council programmes.

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#436

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Ōmaha Shorebird Protection Trust

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Natural environment

Recognition of the significant species habitat of Ōmaha should explicitly include Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary as a nationally important breeding area for threatened NZ Dotterels and Whangateau Harbour as an internationally important feeding ground for Godwits.

Request additional advocacy points:

- Advocate for an Auckland-wide approach to responsible pet ownership focusing on micro-chipping, registering and de-sexing cats all cats by 2027.

- Advocate for an Auckland-wide approach to managing free-roaming domestic / owned cats in wildlife protection reserves.

- Advocate for improved monitoring and enforcement of existing Council by-laws / regulations relating to dog walking and set netting.

- Advocate for Council consent officers to give more weight to Board input to consent applications in the Local Board area.

Add points to board-funded initiatives

The objective of growing the visitor economy through “sustainable place-based tourism” requires that the growing number of visitors from within Rodney and further afield are supported to protect and sustain the natural environment that they come to enjoy. The Board needs to implement measures to protect threatened and vulnerable wildlife species in the reserves it is responsible for managing.

- Add “wildlife protection” to the examples of board-funded initiatives in the Local environmental management in the Local Activities column under the section “Levels of service” on p.30. The current list of initiatives is not sufficient to meet the management objectives of the wildlife protection areas for which the Local Board is the decision-maker.

- Add “implement existing management plans” to the activities and support listed under the Local governance column under the section on Levels of service on p.30. Commitment is sought from the Board to implementing the current reserve management plan for improved wildlife protection in the Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary.

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

OSPT's work supports the three cross-cutting themes - climate, equity and Māori outcomes.

COMMUNITY

Agrees that volunteering is a community strength and helps Council and Local Board deliver against their objectives.

Community group partnerships require sustained, multi-year support for activities including administration and coordination, not just for consumables and equipment for the day-to-day operations.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Plan summarises the challenges and opportunities well, and the key initiatives are supported.

Support the views expressed by the Whangateau Harbour Care Group in its submission on the plan.

The Trust values the working partnership with the Board in the community stewardship that has been critical to predator control and intrusion monitoring at Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary since 2012. However, community action has gone as far as it can and the Trust calls on the Board to make the decisions that are now required.

Supports advocacy to the governing body for investment into regional parks to guide and support visitation to parks where visitors' needs are properly planned for and accommodated. Current management of public access and activities allowed at Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary, are incompatible with a reserve for wildlife protection.

RODNEY DRAFT LOCAL BOARD PLAN 2026

SUBMISSION BY ŌMAHA SHOREBIRD PROTECTION TRUST

22 JULY 2026

1. BACKGROUND

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to shaping the next three years in Rodney.

The Ōmaha Shorebird Protection Trust (the Trust) is one of the volunteer community partners of the Local Board. The Trust aims to be a trusted adviser to the Board, providing reliable, actionable information for the policies and decisions relating to the Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary and Whangateau Harbour.

Since 2009 the Trust has worked with community, Council, DOC and Local Board members to highlight the failed breeding outcomes within the Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary. Despite a predator fence, consistent volunteer predator trapping and community engagement initiatives the Sanctuary remains an 'ecological sink' where chick survival is consistently low.

2. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The Trust supports the three cross-cutting themes applying to all Board decision-making, namely climate, equity and Māori outcomes.

Māori outcomes: The Trust is actively seeking mana whenua input to better reflect Māori identity and connection to the refresh of the Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary signage and website. The Trust also recently supported Ngati Manuhiri's application to Government to close the coastline to unsustainable harvesting. The Board's support of Māori outcomes is an important part of facilitating community partnerships for shared outcomes.

Climate outcomes: Climate resilient design in minor works and renewals is supported. This year, the Trust supported rock revetment along the Whangateau Harbour edge at Ōmaha, rather than a timber wall, as a more climate-resilient option. We sought further modifications to create habitat opportunities within the design. Remaining alert to improve design for both climate resilience and biodiversity enhancement is supported as a routine part of everyday delivery.

Equitable outcomes: The Trust supports equitable outcomes for all Aucklanders. The cultural diversity in our community requires careful consideration in signage development and communications that seek to raise awareness and guide interaction with Aotearoa's taonga species of threatened shorebirds. The Trust encourages the Board to continue to make decisions on behalf of all Aucklanders.

3. COMMUNITY

The Ōmaha Shorebird Protection Trust agrees that volunteering is a community strength. Volunteers do a lot of the essential mahi that helps Council and Local Board deliver against their stated objectives. The Trust has benefited from the Board's support for governance

training, health and safety planning, communication and working effectively with different age-groups. The Rodney Local Board's support for community-led initiatives is much appreciated.

Community group partnerships with Local Boards, including activating volunteers to deliver shared objectives require sustained, multi-year support for activities including administration and coordination. It is important but not sufficient to fund the consumables and equipment (traps, plants) for the day-to-day operations.

4. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The plan summarises the challenges and opportunities well, and the key initiatives are supported. The Ōmaha Shorebird Protection Trust is part of the Whangateau Catchment Collective and appreciates the Board's support to date of this community-led, landscape-scale protection and restoration initiative. We also support the views expressed by the Whangateau Harbour Care Group in its submission on the plan.

The Trust welcomes the Board's specific recognition of the significant species habitat of Ōmaha. It should be made explicit that this includes Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary as a nationally important breeding area for threatened NZ Dotterels and Whangateau Harbour as an internationally important feeding ground for Godwits recovering from their migratory flight from Alaska – the longest non-stop flight undertaken by any bird.

The Trust values the working partnership with the Board in the community stewardship that has been critical to predator control and intrusion monitoring at Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary since 2012. However, community action has gone as far as it can and the Trust calls on the Board to make the decisions that are now required.

When the status quo is not OK

The Trust supports the Board's advocacy to the governing body for investment into regional parks to guide and support visitation to parks where visitors' needs are properly planned for and accommodated.

At the Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary, the current management of public access and range of activities allowed are incompatible with the stated purpose of the reserve for wildlife protection. As population and visitor pressures increase throughout Rodney, the Board is urged to be more proactive in guiding and in some instances controlling public access.

The Board already has a Reserve Management Plan that outlines the issues and management priorities that need to be implemented. Every recreational opportunity (fishing, walking, picnics, swimming, surfing, sunbathing) that is available inside the Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary is readily accessible 200 metres away outside the predator fence, and yet visitor disturbance is one of the key reasons for breeding failure inside the Sanctuary. Visitors are unknowingly contributing to localised extinction of a threatened species. NZ Dotterels / Tuturiwhatu are found nowhere else in the world and are far fewer in number than kiwi.

Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary is the only predator fenced wildlife protection reserve that the Local Board is responsible for. With a few targeted management actions, this reserve could be a nationally celebrated conservation success story – a community partnership protecting taonga species.

Advocacy for Auckland-wide responsible pet ownership

Attitudes to responsible pet ownership are shifting, and the upcoming review of the Regional Pest Management Plan provides an important opportunity for the Board to advocate to the governing body to introduce a bylaw that addresses roaming cats. Nationally, cats have been recognised in the Predator 2050 strategy, and the Board is aware of the practice of dumping unwanted kittens, the impact on wildlife of both domestic and feral cats and the need for an Auckland-wide approach.

In the 12 months to June 2026, cats were seen on camera inside Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary 37 times. On and around Mount Tamahunga, where kiwi have been reintroduced, cats were caught on camera 113 times in the first five months of this year.

