Rodney Local Board Plan 2026 Summary of Feedback

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Summary of feedback on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026

Purpose

This report summarises feedback received during the public consultation in June/July to inform the development of the Rodney Local Board Plan. This summary aims to capture themes rather than detail every point of feedback received.

Executive Summary

Local board plans are strategic three-year plans developed in consultation with the community. They set out the direction for the local area reflecting community aspirations and priorities, and guide:

- decisions on local activities, projects, and facilities
- local board input into the council's regional strategies and plans, including the Auckland Plan
- how local boards will work with other agencies, including community groups, central government agencies and council-controlled organisations that play key roles in the area
- funding and investment decisions.

Local board plans focus on the key areas local boards are responsible for and include objectives and some of the key initiatives that will be carried out to achieve them.

During the June to July consultation period, 561 pieces of feedback were received on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026, including 59 submissions from organisations, iwi and marae.

Tabel 1: Number of submissions received from each of the submission channels

Submission Channel	Total submissions	Percent of submissions
Online forms	389	69%
Hardcopy forms	48	9%
Emailed submissions	14	2%
Event and Buzzly feedback	110	20%
TOTAL	561	100%

Engagement Approach

The draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026 was developed using feedback received from public engagement carried out between November 2025 and March 2026. Feedback previously heard from the community on a wide range of topics, particularly during the 2026 Annual Budget consultation period, was also considered.

Between 23 June and 23 July 2026, the local board consulted on the draft plan to hear the community's thoughts. Feedback was received through Have Your Say events, written submissions including online and hard copy forms and emails and a Buzzly campaign for rangatahi (youth).

Support was provided to submitters including:

- documents in a variety of formats including a summary of the draft local board plan and an EasyRead explanation of local board plans and an EasyRead feedback form
- information at Auckland Council libraries
- online webinars and information available on the AK Have Your Say hub page.

This report summarises the key activities that took place and the feedback that was heard during both the early engagement and the consultation period.

Māori engagement

Mana whenua

In early 2026 mana whenua were invited to engage with staff from relevant local boards in joint hui. The below mana whenua identified an interest in the Rodney Local Board:

- Ngāti Manuhiri
- Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara
- Te Uri o Hau
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
- Te Kawerau ā Maki.

Joint local board hui with staff took place with four mana whenua in February and March 2026. Te Kawerau ā Maki were unable to meet at the time, however provided high level feedback by email.

Mana whenua were sent a copy of the draft local board plan in June 2026 and encouraged to provide feedback, either in-person or in-writing.

Feedback was received from the mana whenua entities:

- Ngāti Manuhiri
- Nga Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara Development Trust
- Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua.

Marae and mātāwaka

Feedback on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2026 was received from the Otakanini Haranui Marae Trust Board. In addition, regional feedback was received via an online hui and written submission from Te Kotahi-ā-Tāmaki (Marae Collective).

Stakeholder and community engagement

Table 1: Summary of early engagement activities

Activity	Details
Mana whenua engagement – hui with Ngāti Manuhiri	An in-person hui with a Ngāti Manuhiri representative, staff from Rodney, Hibiscus and Bays and Upper Harbour Local Boards and Auckland Council's Ngā

	Mātārae Department was held in March. Auckland Council's annual plan team joined online to discuss the annual plan consultation.
Mana whenua engagement – hui with Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara	An online hui with Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara representatives, staff from Rodney and Upper Harbour Local Boards and Ngā Mātārae was held in February.
Mana whenua engagement – hui with Te Uri o Hau	An online hui with Te Uri o Hau representatives, staff from Rodney Local Board and Ngā Mātārae was held in February. Auckland Council's annual plan team joined online to discuss the annual plan consultation.
Mana whenua engagement – hui with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua	An online hui with a Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua representative, staff from Rodney and Upper Harbour Local Boards and Ngā Mātārae was held in February.
Mana whenua engagement with Te Kawerau ā Maki	Provided email feedback as part of early engagement.
Auckland Have Your Say (early engagement)	Between November 2025 and 4 January 2026 Auckland Have Your Say (AkHYS) provided an avenue for interested people and organisations to provide early online feedback on what they thought the draft local board plan should include. 113 online submissions were received, including four from organisations. Feedback was able to be provided directly to the local board after consultation on the AKHYS website had closed.
Other community feedback	A range of other community feedback was received including: • Five submissions from the Leigh Youth group • Seven submissions from Horizon School • Emails from ten community organisations and individuals.
Buzzly campaign	Buzzly is a digital platform and app designed to engage young people (aged 13 to 24) in civic participation, policy making and community decisions. It has not been used in Rodney previously and during the early engagement period no submissions were received from the Rodney local board area via the Buzzly digital platform.
Regional stakeholders' hui	In February 2026, an online regional stakeholder hui and in-person hui for north/west stakeholders and south stakeholders attracted 141 attendees.
Huapai Domain drop-in	In December 2025 feedback was collected during a community BBQ drop-in at Huapai Domain, during Saturday crickets matches. 34 simplified feedback forms were collected.

