

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2024/2025

RODNEY LOCAL BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Volume
2.16

Mihi

Tēnā, ngā mihi te tukuna atu nei ki a koutou
e nga manawhenua
e kapekape tonu nei
i ngā ahikā roa e horapa mai nā
ki te taha whakararo o te tipua tāone nei
o Tāmaki Makaurau.
Kia pāorooro tēnei karere
mā runga i ō maunga whakahī.
Kia tīmata ake au i te Kumeū,
ka rere whakawaho ki te one tapu o Muriwai.
Kia hoki ake ki uta, ko Tauwhare ki te rāwhiti,
a Tarawera ki te raki,
ki te taha whakaroto
ko Tuhirangi rāua ko Te Atuanui
Kia kauhoe ngā mihi mā te moana
ki te Araparera
ko koe tēnā e Taranaki,
ka kapi ngā pou tauawhi i a te Kaipara
i hua ai te kōrero,
“E tupu i wīwī, i wāwā, tūria i te wera,
piri ki te rito o te rengarenga,
waiho me whakapakari ki te hua o te kawariki.”

Ināiane me māwhiti aku kupu ki Kaiwaka,
ki Pukekaroro ki te raraunga o te tini i mate,
te aroha tonutia i muri nei.
Kia tahuri iho rā ia ki Matakana,
ko Tamahunga tērā e tū mai rā i te pae.
Ka hīkoi aku mihi mā ngā kāhiwi
kia heke iho ki te awa o Pūhoi
kia rere aku mihi ki te tuawhenua
i nohoa e te iti me te rahi.
Kia ū mai anō taku haere ki Huapai,
ā-tangata, ā-whenua.
Nō rātou te whiwhi, nō mātou te whiwhi,
kia kī ake ai tātou katoa,
“He rohenga tangata,
he iwi tōpuni,
mōwai tonu te whenua e takoto nei e.”

Our greetings and salutations to you
the mana whenua
who continue to tend
the historical fires that encompass
this great city
of Auckland.
May this message echo
across your noble mountains.
Let me begin at Kumeū
then turn outwards to the sacred sands of Muriwai.
I hook inward again where eastward, is Tauwhare,
to the north is Tarawera,
and inland stands
Tuhirangi and Atuanui.
Let this greeting travel the inland sea
to Araparera
where Taranaki
completes the guardians of the Kaipara,
who inspired the proclamation,
“People will grow here and there, upright in the heat,
hiding like the shoots of the rengarenga,
and maturing like the fruit of the kawariki.”

Now let my words cross to Kaiwaka
and Pukekaroro, the scene of past losses
that are still mourned today.
Turning then to Matakana,
where stands Tamahunga on the horizon.
Let this greeting follow the ridgeline
down to the Pūhoi River
where it can return inland to the valleys
where the original settlers came.
Our journey ends at Huapai,
of people, and land.
Their good fortune is our shared providence,
so, the axiom,
“The community
are people in communion,
and a calm lies over the land.”

◀ On the cover: The Rodney Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan, created with Auckland Emergency Management, offers practical guidance to residents and businesses in emergencies.

He kōrero mō tēnei rīpoata

About this report

This annual report tells the story of how Auckland Council has performed in delivering services in the Rodney Local Board area from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2024/2025. It’s part of the wider annual reporting package for the Auckland Council Group and meets our Local Government Act 2002 obligations to report on our performance against agreed measures. It reports against the council’s Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Rodney Local Board Agreement 2024/2025.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It features a story about a council or community activity that adds special value to the area and demonstrates how **together we’re delivering for Auckland.**

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◀ The new Restore Rodney East community events trailer supports local environmental groups, schools, businesses, and neighbourhoods to develop skills to get involved in environmental projects.

He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

On behalf of the Rodney Local Board, I am pleased to present our annual report for the financial year 2024/2025.

Over the past year, we have successfully completed several key projects. These include the refurbishment of the Helensville War Memorial Hall and the Mahurangi East Community Hall, as well as the development of new toilet facilities in Glasgow Park and repairs to the Puhoi Town Library following flooding in 2023. We're proud of these improvements and the positive impact they've had on our local communities.