The Trust requests the Board add the following Advocacy points:

- Advocate for an Auckland-wide approach to responsible pet ownership focusing on micro-chipping, registering and de-sexing cats all cats by 2027.
- Advocate for an Auckland-wide approach to managing free-roaming domestic / owned cats in wildlife protection reserves.

Advocacy for resources to monitor and enforce existing by-laws

The Trust requests the Board add the following Advocacy point:

- Advocate for improved monitoring and enforcement of existing Council by-laws / regulations relating to dog walking and set netting.

Advocacy for weight to be given to Board input to resource consent decisions

This year, Council officers granted a non-notified consent for the first privately owned 30m long jetty and boat ramp into Whangateau Harbour. The Local Board, community groups and conservation organisations warned against this precedent-setting decision and were ignored. The Council's own policies and plans providing a very high level of protection to the Whangateau Harbour were also by-passed.

The Trust requests the Board add the following Advocacy point:

- Advocate for Council consent officers to give more weight to Board input to consent applications in the Local Board area.

Add points to board-funded initiatives

The objective of growing the visitor economy through "sustainable place-based tourism" requires that the growing number of visitors from within Rodney and further afield are supported to protect and sustain the natural environment that they come to enjoy. The Board needs to implement measures to protect threatened and vulnerable wildlife species in the reserves it is responsible for managing.

- Add "wildlife protection" to the examples of board-funded initiatives in the **Local environmental management** in the Local Activities column under the section "Levels of service" on p.30. The current list of initiatives is not sufficient to meet the

management objectives of the wildlife protection areas for which the Local Board is the decision-maker.

- Add "implement existing management plans" to the activities and support listed under the **Local governance** column under the section on Levels of service on p.30. The existing management plans have been informed by community consultation and expert advice from Council staff. It is appropriate that they are prioritised for resources and attention by the Board. Commitment is sought from the Board to implementing the current reserve management plan for improved wildlife protection in the Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary.

5. SETTING PRIORITIES AND MAKING TRADE-OFFS

[redacted] anticipates the pressures that growth brings, and the Board recognises that trade-offs are required in decision making on behalf of community. The Trust recognises these are not easy decisions, the Board members are not often thanked, and there will always be someone who will find fault.

As residents and ratepayers of Rodney, enjoying the privilege of being surrounded by natural beauty, we have a duty to protect the wildlife that remains, and a responsibility to inform and guide visitors and locals to a deeper appreciation of the fragility of the taonga shorebird species that are totally reliant on our care and protection.

The Ōmaha Shorebird Trust remains committed to partnership with the Board and others to practice kaitiakitanga so that Ōmaha Shorebird Sanctuary is a safe place for shorebirds to rest, roost and breed. Thank you again for the opportunity to contribute on behalf of the Ōmaha Shorebird Protection Trust.

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#303

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Our Village

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	3
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	4
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Focus on learning history and heritage of our (knowledge) rich local area.. Wnen you know about where you live and where you come from it helps create a more closer connected community.

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,More local activities and events,Other, please specify:Selected - Support for ,local business and Better public transport options

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Quite well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

Accessability and opportunity for homeless and those suffering mental health to get support and experience connecting with others that have life experience and also helping those with addictions/family violence and not getting support or receiving hard times from MSD. It shouldn't be a matter of who you see to get help. EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE SAME OPPORTUNITY FOR SUPPORT.

Community - community groups/hubs and organisations are key to this

Natural Environment -STOP THE DOME VALLEY TIP. Advocate to save Kaipara

Economic Development - how do we change ?views? around business. Landlords living in main street shops and not maintaining buildings?

Better public transport options - connecting Helensville and Parakai directly

Better community facilities - bubs/drop-in spaces

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#406

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Pākiri Beach Holiday Park

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	4
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	3
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	3

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

Yes, Education and Health. While these are sectors that are led from the top by government departments, there is much more that Local Board and Council can do to support from the bottom up

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)**

   More environmental restoration,Improved parks and public spaces,Better walking/cycling connections

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   Yes, see attached document in the next section

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Submission on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

20 June 2026

To the Rodney Local Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026. This submission is made from the perspective of Pākiri Beach Holiday Park, a long-standing, privately-owned visitor accommodation business that has served Rodney and Auckland for more than 50 years.

The draft plan is welcomed for explicitly recognising economic development, sustainable tourism opportunities, resilient infrastructure, healthy natural environments and better access to key destinations. Those themes are especially relevant to coastal and rural parts of Rodney, where tourism, recreation and population growth intersect.

Support for the plan direction

The plan's headline outcomes are strongly supported, particularly the commitments to:

- support connected and resilient communities through parks, facilities and spaces for all ages and abilities
- restore and protect Rodney's natural environment and waterways
- ensure Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure
- build a strong, diverse local economy with sustainable tourism opportunities
- improve transport connections to support rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.

These priorities align well with the needs of communities such as Pākiri, where the local economy depends on a healthy environment, attractive public spaces, safe access, and visitor infrastructure that works well for residents and visitors alike.

Tourism and the visitor economy

The plan should give stronger and more practical recognition to tourism and the visitor economy as contributors to Rodney's prosperity.

Pākiri Beach Holiday Park represents a tourism business that has been part of Rodney for decades. Tourism is a job-rich sector that creates employment across a wide range of skills and age groups, including entry-level roles and pathways into management, hospitality, maintenance, customer service and small business ownership. These jobs are often dispersed across smaller settlements and rural communities, helping balance employment patterns that are otherwise concentrated elsewhere.

Tourism also generates wider community benefits. Visitor spending supports local shops, cafés, service stations, trades, food producers and activity operators. The sector builds transferable skills such as customer service, teamwork, leadership and communication, and these skills strengthen the wider local workforce. A vibrant visitor economy also helps justify and sustain amenities that residents use every day.

For these reasons, the plan should more clearly state that tourism is not a peripheral activity but an important part of Rodney's economic base, especially in coastal and destination areas.

Visitor infrastructure and growth

The draft plan correctly identifies pressure from growth on parks, facilities, roads and community spaces. That pressure is amplified in places that attract seasonal and day-trip visitation.

The Board should therefore advocate for public infrastructure that keeps pace with both population growth and visitor demand, including:

- public toilets in high-use visitor locations
- well-designed parking and traffic management
- wayfinding and visitor information
- walking and cycling links
- attractive and durable public realm improvements in town centres and coastal settlements.

This is not simply about amenity. Good visitor infrastructure protects local environmental values, reduces conflict between residents and visitors, improves safety, and encourages longer stays and greater local spending.

Where appropriate and feasible, user-pays approaches should be considered for high-demand facilities such as public toilets and parking in visitor hotspots. Well-designed user-pays models can help fund maintenance, manage peak demand and reduce the burden on general ratepayers, while still protecting access for local residents where appropriate.

Town centres, place-making and destination management

Support is expressed for the plan's emphasis on town centres, local identity and well-designed public spaces. These are important not only for residents but also for the attractiveness of Rodney as a visitor destination.

The Board should continue to support vibrant town centres, events and visitor experiences that encourage people to stay longer and spend more locally. Destination appeal is built from a combination of natural assets, local businesses, heritage, public space quality, programming and ease of access.

The plan would also benefit from stronger recognition of destination management and collaboration. Destination management is not promotion (that is the role of destination marketing). It means identifying opportunities and constraints affecting the visitor economy, then coordinating action across infrastructure, transport, environmental management, business support and place-making so growth is sustainable and community-supported.

This is particularly important in Rodney, where visitor activity is spread across multiple coastal, rural and township destinations and where unmanaged growth can quickly create pressure on roads, parking, waste systems, beaches and local amenity.