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period

Activity	Details
Have Your Say Event – Wellsford Centennial Park Courts opening drop-in on 20 June	A drop-in hosted by the Rodney Local Board during the Wellsford Centennial Park Courts opening celebration provided an opportunity for the broader Wellsford community to talk to local board members. Detailed conversations were held with approximately 30 people, with local organisation representatives talking to people on the day and taking forms to distribute. Eighteen hard copy feedback forms were collected.
Have Your Say Event – Warkworth library drop-in on 30 June	A Warkworth Library drop-in hosted by the Rodney Local Board and supported by three local board members provided an opportunity for local board members to talk to people visiting the library.

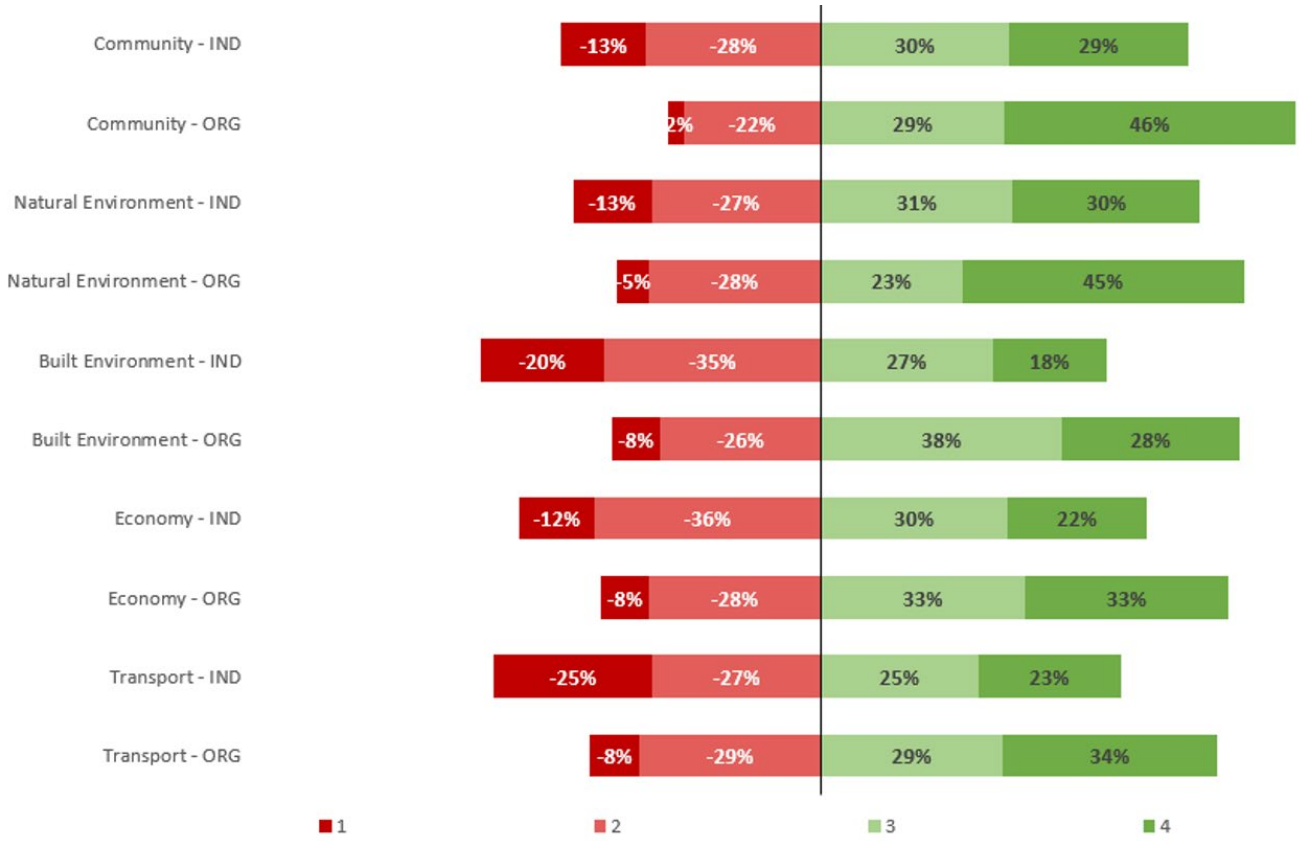
Have Your Say Event – Hearing-style event on 1 July	A hearing style event was hosted at the Rodney Local Board office, Warkworth. Ten groups registered and presented. Individuals and groups were able to present online or in-person, however all chose to present in-person.
Have Your Say Event – Puhoi Markets drop-in on 5 July	A local board plan drop-in was held at the Puhoi Markets where the local board member talked to approximately 30 people including local groups. Two hard copy feedback forms were collected.
Have Your Say Event – Village Markets at Helensville Showgrounds drop-in on 19 July	A drop-in session at the Village Markets at Helensville Showgrounds was supported by two elected members. In addition to conversations and providing QR codes to the AKHYS webpage, approximately 15 community members provided feedback as sticky dots or on post-it notes and two feedback forms were received.