We adopted both the Rodney Emergency Readiness and Response Plan, which will support local communities to get ready for, and respond to, an emergency, and the Rodney Play Plan to help guide our future investment in play.

The local board has also supported a range of new programmes and activities through its Rodney Youth Project and our libraries continue to offer a range of activities for all ages.

Our volunteers are a testament to our community and demonstrate our ability to withstand challenges and achieve strong outcomes when we work together. These partnerships are greatly valued by the local board.

The 2025/2026 financial year will see the introduction of the council's new Fairer Funding model for local boards. For Rodney, this means additional funding that will allow us to invest more in local services to better meet the needs of our growing community.

We continue to strongly advocate for sufficient funding for Auckland Transport to maintain and renew our roading network—an essential priority for our largely rural area, and to stop out of sequence development and urban sprawl.

There is still a lot to do, and a lot of new challenges await as we continue to navigate the impacts of growth that are reshaping Rodney. Even so, what we have all achieved so far is something we can be very proud of.

Ngā mihi,



Brent Bailey
Chairperson,
Rodney Local Board



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney

Rodney Local Board



▲
(L to R) Tim Holdgate, Michelle Carmichael, Colin Smith, Mark Dennis, Brent Bailey (Chairperson), Geoff Upson, Ivan Wagstaff, Louise Johnston (Deputy Chairperson) and Guy Wishart

Contact us



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Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

Rodney projects and improvements

Key to current and planned projects

✓
Delivered projects

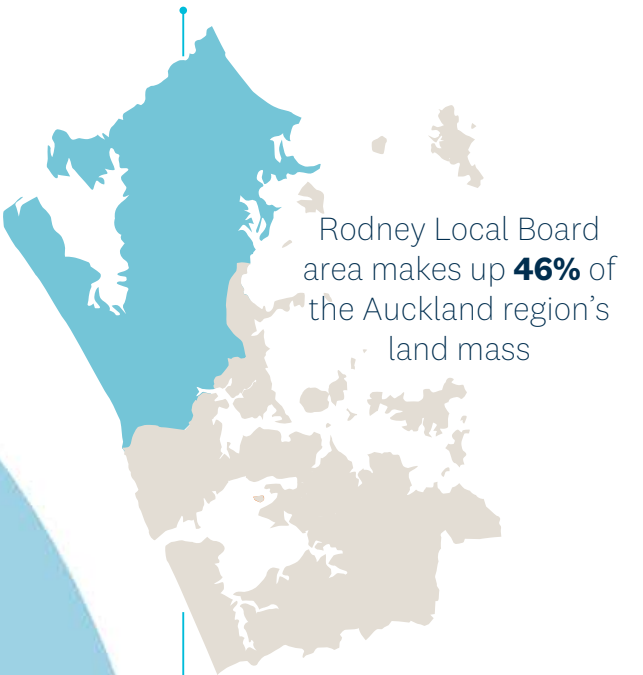
- 1 Helensville, 49 Commercial Rd - comprehensive renewal
- 2 Mahurangi Community Building - comprehensive renewal
- 3 Whangateau Reserve - rebuild toilet blocks, renew wastewater system and renew hall roof
- 4 Glasgow Park - develop toilet facilities
- 5 Tapora - renew open space assets

🚶
Current projects

- 1 Harry James Reserve - renew playspace, pathways, carpark and drainage
- 2 Riverhead - develop toilet facilities at Dinning Road Esplanade Reserve and Murray Jones Reserve
- 3 Wellsford Centennial Park - renew major assets
- 4 Whangateau Holiday Park - deliver all accessible rear amenity block
- 5 Waterloo Reserve Milldale - develop playspace and toilet provision
- 6 Queen Street Accessway - replace storm damaged boardwalk that connects the river walkway with Queen Street
- 7 Muriwai Village Green - renew open space assets and improve wheeled play assets

Map legend

- Local board office
- Public open space (Unitary Plan)
- Motorway
- Major road
- Arterial road
- Medium road
- Minor road