Environment and transport

Support is also expressed for the draft plan's focus on natural environment outcomes and better transport connections. For tourism businesses and their host communities, these are inseparable from economic outcomes.

Visitors are drawn to Rodney because of its beaches, landscapes, waterways and small-town character. Protecting these assets is essential to resident wellbeing and to the long-term strength of the visitor economy. Likewise, safer and more reliable transport links are essential for staff access, visitor movement and the functioning of local businesses.

The Board is encouraged to ensure that environmental protection, transport advocacy and economic development are considered together when priorities are implemented, particularly in high-growth coastal areas.

Requested changes and emphasis

It is requested that the Rodney Local Board:

1. More clearly recognise tourism and the visitor economy as important contributors to Rodney's prosperity, employment and community wellbeing.

2. Give stronger priority to visitor infrastructure in areas experiencing high seasonal or destination demand, including toilets, parking, wayfinding, walking and cycling connections, and public space improvements.

3. Support practical funding approaches, including user-pays where suitable, to help maintain visitor facilities and manage demand fairly.

4. Continue to invest in vibrant town centres, events and place-making that increase dwell time and local spending by visitors.

5. Explicitly recognise the importance of destination management and cross-sector collaboration to support sustainable tourism growth.

6. Integrate transport, environmental protection and economic development planning in coastal and visitor-intensive parts of Rodney.

The draft plan provides a constructive framework for Rodney's next three years. With stronger recognition of tourism's role and a clearer commitment to visitor infrastructure and destination management, it would better reflect the realities and opportunities of Rodney's coastal and rural communities.

Thank you for considering this submission.

[redacted]

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Supplement to Submission on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

23 July 2026

To the Rodney Local Board,

Please accept this as a supplement to the submission already lodged on behalf of Pākiri Beach Holiday Park. Two additional matters are raised for the Board's consideration because they directly affect the sustainability of local tourism businesses, the fairness of council policy settings, and the adequacy of infrastructure serving Pākiri and the surrounding coast.

Freedom camping

Continuing concern is expressed about the extent of freedom camping allowed in Rodney. In practice, this amounts to a no-charge accommodation service enabled by council in direct competition with compliant holiday parks and other commercial visitor accommodation providers.

Pākiri Beach Holiday Park pays significant annual rates to council and also meets the substantial capital and operating costs of providing compliant visitor infrastructure, including its own potable water supply and wastewater treatment services for guests. By contrast, freedom camping can allow visitors to use council-supported public infrastructure at little or no direct cost, even though part of that infrastructure is funded through the rates paid by businesses such as the holiday park.

This creates an inequitable situation. A private operator is required to fund, maintain and regulate essential guest services, while council effectively facilitates a competing low- or no-cost alternative using publicly funded assets. That tension should be recognised in the Local Board Plan, especially where council wishes to support sustainable tourism and a strong local economy.

The Local Board is therefore asked to advocate for a more balanced approach to freedom camping in Rodney, including stronger consideration of the cumulative impacts on:

- ratepaying holiday parks and other legitimate accommodation providers
- public amenity and infrastructure costs
- environmental management, including waste and wastewater risks
- fairness for businesses that invest heavily in compliant visitor facilities.

At a minimum, the plan should acknowledge the need for freedom camping policy and enforcement settings that do not undermine established accommodation businesses that contribute significantly to Rodney's economy, employment and rates base.

Pakiri River Road sealing

The Local Board Plan should also include stronger advocacy for the sealing of Pākiri River Road. This is not only important for Pākiri Beach Holiday Park as a long-standing local business, but also for the growing number of visitors who use this road to access Pākiri Beach and Pākiri Regional Park.

As visitor numbers increase, the condition and performance of this road become more important from both an economic development and public infrastructure perspective. An unsealed road on a key access route can create issues relating to safety, vehicle wear, dust, resilience, visitor experience and the overall quality of access to an important Rodney destination.

Sealing Pākiri River Road would support several of the draft plan's stated priorities. It would improve access to a key destination, strengthen infrastructure supporting tourism and recreation, and better align transport planning with the realities of growth and visitor demand in coastal Rodney.

For these reasons, the Local Board is asked to champion the sealing of Pākiri River Road as an important advocacy priority in the final Local Board Plan.

Requested additions

It is requested that the Rodney Local Board add the following matters to the emphasis of the plan and its advocacy priorities:

1. Recognise the need for a fairer and more balanced approach to freedom camping in Rodney, taking into account the impact on ratepaying holiday parks and other accommodation businesses that provide and fund compliant visitor infrastructure.

2. Advocate for policy, enforcement and infrastructure settings for freedom camping that do not unfairly disadvantage established tourism operators or shift disproportionate cost onto compliant businesses and ratepayers.

3. Champion the sealing of Pākiri River Road as a priority advocacy issue, reflecting its growing importance for business access, visitor access, road safety, and access to Pākiri Beach and Pākiri Regional Park.

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#428

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Pest Free Dairy Flat & Waitoki

Local Board: Regional Organisation

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	4
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	4
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	4

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

More local activities and events,More environmental restoration,Improved parks and public spaces

4. Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?

Very well

5. Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

Feedback on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan

On behalf of Pest Free Dairy Flat and Waitoki, we want to thank the Board for its genuine commitment to supporting the local environment. Thanks to that support, together with the dedication of our volunteers, we have delivered real gains over the past 12 months: 1,391 pest animals removed, over 200 community members involved in planting days and trapping workshops contributing thousands of volunteer hours, community planting days at the Rangitopuni Stream Reserve, Dairy Flat Hall and Horseshoe Bush Road wetlands (with strong turnout from local schools, the Air Training Corps, and partners like Mountains to Sea and Green by Nature), wetland restoration at Forestry Road, an expanding trapping network, eco-sourced native seeds grown on at Paremoremo Prison (2,000 plants a year) and provided back to the community free of charge for local planting events, and growing links with neighbouring pest free groups and iwi. It's a lot of momentum for a volunteer-led group, and we're proud of it.

We've reviewed the draft Plan and want to flag two areas where further Board support would make a real difference to what we can sustain.

1. Restoration of the Rangitopuni Stream Reserve

Between Richards Road and Landfill Access Road, our volunteers have cleared privet and planted natives, but the remaining infestation is now too large and complex to manage safely. We ask the Board to fund professional arborists to clear this heavy infestation, after which our team can complete the native planting and fully restore this reserve. As work progresses, we would also welcome improved access to the site to support ongoing mulching and plant delivery.

2. Support for Organisational Growth

Our rapid growth is a good problem, but the administrative load now exceeds what our volunteer Trustees can sustainably carry. We ask the Board to fund a dedicated part-time coordinator for Dairy Flat and Waitoki, with those hours specifically directed to community engagement, coordination of projects and events in Dairy Flat and Waitoki, which is desperately needed, giving the Trust essential support to avoid volunteer fatigue while allowing focus on its overarching environmental goals.

Thank you again for your continued backing - we'd welcome the chance to discuss these requests further.

Sincerely,

The Trustees, Pest Free Dairy Flat and Waitoki

Feedback on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan

On behalf of Pest Free Dairy Flat and Waitoki, we want to thank the Board for its genuine commitment to supporting the local environment. Thanks to that support, together with the dedication of our volunteers, we have delivered real gains over the past 12 months: 1,391 pest animals removed, over 200 community members involved in planting days and trapping workshops contributing thousands of volunteer hours, community planting days at the Rangitopuni Stream Reserve, Dairy Flat Hall and Horseshoe Bush Road wetlands (with strong turnout from local schools, the Air Training Corps, and partners like Mountains to Sea and Green by Nature), wetland restoration at Forestry Road, an expanding trapping network, eco-sourced native seeds grown on at Paremoremo Prison (2,000 plants a year) and provided back to the community free of charge for local planting events, and growing links with neighbouring pest free groups and iwi. It's a lot of momentum for a volunteer-led group, and we're proud of it.