Have Your Say Event – Kumeū Market drop-in on 19 July 2026	A drop-in session at the Kumeū Markets was supported by two elected members. In addition to conversations, approximately 10 community members provided feedback as sticky dots or on post-it notes.
Other engagement with groups	Local board members spoke about the importance of feedback on the draft plan to numerous groups across the local board area including many Residents and Ratepayers groups and a variety of other groups such as Puhoi Community Forum, Waiwera valley Assoc, Waitoki Hall and Community Group, Mahurangi Sports and Recreational Collective, Puhoi Volunteer Fire Brigade, Hoteo North Hall and Community Group, Mahurangi Equestrian Group and Rodney Voices. Staff hosted events with specific groups including: • Hare Krishna School • Warkworth library language group • Council staff drop in event for northern local boards at the Auckland Council office in Albany.
Advisory Panel – Seniors and Disability Panels on 3 July 2026	The hui brought together members of the Seniors Advisory Panel and Disability Advisory Panel to discuss priorities within the Draft Local Board Plans 2026. The Chairperson and Deputy for Rodney and members of eight other local boards were invited to the session.
Buzzly regional campaign	Four pieces of feedback from Rodney young people were collected through the Buzzly online feedback platform.
Marae and mātāwaka regional hui on 3 July 2026	Members of Te Kotahi a Tāmaki (Marae Collective) and others were invited to a hui. No Te Kotahi a Tāmaki members from the Rodney Local Board area attended.