Rodney Local Board area makes up **46%** of the Auckland region's land mass

Rodney has a population of **77,949** and is expected to increase to **103,946** by 2050



We are home to more than **350** local parks, **5** libraries, **23** council-owned community halls. Rodney has more than **1500km** of coastline, **37** towns and villages



Council Growth Scenario AGS23v1 (Feb 2024), StatsNZ Census 2023 (initial release May 2024)

Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

KEY

●●●● Achieved ●●●● Substantially achieved (+/-2% slim margin) ●●●● Not achieved ●●●● Not measured

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 122-123 of Volume 1 of this Annual Report.

Local Community Services

We continued to support strong, diverse, and vibrant communities through libraries and literacy, arts and culture, parks, sport and recreation, and events delivered by a mix of council services, community group partnerships and volunteers.

The Mahurangi Community Building and the Helensville Library had comprehensive renewals to improve the longevity and safety of these two busy hubs which serve local groups, sports clubs, schools, and the wider community. We continued to work on open spaces, streetscape and township improvements such as Muriwai Village Green, Port Albert Recreation Reserve and Coatesville Recreation Reserve.

We continued to support activities and programmes for children and young people, maximising the use of our libraries, halls and open spaces. We also supported our arts centres in Helensville and Kumeū and continue to extend arts experiences to other parts of Rodney.

Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities

The number of visits to library facilities	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	269,000	278,025
	2024	300,000	287,679

Percentage of time physical library services are accessible to the community ¹	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	100%	99.6%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local community facility asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition ²	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	83%	90%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of local community events delivered	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	12	10
	2024	New measure	New measure

Funding was made available for the Waitangi and Matariki events, and organisers were informed of the opportunity. However, the funding was not used during the year, and these two events were not delivered.

Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives

Number of partner organisations supported to sustain their governance capacity and capability	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	20	30
	2024	New measure	New measure

Targets were set conservatively as this is a new measure; however, outcomes surpassed expectations, supported by local board funding and reflecting strong community interest.

Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and ngahere) and access to the coast

Percentage of local parks, facilities and spaces meeting maintenance quality standards ³	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	90%	93%
	2024	New measure	New measure

Percentage of local open space asset components that are not in poor or very poor condition	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	94%	90%
	2024	New measure	New measure

7.5 per cent of assets are currently rated as poor, and 2.6 per cent as very poor. While most poor-condition assets have been renewed, a significant proportion of land fixture assets - such as bins, fitness equipment, drinking fountains and seating - have deteriorated from average to poor or very poor condition.

1. This measure compares actual opening hours to advertised opening hours to achieve a result.
2. For definitions of “Community Facilities” and “Local open space assets” please refer to the Glossary in Volume 1 of this Annual Report, pages 124-126
3. Maintenance quality standards are defined through SOP (Standard Operating Procedures) and asset maintenance contracts. These standards are monitored by staff who have received specialised training and are audited through a quality process to ensure consistent scoring.

Local planning and development

We supported local town centres and communities to thrive by developing town centre plans and development, supporting Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), and heritage plans and initiatives.

We continued to plan for and deliver functioning and attractive business districts with great accessibility and public amenities that provide appealing places to work and to promote the ‘keep it local’ theme.

Support a strong local economy

Percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) targeted rate grant agreement obligations	●●●●	Target	Result
	2025	100%	100%
	2024	100%	100%

Local environmental management

We supported healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, and waste minimisation projects. The Restore Rodney East Facilitator supported community groups and private landowners to do environmental and biodiversity conservation action. The Rodney West coordinators engaged, supported, educated and empowered community groups and private landowners to undertake environmental and conservation action throughout the year.

Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage

Number of hectares actively controlling animal pests that are directly managed by coordinators supported by the local board		Target	Result
	2025	8,850	9,250
	2024	New measure	New measure

Number of community groups supported in stream enhancement programmes		Target	Result
	2025	1	0
	2024	New measure	New measure

There were delivery issues with this programme and it was rescoped during the financial year.