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Thank you again for your continued backing - we'd welcome the chance to discuss these requests further.

Sincerely,
The Trustees, Pest Free Dairy Flat and Waitoki

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#350

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Point Wells Community & Ratepayers Association Library Chair

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**3**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	1
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	2
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	1
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

More information and discussion by the local people on what is needed

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

More local activities and events,Improved parks and public spaces,Support for local businesses

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   Confirmation of continued long term funding for the libraries

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#334

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Point Wells Community and Ratepayers Association

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	4
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	4
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	4

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

More climate change resilience investment. Communities need support and funding to protect Council assets and homes from sea level rise, inundation and flooding risks. Private property owners need support to manage and understand new PC120 Flood Maps and implications of building consents and costs. Point Wells needs the historic seawall to be

repaired and strengthened to protect the foreshore reserve and Council boat ramps and playgrounds.

3. **Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)**

   Improved parks and public spaces,Better public transport options,Other, please specify:More investment in resilience for climate related risks, flooding , ect.

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   The Point Wells Community and Ratepayer Association found the plan to be quite high level with little detail about local community projects and initiatives. The Point Wells Village has been requesting a public toilet in our Hall playground for some time, and it had not yet been built. With increased tourism and visitors to the village (via the new Coastal Trail) we desperately need a public toilet that is accessible for visitors - in particular for children, elderly and disabled people). There is no clear plans for managing the ever-increasing tourism traffic through Matakana which in summer and public holidays is so horrendous it prevents Point Wells residents from leaving the village and returning.

PWCRP submission to the Rodney Draft Local Board Plan 2026

Focus area Community

Opportunities

- Strong community connection and resilience in parts of Rodney provide a foundation for participation,
- High levels of community engagement

PWCRP Comment: we strongly support community connection and engagement in council's efforts for emergency response.

Plan

Prioritise phased adaptation works at coastal and flood-affected parks to protect recreation use and safe access where hazards are already impacting facilities and open space.

PWCRP Comment: we look forward to the Seawall repairs progressing October?

Coordinate with stormwater and coastal programmes to ensure paths, parks and upgrades are planned in the right places at the right times and consider flooding and coastal risks.

PWCRP Comment: Support

Advocate in any future local government reorganisation to ensure Rodney keeps strong, well-resourced local representation, including opposing merging rural local boards, fairly recognising geographic size and communities of interest, and ensuring enough funding and decision-making power for any proposed changes.

PWCRP Comment: Support

Focus area Natural environment

Support community recycling and resource recovery initiatives, including those serving key centres such as Helensville and Mahurangi, to expand local options to repair, reuse and reduce waste.

Provide proactive education and compliance activities to reduce pollution and sediment run-off, prioritising high-risk areas such as new development around Warkworth, Kumeū–Huapai and slopes draining to Kaipara.

Advocate to move away from a reliance on large-scale landfilling at Redvale and the proposed Dome Valley and instead prioritising the expansion of Recycling Centres (CRCs) and more innovative waste recycling and recovery technologies and or scienced-based solutions to waste reduction outcomes.

PWCRP Comment: Agree
Advocate for continued and improved measures to protect local shellfish populations, including supporting recent restrictions on recreational take, to ensure the long-term sustainability of coastal ecosystems in the Rodney Local Board area. PWCRP Comment: strongly agree.

Focus area Built environment

Plan new parks and public spaces in growth areas like Milldale and parts of Warkworth,

Design public spaces and upgrades to be more resilient to flooding, storms and heat, particularly in areas already affected by severe weather, and keep communities informed
PWCRP Comment agree

Ensure Rodney's community priorities and local character are clearly understood and considered in decisions around planning and growth.
PWCRP Comment strongly support

Advocate to make sure new development does not go ahead before essential infrastructure is in place — including for water, wastewater, and roads, and other community facilities like infrastructure for schools and healthcare provided by central government.
PWCRP Comment strongly agree

Advocate for funding and other measures to ensure enough infrastructure is built alongside new housing in Rodney, so growth pays for itself and is well planned. PWCRP Comment; Strongly agree.

Focus area: Economic development
PWCRP Comment : all sounds good.

Focus area: Transport

PWCRP Comment : all sounds good

Funding information

Local boards have been allocated decision-making over local levels of service. This means they can prioritise services and initiatives to achieve local objectives, while ensuring costs are managed within the local board's allocated funding.

PWCRP Comment : we like this idea.

Setting priorities and making 'trade-offs'

Consider advice on ways to increase funding for services, activities and facilities from rates where appropriate

PWCRP Comment: good idea where this may be possible however the main source of income is always the ratepayers so Council must learn to live within existing income; rate increases are already too high.

Conclusions

Overall we consider the draft Plan reflects our priorities quite well.

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#248

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Puhoi community forum

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**3**
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Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

More environmental restoration,Better walking/cycling connections,Better public transport options

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

Submission from Puhoi Community Forum to Rodney Local Board

The local board 3 year plan sets out the vision and priorities for our area over the next three years. The plan states that " we will focus on creating inclusive and flexible spaces, strengthening local identity and supporting community-led initiatives. We will invest in restoring and protecting our natural environment, ensuring that our waterways, coastlines, and ecosystems remain healthy for future generations. Importantly, we recognise that we cannot do this alone. The strength of Rodney lies in its people, in volunteers, community groups, mana whenua and local leaders who already contribute so much. Our role is to enable, support and partner, so that together we can achieve more than any one organisation could on its own."

It is for these very reasons that the Puhoi Community Forum has met with the local board in March and May of this year seeking to partner with the Council in the management and further development of the Puhoi Pioneer Memorial Park. The information presented here aligns strongly with the local board vision.

The Puhoi community forum is keen to continue to take the responsibility for the management of the park, as it has a strong volunteer base and has demonstrated long term local commitment. We have achieved effective use of financial resource in combination with volunteer input , both in labour and in donated materials. We believe we are well placed to achieve the goals of the partnership desired in the Council's vision statement, and in particular… "Our role is to enable, support and partner, so that together we can achieve more than any one organisation could on its own."

We will advocate for our licence to occupy to be renewed to allow us to implement the ecological plan and extend the community use of the park. We wish to continue the vision of those who worked so hard in Rodney District Council days to ensure the land was bought for public use in perpetuity , and began the voluntary planting and management that continues to this day. Arthur Dunn and his volunteers worked tirelessly to improve the reserve land for community use and enjoyment and in continuing this work we honour that legacy.

You will recall that the Forum has a licence to occupy the Park, primarily to undertake restorative planting and manage grazing areas, with a new (2025) Ecological Management Plan to retire grazing of steep slopes and wetlands and

extend the re-vegetation planting programme. This plan has already reduced our grazing income by half and will incur an increase in the cost of planting, weeding, fencing and track maintenance.

Our presentations to the Rodney Local Board in March this year requested that the Council recognise that the Puhoi Memorial Park is unique in its size and obligations placed upon the Forum through the license agreement, and that the loss of grazing income will create a funding shortfall. As noted, the Community Forum is keen to maintain responsibility through its licence, and requests funding support from the Council to achieve this.