Summary of feedback

General feedback on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan

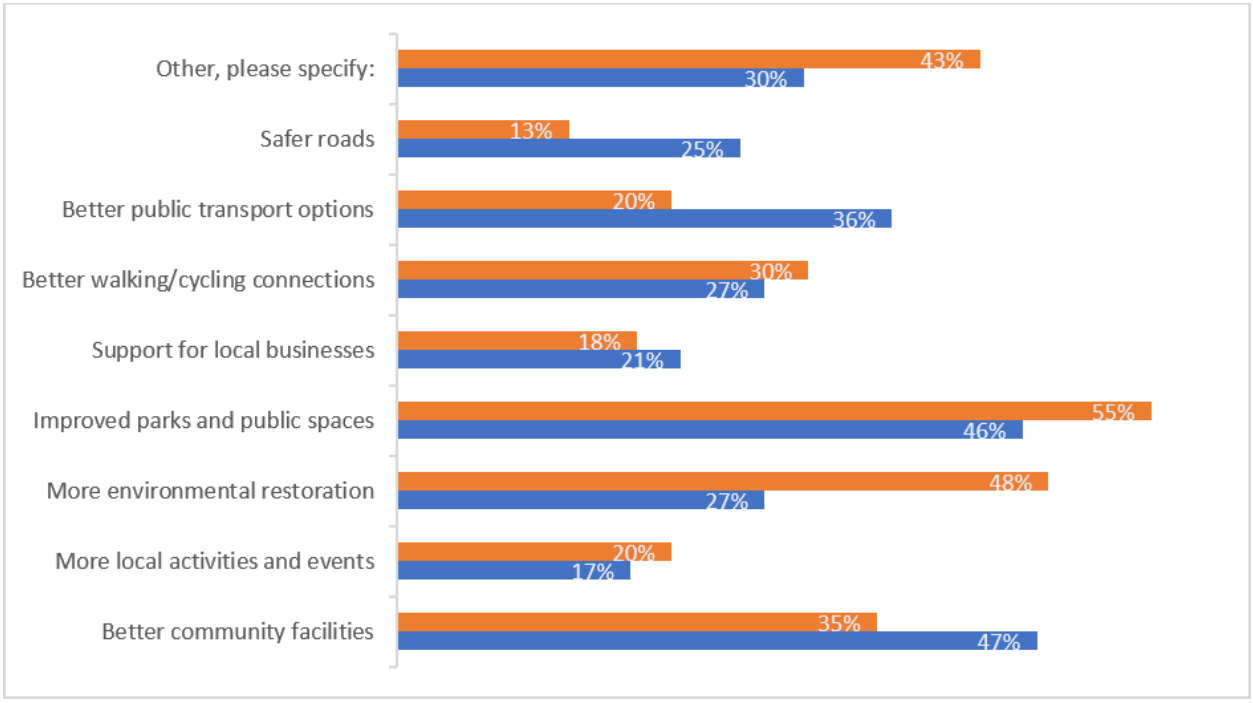
The following three quantitative questions were asked of the draft local board plan. Those that responded to these questions provided the following feedback.

How well do these focus areas reflect what matters most to your community? (1 = Not at all and 4 = Very well)



Note: The feedback from individuals (IND) and organisations (ORG) is separated in the above graph.

Which improvements would you most like to see in Rodney? (select up to three)

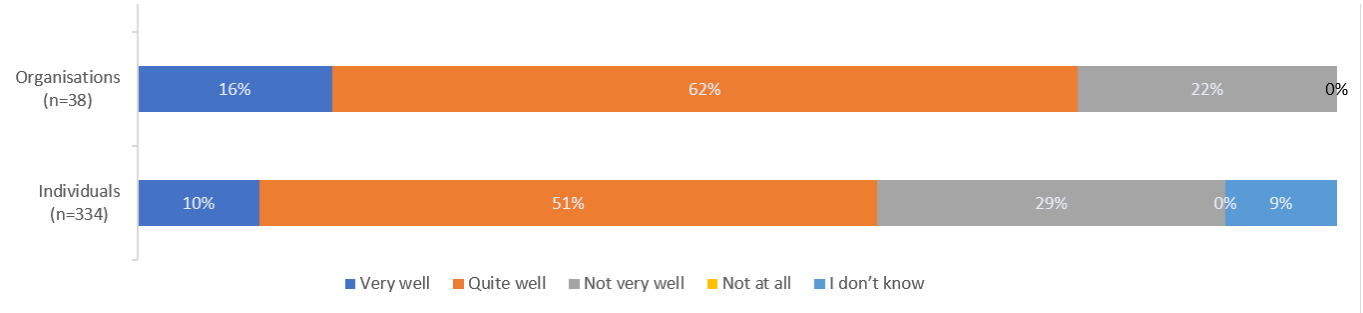


Note: Organisational feedback is in orange and individual feedback is in blue.

For those who submitted that something other than in the list was missing (43% organisations and 30% individuals), the following was specified:

- Transport and roading infrastructure was the strongest theme
- A Warkworth/North Rodney swimming pool emerged as a major facility request
- Strong equestrian advocacy
- Heritage support was a significant theme

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



The majority of individuals and organisations that responded to this final question felt that the draft local board plan reflected the community priorities well.