Number of community groups supported to undertake waste initiatives		Target	Result
	2025	1	1
	2024	New measure	New measure

Local governance

These activities supported the local board in engaging with and representing its communities, and in making decisions on local activities. This included strategic advice; local board plans, agreements and work programmes; community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities; and democracy and administrative support.

Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori communities

Number of local activities that deliver moderate to high outcomes for Māori as outlined in ‘Kia Ora Tāmaki Makaurau’ (Council’s Māori outcomes framework)		Target	Result
	2025	Set baseline	12
	2024	New measure	New measure



◀ Willem Theunissen, Handre and Luhan playing at Glasgow Park with the new toilet facility in the background.



▲ The step-free footbridge at Kōwhai Park makes it easy for cyclists and walkers to access buses, nature and sports activities.



▲ Young runners tackle the Pop Up Obstacle Course at Rautawhiri Park, part of Rodney’s free summer events with Out & About Auckland



▲ The seawall at Baddeleys Beach has been repaired after storm damage.

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe

Local flavour

New footbridge opens in Wellsford

A new footpath and pedestrian bridge have opened in Wellsford, enabling residents to walk from Rodney Street to Centennial Park without having to cross busy State Highway 1.

Hon. Chris Penk, MP for Kaipara Ki Mahurangi, Auckland Council elected members and staff, Auckland Transport staff, Wharehine, KiwiRail, Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa and the Wellsford community attended a blessing conducted by Mātanga – Tikanga me Te Reo Māori Richard Nahi in February.

The new footpath runs from the existing footpath in Rodney Street to Centennial Park Road along the eastern side of the highway. A new footbridge east of the vehicle overbridge completes the footpath link over the railway tracks to Centennial Park Road.

The footpath link is important to the Wellsford community who have waited a long time for safer pedestrian access across town. Footpaths are a

priority for the local board and community who want to expand the network, and connect residents to workplaces, schools and sports facilities.

Funded by the Rodney Local Board Transport Targeted Rate with a contribution from New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi, the footpath and bridge took just under a year to build.

The project’s biggest challenge was installing a massive concrete beam for the overbridge which required cranes and an overnight road closure.

Funding criteria used to decide where new footpaths are built includes busy school routes, well-used pedestrian routes, and linking existing and new developments to extend the pedestrian network.



◀ Wellsford residents can walk safely from one side of town to the other without having to cross the busy highway.

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2025

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2024/2025	Annual Plan 2024/2025*	Annual Plan 2023/2024
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		16,648	16,648	17,629
Targeted rates		317	332	334
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		13	9	9
Fees and charges		2,768	2,554	147
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		635	351	234
Total operating funding		20,381	19,894	18,353
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	17,625	15,205	13,731
Finance costs		2,203	2,203	1,506
Internal charges and overheads applied		2,339	2,339	2,459
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		22,167	19,747	17,697
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		(1,786)	147	656
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	14,826	10,011	9,393
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		14,826	10,011	9,393
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		2,272	2,997	62
- to improve the level of service		1,750	1,973	1,990
- to replace existing assets		9,018	5,188	7,998
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding		13,040	10,159	10,050
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		1,786	(147)	(656)
Funding balance		0	0	0

*Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2024-2034

Variance explanation Actual 2024/2025 to Annual Plan 2024/2025

1. We spent more on staff and suppliers, mainly because of extra costs for overtime and casual staff at libraries in Helensville, Kumeū, Mahurangi East, Warkworth, and Wellsford. There was also a higher share of full facility maintenance contract costs than originally planned.
2. We spent more than expected on capital projects and payments to staff and suppliers, which required an increase in borrowings in this local board. These increases have been offset by reductions in other local boards and Group of Activities.
3. Capital spending was higher than planned, mainly because the Kowhai Park Walkway/Cycleway Stage 2 project was delivered earlier than expected. Although it was originally scheduled for completion in the 2025/2026 year, it was approved for early delivery and progressed ahead of schedule. The planned renewal programme was also delivered ahead of schedule.

► Mahurangi East Community Centre has reopened its doors to the Snells Beach community after extensive renovations.



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