In March this year the Forum asked for ongoing Council support to fund our current and future projects, i.e:

- - Implementing the park Ecological Management Plan .....
- - Further fencing as grazing areas are retired.
- - Increased restoration planting of wetlands and steep slopes.
- - Maintenance of car parking and vehicular access ways.
- - Maintenance and expansion of the park track network.
- - Maintenance of large mature trees for public safety.

At that presentation the Puhoi Forum asked that the Council allocate $6000 per/annum in their Local Board Plans to the Forum to enable the implementation of these projects.

Our presentation to the Rodney Local Board in May this year sought to establish a working partnership with the Council whereby the Forum receives funding to maintain existing and extended plantings as per the 2025 Ecological Management plan, while the Council maintains the access road and upgrading of existing walking tracks.

The orchard carpark area has been greatly improved this year due to funding initiatives through local knowledge and networks. This carpark area has now been included in the council asset base.

The local board 3 year plan does not appear to contain funding details, however, we note that the Rodney Local Board annual plan for 2026/27 has allocated $1.2 million for environmental services and states that in 2026/2027, the Council plans to:

- support volunteers and environmental groups to restore biodiversity through planting, animal and pest plant control, and clean -ups to protect biodiversity and create safe habitats for wildlife.

While provision has been made in these local board plans to fund the coordination, planning and administration of environmental projects, this does not specifically address the support that the Puhoi Forum needs and seeks from the Council to continue its work in the Puhoi Pioneer Memorial Park. As noted, we have the ability and local contacts to achieve this in a very cost effective manner.

Given that contestable grants are limited and oversubscribed, we again request that the Local Board specifically allocate the $6000 annual funding and support requested by the Puhoi Forum in the budget allocation of their Local Board annual and three year plans.

In summary

- We believe our situation with a Council licence to occupy is unique in that we have a relatively large area with access to the public, unlike pony clubs or community gardens with more specific user groups.
- We believe that our work, demonstrated over time, aligns strongly with the council vision noted above.
- We thank our local board for their positive reception of our presentations this year.
- We note that our financial request is a small amount that, with our community partnerships and volunteers, can achieve clearly demonstrated ongoing improvement as we continue the vision of developing a true community reserve.



Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#237

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Puhoi Heritage Museum

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**3**
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Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	2
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	2
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	2

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

A recognition that museums and historical societies have a role in making communities connected and resilient.

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?

(Select up to 3 options)

More environmental restoration,Better public transport options,Safer roads

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   Heritage deserves to be recognised as a priority in the Rodney Local Board plan. Museums safeguard the history of their towns. They offer deeper understanding to the History curriculum. They offer another aspect to attracting tourists. Council could assist with fixed costs allowing museums to use their income on maintaining collections. Local museums rely on volunteers, giving these people a sense of purpose and achievement and building a sense of community.

http://www.nytimes.com/2013/03/17/fashion/the-family-stories-that-bind-us-this-life.html?smid=fb-share

Dr Marshall Duke, a psychologist at Emory University, and his colleague, Dr Robyn Fivush developed a measure called the "Do You Know?" scale that asked children to answer 20 questions. Examples included: Do you know where your grandparents grew up? Do you know where your mom and dad went to high school? Do you know where your parents met? Do you know an illness or something really terrible that happened in your family? Do you know the story of your birth?

"The more children knew about their family's history, the stronger their sense of control over their lives, the higher their self-esteem and the more successfully they believed their families functioned. The "Do You Know?" scale turned out to be the best single predictor of children's emotional health and happiness."

Dr. Duke said that children who have the most self-confidence have what he and Dr. Fivush call a strong "intergenerational self." They know they belong to something bigger than themselves. Many groups use what sociologists call sense-making, the building of a narrative that explains what the group is about.

There is great value in communal activities that are history-building exercises - e.g. the Anzac Day gathering, the dancing in period costume, the dinner for the older members of the community, the annual commemoration of the founding of Puhoi

"The bottom line: if you want a happier family, create, refine and retell the story of your family's positive moments and your ability to bounce back from the difficult ones. That act alone may increase the odds that your family will thrive for many generations to come."

What is true for the family is also true for the community. Enabling the creating, refining and retelling of the story of your community's positive moments and its ability to bounce back from the difficult ones is facilitated by the work of the Heritage Museum in Puhoi.

S

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#370

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Restore Rodney East Incorporated

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
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Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	4
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	4

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

See attached

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,More environmental restoration,Improved parks and public spaces

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Very well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   See attached submission, on behalf of Restore Rodney East Incorporated

Restore Rodney East
SUPPORTING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS

On behalf of Restore Rodney East (RRE) and as Chair I would like to share the following feedback on the **Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026**

First and foremost, we compliment the Board on the overall strategic direction and mix of plan initiatives expressed in the document. In the main, these align strongly with the priorities we perceive are those of the 45 and more local groups we support within our hub operation. We appreciate that being a high-level strategic plan, the level of specificity as to initiatives to be undertaken is limited and we look forward to working through the next level(s) of detail as the process proceeds.

Feedback from Restore Rodney East and in support of our local groups:

All the local groups we support focus on restoration of the natural environment – pest trapping; planting; weeding; sediment reduction; seabird and shorebird protection; remediation of our shorelines, estuaries, harbours and the Gulf; water quality; and many other related topics. This feedback is given in the context of this overarching set of interests that are primarily in the Natural Environment (Te taiao Māori) space but also extend to Community and the Built Environment domains.

In relation to the draft plan:

- The initiative statements provide a good initial framework for action around catchment-related activities but could recognise existing gaps in the areas of focus that are not currently addressed in the plan language – including specific catchments such as Puhoi, Waiwera and Matakana. Restoration of upper catchments has profound impacts on sediment and pollutants currently reaching our streams, awa and beyond into the Gulf. Upper catchment restoration also significant helps mitigate flooding risks.

- Similarly, within that same framework there is greater opportunity for collaboration between catchment groups especially at the “coalface” level. The plan should recognise that more investment in shared coordination will improve overall remediation outcomes and recognise the need for continuity of investment bearing in mind the very long timeframes involved in achieving remediation goals.

- The plan alludes to the need to increase funding for activities from sources other than rates. Across all the local groups we support, limited funding remains the single biggest cap on action and success especially when there are practical limits to what volunteering can achieve. The Board could include a plan objective to more explicitly support community and volunteering based programmes to find new, expanded and innovative funding avenues and sources.

- Likewise, funding for the community-led projects the Plan refers to must include more operational funding, not just funds for tools and plants, if they are to succeed. It is our observation that of all the groups we support, those with paid facilitators constantly achieve more, are more innovative, have greater longevity and are more likely to share their skills and knowledge. Running any substantial project that is really going to make a difference needs at least a part-time paid coordinator.

- There are good elements of recognition of impacts of development on the natural environment but more emphasise is needed on the interplay between plan elements – e.g.

actions taken in the Built Environment space have significant impacts within the Natural Environment space. Bare earth development without sufficient control observably and frequently releases very large volumes of sediment into our local streams and awa – we need to adopt high standards of soil controls, mitigation and ensure that compliance with standards is rigorously enforced.

- RRE recognises that legislation and bylaws outside of the Board's remit or control impact upon the opportunity for the strategic plan's goals to be achieved. But specific instances of disconnect between the Board's stated objectives and local environmental outcomes occur on a regular basis – such as when Council allows resource consents without public consultation, relating to works that severely impinge on the principles expressed in the draft plan. Local input and consultation allow for the wealth of local knowledge to be used to identify issues early, and experience has shown gives a far better outcome than the public exclusion approach. The plan is currently missing a strong Board advocacy statement in relation to this consent management problem within the Natural Environment space.