Feedback on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan by focus areas

Two qualitative (free text) questions were asked in the survey. These were:

- Is there anything missing from these focus areas?
- Do you have any other feedback you would like to share about the draft local board plan?

Feedback from individuals on what was missing from the focus areas was evenly split between Transport (38%) and Community (38%), which were the areas most frequently identified as having gaps. Feedback from organisations, however, primarily identified gaps in the Community focus area (35%).

For the final question, general feedback on the plan from individuals was focused primarily on Transport (71%) and Community (52%), with many respondents commenting on more than one focus area. Organisations largely commented on Community (71%) and Natural Environment (53%), while Māori entities most frequently commented on Community (83%) and Natural Environment (83%).

Comments provided in responses to both these questions reflected very similar themes.

For each focus area, an excerpt from the draft plan is followed by a summary of key themes raised in organisational (including Māori entities) and individual submissions.

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.

Objectives

- Provide parks and open spaces for all ages, abilities, interests and cultural backgrounds that encourage participation and improve wellbeing.
- Build climate-resilient community spaces by planning and designing parks and facilities that adapt to climate change, using nature-based solutions where possible.
- Strengthen Māori outcomes in community spaces by supporting the incorporation of mātauranga Māori and partnering with mana whenua through co-design to protect and restore the mauri of places and spaces.
- Improve access to quality play, recreation and community facilities by converting them to multi-use, adaptable spaces and prioritising investment based on need, usage and growth.
- Support vibrant, connected communities by enabling local placemaking, events, arts, culture and community-led activities that strengthen local identity and retain rural and small-town character.
- Strengthen community resilience and preparedness so communities are better equipped to respond to growth, change and emergencies, including through active community emergency hubs and local leadership.

Advocacy priorities

- Advocate for the retention and to increase investment in the Sport and Recreation Facilities Investment Fund and Regional Sport and Recreational Facilities Operating Grant which enable our residents to take part in community sports and recreation activities.
- Advocate for more investment in regional parks in our local board area to meet the pressures of population growth and tourism.
- 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.

Key themes from the feedback from both individuals and organisations are as follows:

Individuals	Organisations
Heritage and local identity Museums preserve local identity, heritage orgs support community wellbeing, volunteer workload, not explicitly recognised in the draft plan.	**Heritage, arts, culture and local identity**: Heritage, cultural identity and the arts are seen as important contributors to community connection and wellbeing.
Community facilities, such as parks, recreation facilities, sports facilities, youth facilities and community hubs, have not kept pace with growth, particularly in Warkworth, Milldale, Kumeū and Helensville.	**Sport, recreation, play and community facilities**: Continued investment is needed to meet population growth and improve community wellbeing.
Swimming pool / leisure centre To support water safety, youth development, equity with other local board areas and recreation	**Inclusion, wellbeing and equitable communities**: Greater emphasis is sought on accessibility, health, safety, food resilience and equitable access to services.
	Partnerships, community leadership and mana whenua engagement: Submitters support stronger community-led delivery and more meaningful partnerships with mana whenua and marae.

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.

Objectives

- 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.
- Improve the health and resilience of waterways, wetlands, and catchments through restoration and integrated management.
- Strengthen climate resilience using nature-based solutions, improved land and soil management, and adaptive planning.
- Reduce waste and pollution through local recovery initiatives, education and stronger, more proactive compliance.
- 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 science-based solutions to waste reduction outcomes.
- 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.
- Advocate for sustained, region-wide investment in nature-based flood resilience and blue-green networks, particularly where these approaches can help address flood risk in rural catchments, coastal settlements and growth area.

Advocacy priorities

Key themes from the feedback from both individuals and organisations are as follows:

Individuals	Organisations
Support for local conservation work in particular support for restoration groups, predator control,	**Environmental restoration, biodiversity and kaitiakitanga**: Strong support exists for restoring

biodiversity programmes and community-led environmental projects.	ecosystems, protecting biodiversity and supporting Māori-led environmental initiatives.
Water quality, especially Mahurangi Harbour, rivers, contamination after rain and wastewater impacts.	**Catchment health, water quality and climate resilience**: Improved water quality, catchment management and climate adaptation remain key environmental priorities.
Flood resilience, with interest in stream clearing, culvert maintenance, catchment management and flood mitigation.	**Community-led and iwi-led environmental delivery**: Submitters want long-term support for volunteers, environmental groups and iwi-led restoration programmes.
	Environmental protection and waste minimisation: There is support for stronger environmental safeguards, compliance.