- With regards funding for catchment remediation, one option within Council's ambit (but could be advocated for by the Board) is to allow property owners, who are prepared to "sterilise" their land for say wetlands or native forests, to the benefit of downstream users, 100% rates relief on that land. The cost saving to Council will be less downstream investment in, and maintenance of infrastructure and environmental protection interventions.

- There are always more opportunities for planting of native trees and vegetation, more (predator free) reserves, bringing back more birdlife, more predator fencing where appropriate, greater protection of shorebirds, etc. Many of these initiatives rely on social license to proceed and we welcome any emphasis via the plan that the Board could place on breaking down barriers to achieving / accelerating restoration of te taiao. A tree planted now for a $3 gives 50+ years of sustainable solutions for future generations saving thousands of dollars.

We would also like to flag a specific issue with the statement on Page 16 of the draft, where the Objective reads: "Protect and restore indigenous biodiversity through conservation partnerships, pest management, and community stewardship while ensuring these environments remain safe, accessible, and actively maintained for public recreation and water-based activities, where appropriate".

Our key concerns are around recreation and the use of words "ensuring" and "where appropriate" - in particular, who determines if recreational use is appropriate? Many of the priority ecological areas then listed under key initiatives are highly sensitive - and allowing recreation is contradictory to their conservation.

This Objective statement could be tweaked to better put the emphasis on conservation over recreation. For example:

- "Protect and restore indigenous biodiversity through conservation partnerships, pest management, and community stewardship while ensuring these environments remain safe, accessible, and actively maintained, allowing for public recreation and water-based activities, only where appropriate".
- OR ..where compatible with preservation of ecological values.

- Or better yet – remove the “public recreation and water-based activities” line altogether.

The bottom line is - ensure recreation is not at the expense of environmental values.

An example of how this plays out would be Tomorata lake, an area of high ecological value where recreation has potential to cause disturbance at a level that essentially results in habitat loss for species like tara iti/NZ fairy tern and Matuku-hūrepo/bittern. Currently recreation is allowed, and although historically this site has had minimal visitors, it is fast becoming very popular recreationally for walking/boating etc. Continuing to ‘ensure recreational use’ will be at the expense of the areas ecology. Interesting existing council regulations prohibit motorised craft in the lake during summer bird breeding season but this in not enforced by council.

Thank you for your consideration

Ngā mihi nui

[redacted]

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#330

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Rodney Inclusive Communities Initiative (RICI)

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**1**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	2
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Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	2
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	1

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

A focus on accessibility and Inclusion

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,Better walking/cycling connections,Other, please specify:a focus on making all public spaces inclusive and accessible for all residents

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Not well at all

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

   Yes - please see supporting document

Rodney Inclusive Communities Initiative (RICI)

Feedback for the Rodney Local Board Draft Local Board Plan 2026

July 2026

Rodney Inclusive Communities Initiative (RICI) *is a charitable trust based in Warkworth that operates primarily as an information network, advocacy group & events coordinator in the Rodney District, focusing on matters related to inclusion and disability support.*

It is important to emphasize that accessibility barriers affect a significant and growing proportion of Rodney's population. Not only *disabled people and their families* are affected, but also *older adults, young families, and visitors to this region.*

Many older residents are relocating to Rodney from central Auckland in search of affordability and a more sustainable lifestyle. However, without accessible infrastructure and services, these individuals risk increased isolation and reduced quality of life.

Similarly, young families with small children are moving into the region and require accessible environments - such as pram-friendly community facilities - to fully participate in community life.

To address these challenges, we strongly encourage the RLB to recognise accessibility and inclusion as core responsibilities, requiring dedicated strategic direction, resourcing, and accountability.

Measurable Outcomes:

- What specific, measurable actions are planned to address known accessibility barriers in Rodney?
- How will feedback and data collected through community engagement be translated into tangible outcomes?
- What mechanisms will be put in place to ensure transparency and accountability in delivering these improvements?

While the **Rodney Local Board Draft Local Board Plan 2026** mentions community wellbeing, diversity, recreation, libraries, parks and community facilities, *accessibility and inclusion are largely implied*, rather than explicitly prioritised.

The only accessibility references are generally about making facilities easier to access or providing Easy Read consultation documents, rather than embedding inclusion as a strategic priority.

For a document that will guide investment over the next three years, *accessibility should be a cross-cutting principle rather than an afterthought.*

RICI's Suggestions for Strengthening the Plan

1. Include accessibility and inclusion as a guiding principle

In its current form, the plan focuses on creating thriving communities *but doesn't clearly state that everyone should be able to participate.*

Recommendation: Add **Accessibility and Inclusion** as a Core Principle

The Draft Plan should explicitly state:

We are committed to creating communities where everyone can participate, belong and thrive. Accessibility and inclusion will be embedded across all local board decisions, projects, services and investments, ensuring people of all ages and abilities can participate equally in community life.

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2. Make accessibility a priority outcome

Current outcomes do not explicitly recognise disabled people.

Recommendation: Add a dedicated outcome such as**,**

Inclusive and Accessible Rodney

Rodney is a place where residents of all abilities can access community facilities, parks, programmes, events and public spaces.

We will:

- Work in partnership with disabled people and disability organisations.
- Champion Rodney as an age-friendly and disability-inclusive community.
- Embed Universal Design into every new capital project and major renewal.
- Remove physical, communication and attitudinal barriers across Rodney.
- Ensure all community investments improve equitable access.

Possible measures:

- Increased number of accessible parks and playgrounds
- Accessible community facilities across Rodney
- Improved accessible public toilets – *install a Changing Places facility in Warkworth*
- Increased participation by disabled people in community programmes
- Universal design principles incorporated into new projects

Measures of success

- 100% of new community facilities meet Universal Design principles.
- All major renewals include accessibility improvements.
- Annual accessibility audits completed.
- Increased participation by disabled residents in community programmes.

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3. Community Facilities

Current wording refers to maintaining and renewing facilities.

Recommendation: Replace with,

All council-owned community facilities will progressively achieve best-practice accessibility standards rather than simply meeting minimum Building Code requirements. Accessibility improvements will be incorporated into every renewal programme and capital investment.

Include specific commitments to:

- automatic doors

- accessible reception areas
- hearing loops
- accessible toilets
- Changing Places facilities
- tactile wayfinding
- sensory-friendly spaces
- accessible parking
- appropriate curb cuts
- appropriate lighting
- accessible signage

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4. Parks and open spaces

Current wording refers very generally to improving parks.

Recommendation: Instead, state,

Every significant park upgrade will include accessibility improvements that enable people of all ages and abilities to use and enjoy Rodney's open spaces independently.

Include commitments to:

- accessible pathways
- inclusive playgrounds
- wheelchair-accessible picnic tables
- accessible drinking fountains
- accessible viewing platforms
- beach access where practical
- accessible public toilets
- accessible fitness equipment

*Because **all** residents and visitors should be able to enjoy the outdoors & public facilities.*

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5. Community events

Current wording simply supports community events, and references celebrating diversity.

Recommendation: Replace with,

We will support community events that are physically, socially and culturally accessible, including consideration of mobility access, communication accessibility, quiet spaces and inclusive programming. Council-funded events must demonstrate how accessibility has been incorporated into planning, delivery and evaluation.

Events should include the following:

- accessible parking
- accessible toilets
- accessible viewing areas
- hearing assistance
- quiet spaces
- NZ Sign Language interpreters
- accessible information
- mobility access
- trained volunteers

6. Libraries and community hubs

Recommendation: Include,

Libraries and community hubs will continue to develop inclusive services for disabled people, older residents and those experiencing barriers to participation.