Built Environment

Rodney grows well with resilient, high-quality public spaces and infrastructure that reflect local character and support healthy, well-designed communities.

Objectives

- Strengthen town centres and local hubs so they remain vibrant, attractive and reflect local character, supported by coordinated placemaking and high-quality public spaces.
- Ensure growth is supported by the parks, paths, public spaces and facilities our communities need, using partnerships and development opportunities to secure high-quality outdoor recreation and community infrastructure.
- Improve the resilience of buildings, public spaces and local infrastructure by encouraging future-proofed, climate-ready design and supporting communities to reduce the impacts of extreme weather.

Advocacy priorities

- Ensure Rodney's community priorities and local character are clearly understood and considered in decisions around planning and growth.
- Advocate for strengthened stormwater management, including higher service standards and more regular maintenance of drains and overland flow paths, to safeguard residential and commercial areas from flooding and climate-related impacts.
- Advocate in support of measures to prevent inappropriate development in flood prone areas.
- 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.
- Advocate for appropriate controls to prevent ad hoc light industrial development in rural zones to protect the special character in and around our rural villages.
- Advocate for investment and planning that provides equitable access to quality education, hospital services and essential care facilities across Rodney, addressing the unique challenges of a geographically large and mostly rural local board area.
- Advocate for a thorough review of the compliance process and policy that applies to rural septic systems to reduce the burden on rural residents where the environmental risk is low.
- 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.

Key themes from the feedback from both individuals and organisations are as follows:

Individuals	Organisations
Infrastructure before growth, especially in Warkworth Milldale, Kumeū-Huapai and Helensville. Frustration that development proceeds first, infrastructure arrives later and communities carry the consequences.	**Growth must be matched by infrastructure**: Growth should be supported by transport, utilities, community facilities and services before development proceeds.
Rural and small-town character with support for protecting open space, retaining rural character, avoiding unchecked urban sprawl and protecting productive land	**Protect local character, heritage and cultural identity**: Rodney's rural character, heritage and cultural values should remain central as communities grow.
	Better growth planning and stronger local influence: Submitters seek more coordinated planning and greater community and mana whenua involvement in growth decisions.
	Community infrastructure in growth areas: Additional recreation, community and accessible facilities are needed in rapidly growing areas.

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.

Objectives

- Strong, resilient local businesses and thriving town centres.
- Grow the visitor economy through sustainable, place-based tourism.
- Improve access to local jobs, skills, and training pathways.

Advocacy priorities

- Advocate to ensure growth includes enough land for businesses and employment, enabling local jobs, reducing commuting and keeping economic spend local.

Key themes from the feedback from both individuals and organisations are as follows:

Individuals	Organisations
Youth employment: issues with lack of part-time jobs, limited local opportunities and need to travel significant distances for work.	**Tourism, heritage and the visitor economy**: Sustainable tourism and visitor experiences are seen as important economic drivers for Rodney.
Supporting local business, especially town centres and local employment.	**Māori economic development**: Stronger recognition is sought for Māori enterprise, employment and economic opportunities.
Visitor economy and tourism, for stronger emphasis on destination management, visitor infrastructure, town centre vitality and heritage tourism.	**Business resilience, skills and local employment**: Submitters support initiatives that strengthen local businesses, workforce skills and local jobs.
	Food resilience and community economic resilience: Local food systems are increasingly viewed as supporting economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

Transport

Rodney has a safer, more reliable and better-connected transport network that supports rural communities, town centres and access to key destinations.

Priorities

- Improve the safety, reliability and performance of rural roads by addressing key factors like drainage, visibility, surface condition and shoulder integrity
- Create safer, more connected walking and cycling routes to key local destinations.
- Expand and improve the ways people can reach public transport from rural communities and growth areas.

Advocacy

- Advocate for the extension of the Northwestern Busway to Huapai as part of the Northwest Rapid Transport Corridor.
- Advocate for an additional pedestrian crossing at Rodney Street, Wellsford (from the War Memorial Park to public toilets).
- Advocate to upgrade the rail line from Swanson to Helensville to enable passenger trains.