7. Community grants

The Rodney Local Board does not offer a transparent Community Grant option, nor a clear application process. Also, the distribution of community funding is not transparent.

Recommendation: Add,

We will prioritise funding for projects that improve accessibility, remove participation barriers and promote social inclusion. The Community Grant application process will be transparent, clear and accessible. Community groups will be able to easily access the criteria, deadline dates, and amounts available.

Community grant applicants should demonstrate:

- accessibility planning
- inclusive engagement
- participation by all abilities
- Universal Design considerations

8. Footpaths and Transport Advocacy

Recommendation: Although transport isn't the Local Board's direct responsibility, the Board can,

Advocate strongly for transport infrastructure that enables independent travel for disabled people, older adults and families with young children.

Priorities should include:

- Accessible bus stops – covered & with seating
- Safer pedestrian crossings
- tactile indicators
- Mobility parking with appropriate curb cuts
- Connected, safe & accessible walking routes

9. Consultation and engagement

Recommendation: Include a commitment such as,

The Local Board will actively partner with disabled people and disability organisations throughout planning, design, implementation and evaluation, recognising lived experience as essential expertise - to ensure lived experience informs planning, design and decision-making.

This aligns with the principle of *"Nothing About Us Without Us."*

https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/about-us/who-we-are/engaging-with-the-community

Replace consultation language with: Not merely consult; rather use **co-design.**

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10. Universal Design Policy

Recommendation: Include,

Universal Design principles will be mandatory for all Local Board funded capital projects.

This means:

- accessibility considered from project inception
- not retrofitted later (more cost efficient)
- exceeding minimum legal compliance wherever practicable

Auckland Council Resource: https://www.aucklanddesignmanual.co.nz/en/design-guidance/universal-design.html

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11. Measurable commitments

One obvious weakness of the local board plans is that accessibility is mentioned *without measurable outcomes.*

Recommendation: Examples of measurable actions could include,

- Develop an **Accessibility Action Plan for Rodney.**
- Audit all council-owned community facilities for accessibility.
- Increase the number of accessible public toilets.
- Investigate a **Changing Places** facility in Rodney.
- Ensure all new playgrounds include inclusive play equipment.
- Provide accessibility information for council facilities and events.
- Require universal design principles in all major renewals.

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12. Accountability

A major omission is *accountability.*

Recommendation: The Plan should commit to,

The Local Board will publish annual progress against accessibility objectives including:

- number of accessible facility upgrades
- accessible playgrounds delivered
- accessible paths completed
- accessibility audits undertaken
- participation of disabled people in engagement
- accessibility improvements funded

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13. Disability should be named

The draft frequently refers to "everyone" or "all members of the community."

While well intentioned, this language tends to overlook groups who experience specific barriers.

Recommendation: The Plan should explicitly recognise,

- disabled people
- Deaf people
- blind and low vision people
- neurodivergent people
- older adults
- people with temporary impairments
- carers

Research consistently shows that when disabled people (and their accompanying carers) are not explicitly named in policy, their needs are less likely to be considered in implementation.

Overall statement

Rather than having accessibility appear only in isolated references, the Rodney Local Board Plan should recognise this as a core principle that informs every investment decision.

RICI recommends that the Plan include a strong overarching commitment such as:

"The Rodney Local Board recognises accessibility and inclusion as essential to creating thriving, healthy and connected communities. We are committed to embedding Universal Design, equitable access and meaningful participation into every aspect of our planning, investment, advocacy and decision-making. Accessibility is not an optional enhancement or a matter of minimum compliance - it is a fundamental requirement that enables everyone, regardless of age, ability or circumstance, to participate fully, independently and with dignity in community life."

This wording positions accessibility as a strategic obligation rather than a discretionary consideration and aligns with:

- the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- New Zealand's Accessibility Charter
- Auckland Council's broader commitments to equity and inclusion.

This would also give accessibility the same strategic weight as environmental sustainability, economic resilience and community wellbeing - making it a clear expectation across all areas of the plan, rather than a peripheral consideration.

Thank you for considering our submission. RICI is a Rodney-based community group and registered charity (CC59224), available to work in partnership with the Rodney Local Board, to co-design local accessibility & inclusion related projects.

The Trustees, Rodney Inclusive Communities Initiative Trust

[redacted]

www.ricinz.com

Have Your Say on the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

#365

Note: This simplified version of the feedback form has been created for the purpose of publishing submissions. As such, contact and demographic information has been removed, and handwritten submissions have been transcribed.

Submitter details:

Organisation: Shelly Beach Community Committee

Local Board: Rodney

Your feedback:

1. How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community?

Community - Rodney has connected, resilient communities supported by parks, facilities, and spaces for all ages and abilities, that reflect local identity and help people to thrive.	**4**
Natural Environment - Rodney's natural environment is healthy, resilient and restored, providing clean waterways, thriving ecosystems and high-quality natural spaces that protect our future and improve everyday wellbeing.	4
Built Environment - Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.	4
Economic Development - Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills, and sustainable tourism opportunities.	4
Transport - Rodney has a safer, more reliable, and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.	4

2. Is there anything you think is missing from these focus areas?

3. Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney?
(Select up to 3 options)

Better community facilities,More environmental restoration,Safer roads

4. **Overall, how well does the draft Rodney Local Board Plan, as a whole, reflect the priorities of your community?**

   Quite well

5. **Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?**

Submission: Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

Shelly Beach Community Feedback

Kia ora tātou,

I am providing feedback on behalf of the Shelly Beach Community Committee (SBCC). Shelly Beach is a small, active, rural coastal settlement on the Kaipara Harbour, which is the largest enclosed harbour in the Southern Hemisphere. Despite our small resident population, we are a high-use destination for boaties, fishers, campers, families, and visitors from across the Auckland region.

For many years, our community has quietly "got on with things" despite limited services, inconsistent support, and increasing pressures on our local environment and infrastructure. While we strongly endorse the Draft Rodney Local Board (RLB) Plan's core commitments to **Māori outcomes**, **Climate outcomes**, and **Equitable outcomes**, these commitments are not yet reflected in the support provided to Shelly Beach. As an early-stage developing community, we require enabling investment, practical assistance, and structured partnership to achieve the outcomes described in the plan.

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1. Equitable Outcomes for Rural Communities

The draft plan states that **Equitable Outcomes** must shape all decisions and investments across Rodney. However, smaller, isolated rural communities like Shelly Beach are frequently overlooked in operational decision-making and day-to-day service delivery. We receive short-term, "band-aid" responses to long-standing issues, and both board and council engagement has historically lacked accountability and follow-through.

- **Alignment with the Plan:** To achieve true equity as outlined in the draft plan, the RLB must deliver tailored, right-sized solutions for rural contexts rather than applying urban-scaled models that fail to work in our environment.

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2. Return of the Shelly Beach Café Building to Community Stewardship

The draft plan prioritises **improving access to quality play, recreation, and community facilities by converting them to multi-use, adaptable spaces and prioritising investment based on need**.

Approximately two years ago, over $300,000 of ratepayer funds was spent renovating the Shelly Beach café building. Yet, it remains untenanted, locked, empty, and inaccessible to the community. Shelly Beach has no community hub or indoor space to gather, unlike many other areas of Auckland. Currently, the local fire station supports the committee by allowing monthly meetings to be held there. However, the local fire station must remain as a functional operating facility. Furthermore, it cannot safely host community events or accommodate more than 25 people. The closest community hall is at the end of South Head, which is approximately 30–40 minutes away, making it completely impractical for regular local use.