Key themes from the feedback from both individuals and organisations are as follows:

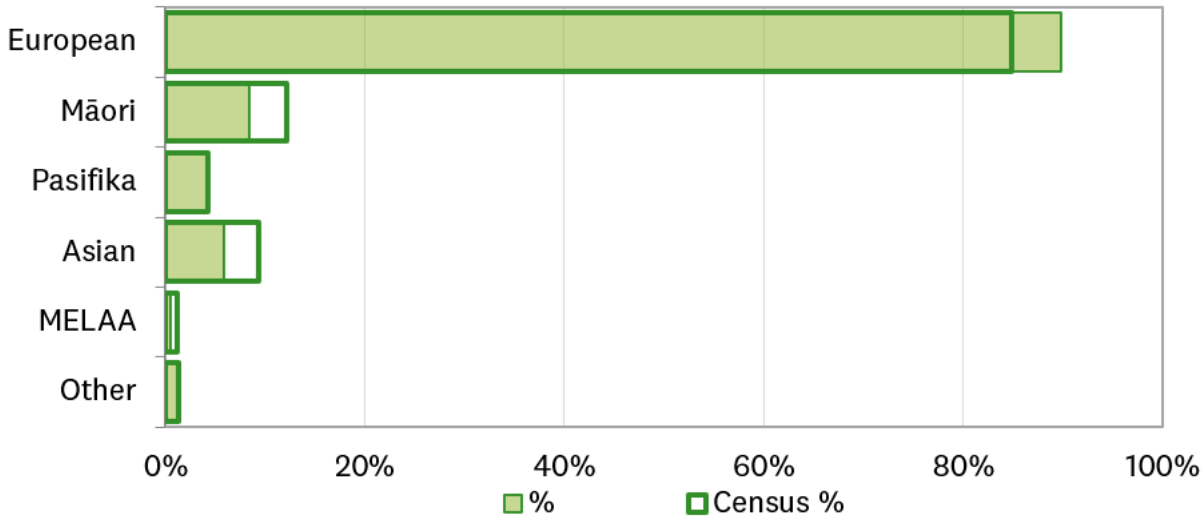
Individuals	Organisations
Roads, with concerns about road maintenance, potholes, unsealed roads, congestion, footpaths and safety (including pedestrian safety).	**Active transport and greenways**: Strong support for walking, cycling, equestrian access, recreational trails and greenway networks.
Public transport: Poor coverage, infrequent services, weak rural connections and gaps in growth areas, passenger rail and park and ride facilities.	**Improved public transport and connectivity**: Better public transport and stronger connections between communities are widely sought.
Equestrian access, requests for horse trails, bridleways, shared trail access and equestrian infrastructure.	**Rural road safety and resilience**: Improving road safety, resilience and reliability remains a key transport priority.
	Transport equity and access: Transport investments should improve access to employment, services, recreation and community participation.

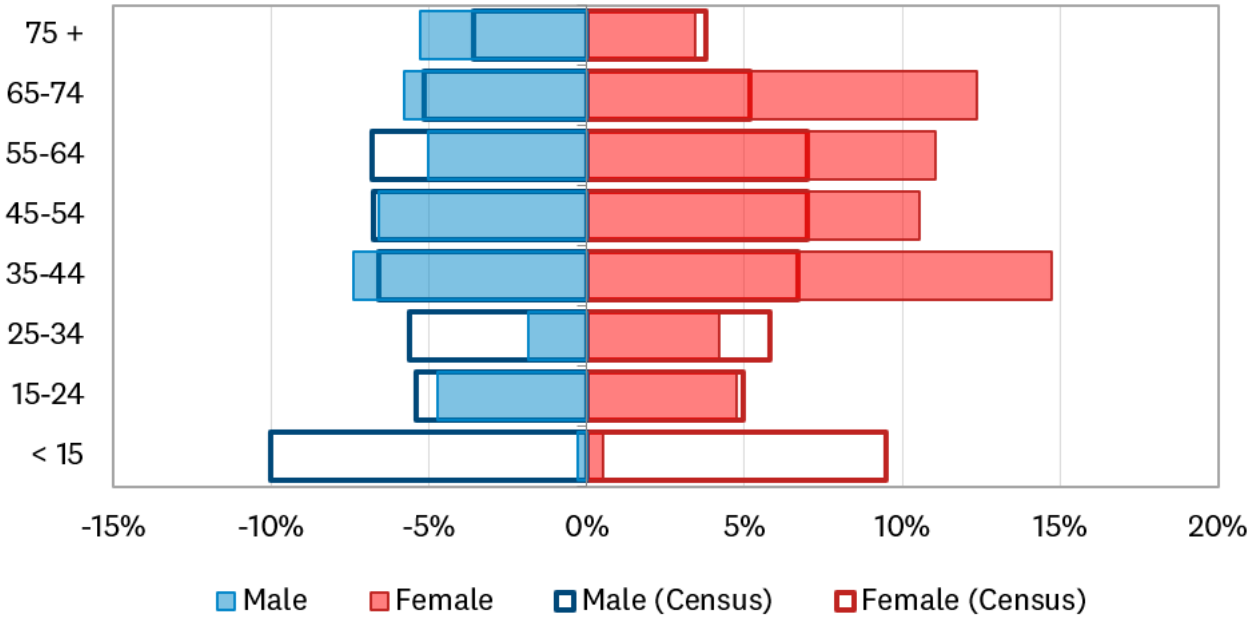
Who we heard from

The tables and graphs below indicate the demographic profile of those that answered the demographic questions.

Submitters (Individuals vs Organisation)	Submission Data	Buzzly	Event	Total	%
Individual	396	4	102	502	89%
Organisation	59	0	0	59	11%
Total	**455**	**4**	**102**	**561**	**100%**

Organisation includes Iwi Feedback Form and Marae/Maori Groups Feedback form





Submissions from organisations

53 organisations provided submissions on the Rodney Local Board plan 2026. Of these 12 were from organisations outside the local board area. However, most of the latter provided feedback specific to Rodney.

Submissions from Rodney based organisations	
1. Albertland Heritage Museum	22. Pākiri Beach Holiday Park
2. Art Centre Helensville	23. Pest Free Dairy Flat & Waitoki
3. Badminton North Harbour	24. Point Wells Community & Ratepayers Association Library Chair
4. Blackbridge Environmental Protection Society Inc .	25. Point Wells Community and Ratepayers Association
5. City Builders Association	26. Puhoi community forum
6. Coatesville Resident and Rate Payer Association	27. Puhoi Heritage Museum
7. Friends of Awa Matakanakana Catchment Inc	28. Restore Rodney East Incorporated
8. Gold Peacock Nails and Beauty	29. Rodney Inclusive Communities Initiative

9. Green Road Park Supporters Incorporated aka Friends of Green Road	30. Shelly Beach Community Committee
10. Kawau Island Residents and Ratepayers Association	31. Snells Beach Community Association
11. Kiribati Rodney Community Trust	32. Takatu LandCare Group
12. Mahurangi Community Planning Group Inc	33. Taupaki Community Residents and Ratepayers Association
13. Mahurangi Equestrian Advocate Group	34. Te Awaroa Museum
14. Mahurangi Pickleball Club Inc	35. Waiwera Valley Association
15. Matakana Pony club	36. Warkworth & District Museum Society Inc
16. Muriwai Environmental Trust	37. Warkworth area Forest and Bird Organisation
17. North Auckland Museums	38. Warkworth Football Club
18. North West Country Incorporated	39. Wellsford Netball Club
19. Northern Action group Inc.	40. Whangateau Harbour Care Group Inc
20. Ōmaha Shorebird Protection Trust	41. Whangateau Resident and Ratepayers Association Incorporated
21. Our Village	

Submissions from outside the local board area	
1. Aktive	7. Harbour Sport
2. Civic Trust Auckland	8. Harikoa Foundation Trust Board
3. Communities Against Alcohol Harm	9. Healthy Auckland Together
4. Community Groups Feeding the Homeless	10. National Public Health Service – Northern Region
5. Creative New Zealand (Arts Council of New Zealand Toi Aotearoa)	11. Te Taumata Toi-a-Iwi Arts Regional Trust
6. Gardens4Health	12. The Tree Council