Currently, the Shelly Beach Community Committee is actively working with the RLB on a long-term business plan to return the building to community ownership (a process estimated to take up to 12 months), **we urgently request an interim agreement with Council, underwritten by the RLB to allow community access and use.**

An interim agreement would immediately enable the community to utilise the building for critical priorities such as:

- **Emergency Coordination & Resilience Hub:** During the devastating 2023 weather events, Shelly Beach was completely immobilised by landslips, fallen trees blocking Shelly Beach residents from leaving, and flooding along the Haranui straights. Confined to our area without power for over seven days and with no agency aid, locals had to chainsaw their way out, using local knowledge, labour, and farm machinery. Our designated emergency supplies are currently stored 30–40 minutes away at South Head. Having an emergency hub in the café building would allow us to gather and co-ordinate a community response and store generators, tools, and food for local supply.
- **Community Wellbeing & Safety Education:** In April 2026, a tragic drowning occurred at Shelly Beach, deeply impacting the community. As a result, several learnings were gained from this tragedy, of which we would like to see the building used to host educational and cultural programs including:
    - *Swim NZ* (water safety)
    - *Kaipara Coastguard* (boating safety)
    - *Ngā Maunga Whakahī o Kaipara* (cultural responses to water safety/drowning)
    - Community wellbeing and counselling sessions.
- **Skills Support and a "Men's Shed" Concept:** Due to the distance from service providers, fuel costs, and high equipment repair call-out fees ($180), locals face high costs for basic maintenance. A Men's Shed operated out of the facility would teach and support generator maintenance, boat/engine servicing, mower/chainsaw repair, fishing reel maintenance, and appliance repairs—significantly boosting community self-reliance.

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3. Cliff Stability, Geotechnical Assurance, and Asset Protection

During the 2023 weather events, significant landslide debris fell from the cliff directly onto the deck of the café building and surrounding public reserve areas. This active slip hazard remains an unresolved risk to public safety, visitor management, and the physical integrity of the café building.

- **Alignment with the Plan:** The Draft Rodney Local Board Plan prioritises **Climate Resilience** and **resilient local infrastructure**. This goal cannot be met while known geotechnical hazards directly threaten public spaces.
- **Our Request:** We request that Council urgently commissions a comprehensive **geotechnical assessment and cliff stability review** for the Shelly Beach cliff face to formally confirm public safety, outline remediation works, and protect both visitors and the café building.

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4. Illegal Camping, Compliance, and Reintroducing Community-Managed Camping

Illegal camping in tents and non-contained vehicles has been a persistent issue. Campers frequently set up tents directly on the beachfront, erect tents over community-provided picnic tables, light

illegal fires, and leave children unattended, causing ongoing environmental, safety, and community wellbeing impacts.

The current compliance system is not fit for purpose; reporting pathways are ineffective, and enforcement rarely occurs after-hours. Additionally, existing camping signs are contradictory (e.g., an entrance sign states self-contained camping is allowed, while a beach sign states it is prohibited).

- **Alignment with the Plan: To reduce waste and pollution through stronger, more proactive compliance** and **support community-led initiatives**.
- **Our Requests:**
    1. **Dedicated After-Hours Security/Compliance:** Provide a seasonal compliance presence/security guard between the hours of (7:00 PM–7:00 AM) during peak periods. In line with community-led goals, we request that a local Shelly Beach resident be trained and employed for this role to leverage local knowledge, ensure immediate response capabilities, remove the frustration of an ineffective council-led process and eliminate travel inefficiencies.
    2. **Reintroduce Community-Managed Self-Contained Camping:** Reintroduce self-contained camping managed locally via a prepaid barrier arm system. A managed system would generate local revenue to cover the café building, sign upgrades and maintenance costs while curbing illegal, unmanaged tenting.

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5. Boat Ramp, Parking, and Visitor Management

As a primary access point to the Kaipara Harbour, the Shelly Beach boat ramp experiences heavy congestion, leading to:

- Severe overflow parking along narrow residential streets.
- Fishers parking on yellow lines directly on the ramp, blocking launching access.
- Vehicles blocking access to the beach and playground.
- Boat trailers parked illegally along Shelly Beach Road.
- Visitors taking up "vehicle only" car parks, preventing families from accessing recreational areas.
- **Our Request:** Implement clear, unambiguous signage, introduce active enforcement of parking restrictions by Auckland Council, and install physical deterrents along Shelly Beach Road to prevent illegal trailer parking.

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6. Signage, Water Safety, and Mātauranga Māori

In addition to correcting parking and camping signage, the recent tragic drowning highlighted a critical lack of warning signage for visitors unfamiliar with local coastal risks.

- **Alignment with the Plan:** Aligns with the three-year objective to **strengthen Māori outcomes in community spaces by supporting the incorporation of mātauranga Māori and partnering with mana whenua**.

- **Our Request:** Perform a full signage audit and install clear warning signs advising visitors of strong currents, dangerous coastal conditions, and sharks in the Kaipara Harbour, designed in partnership with mana whenua to integrate cultural narratives and respect the *mauri* of the harbour.

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7. Maintenance of Parks, Reserves, and Stormwater Ponds

Our reserves and stormwater ponds are currently mowed "as and when it suits contractors," leading to irregular upkeep, overgrown raupō, tree encroachment, and increased vermin and mosquitoes. Specifically, the Council-owned stormwater pond on Omana Avenue is severely neglected; Council has refused to trim trees that encroach on neighbouring properties and impact residents' quiet enjoyment.

- **Our Request:**
    1. Establish a clear, enforceable lawn mowing and maintenance schedule for all local parks, reserves, and the Omana Avenue pond.
    2. Increase oversight of contractor performance, **or** explore handing the maintenance contract directly to the local community to execute, reducing Council expenditure while creating local employment.

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8. Playground Redress & Infrastructure Security

- **Playground Consultation:** During recent upgrades, Council installed two new playgrounds but removed a historic, community-funded playground outside the fire station without prior consultation. This caused significant distrust and frustration. We seek formal sit-down discussions with Council to agree on an appropriate remedy for the community.
- **Toilet Facility Security:** Our high-quality toilet block (which features hot showers) has been repeatedly vandalised. We request security enhancements, including CCTV camera installation to deter vandals, and faster Council response times for plumbing and facility repairs.

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9. Summary of Key Demands

To ensure the aspirations of the Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026 are realised in Shelly Beach, we formally ask the Local Board to support:

1. **An immediate interim access agreement** for the Shelly Beach Café building while the long-term community business plan is finalised.
2. **A geotechnical stability assessment** of the cliff face impacting the café deck and reserve.
3. **Dedicated seasonal after-hours compliance officer (7pm–7am)**, ideally employing and training a local resident.
4. **Reintroduction of self-contained camping** managed via a prepaid barrier arm.
5. **A boat ramp and parking management plan** with active enforcement on Shelly Beach Road.

6. **Water safety and visitor signage** co-designed with mana whenua.
7. **Structured maintenance schedules** (or local community delivery) for parks, reserves, and the Omana Avenue pond.
8. **Direct engagement** regarding redress for the removed community-funded playground and security upgrades for the toilet block.

We ask the Rodney Local Board to stop overlooking Shelly Beach, recognise Shelly Beach as a priority rural community that requires tailored and practical solutions.

Investing in Shelly Beach is a direct investment in the Local Board's vision for climate resilience, community wellbeing, and stronger outcomes for all residents. We look forward to working alongside the RLB to address these urgent priorities and build a safer, more connected, and better-supported community for generations to come.

Ngā mihi nui

[redacted]

[redacted]