



Te mahere ā-rohe o Rodney
Rodney
Draft Local Board Plan 2026

Tāmaki Turuki.
Altogether Auckland.



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.”
Ināianei 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.”**

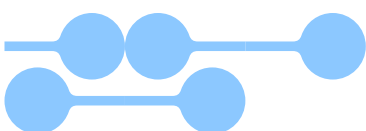
Our greetings and salutations to you
the mana whenua
who continue to tend
the historical fires that encompass
this great city
of Auckland.
May this message echo
across your noble mountains.
Let me begin at Kumeū
then turn outwards to the sacred sands of Muriwai.
I hook inward again where eastward is 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.”



Ngā upoko kōrero

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He kōrero mai i te Heamana

From the Chairperson

There are many reasons we choose to live in Rodney. We choose it for the wide skies, the coastlines and forests and the small towns where people still wave as you pass by. But more than that, we choose Rodney for its people, its connected communities, resilience and quiet determination to look after one another.

This local board plan sets out how we will support that spirit over the next three years. We know Rodney is growing, and with that growth comes both opportunity and pressure. We are seeing increasing demand on parks, facilities, roads and community spaces, alongside real challenges in maintaining the character that makes Rodney unique. At the same time, we are navigating rising costs, climate impacts and the need to make smart, sustainable decisions about where and how we invest.

But this plan is not about reacting, it is about shaping. At its heart is a simple idea: that strong communities are built in the everyday moments. In parks where families gather, in town centres that feel alive, in safe roads that connect us and in natural spaces that restore and sustain us.

Over the next three years, 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. We will advocate strongly for the infrastructure our communities need, whether that is safer rural roads, better public transport connections or ensuring growth is matched with the services that help communities thrive.

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.

This plan is both practical and aspirational. It reflects the realities we face, but also the future we want to see. A future where Rodney grows without losing its unique identity.

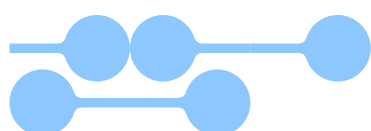
On behalf of the Rodney Local Board, thank you to everyone who contributes to this place. We look forward to working alongside you.

Kia kaha



Guy Wishart

Rodney Local Board Chairperson



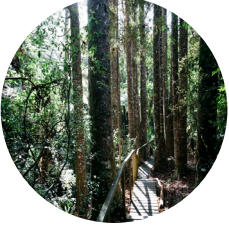
He aronga poto ki tā mātou mahere

Our plan at a glance



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.

You will find these Auckland-wide commitments woven through our plan:



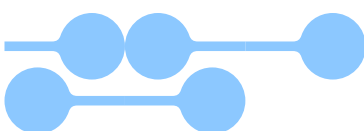
**Māori
Outcomes**



**Climate
outcomes**



**Equitable
outcomes**



Te tirohanga whānui o Te Mahere a te Poari ā-Rohe

Local Board Plan Overview

He kōrero mō tēnei tuhinga

About this document

This local board plan sets out the vision and priorities for our area over the next three years. It outlines our commitments to our community – shaped by what you've told us matters most, and by the role local boards play within Auckland Council.

Te take kei a mātou te mahere nei

Why we have this plan

Local boards are responsible for decisions on local services and activities, and for representing local views on wider Auckland issues.

This plan guides:

what we focus on and fund locally

- how we work with mana whenua, partners, and community organisations
- how we make the best use of local assets such as parks, libraries and community facilities
- where we will advocate to others on your behalf.

Te ara i whakaritea ai te mahere nei

How this plan was developed

To make sure the plan reflects local aspirations, we built on:

- what we have heard from our communities – during formal and informal conversations and from previous consultation processes surveys such as on AK Have Your Say and the People's Panel
- engagement with mana whenua during the early engagement period and prior
- feedback received during early Local Board Plan engagement held November to March, including at events and online feedback.

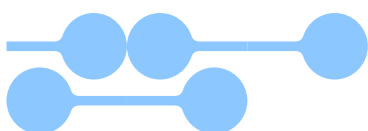
Te ara e tutuki ai ngā whāinga kei te mahere

How the plan will be used

The plan provides direction for the next three years and influences council's wider decision making. To deliver on it we will:

- prioritise budgets and resources to focus on the initiatives in this plan
- work with our partners to deliver on the objectives in this plan.

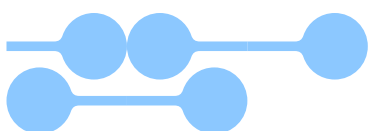
Visit the [Auckland Council website](#) to find out more about local boards



Te Rohe ā-Poari Local board area



MAP LEGEND





Students walking on a new footpath in Snells Beach.

Tā mātou ki ngā huanga hei painga mō Tāmaki Makaurau

Our contribution to positive outcomes for Auckland

Local board plans connect local priorities and projects with the wider goals for Auckland. In particular, the local board plan connects with the:

- [Auckland Plan 2050](#) – the 30-year vision for how Auckland will grow and change. This includes the Future Development Strategy.
- [long-term plan](#) – the council’s investment and funding priorities over the next 10 years.
- [annual plan](#) – local funding decisions for each financial year.

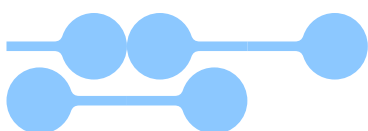
By linking to these wider plans, our local board plan can draw on Auckland-wide opportunities to deliver locally, while ensuring the goals of local communities contribute to Auckland’s shared future.

The **Auckland Plan 2050** sets out six outcomes that describe what Auckland is working towards over the long term. The council’s strategic framework organises all work and spending into **seven investment areas** to show how these outcomes are achieved.

This local board plan focuses on **five** of those investment areas – the ones where local boards make decisions and can have the greatest influence at a local level.

The strategic framework also identifies three considerations for all decisions and investments:

- Māori outcomes: Honouring Te Tiriti and ensuring Māori thrive in Tāmaki Makaurau



- Climate outcomes: Leading urgent action for a low-emissions, resilient future
- Equitable outcomes: Ensuring all Aucklanders have access to what they need to thrive

These three areas are mutually reinforcing. Improving one of the three required considerations is likely to contribute to improvements in the others.

Ngā Huanga Māori

Māori outcomes

Māori identity and culture are Auckland’s unique point of difference in the world.

Māori outcomes describe how Auckland Council supports Māori goals — from partnership and participation to visibility and wellbeing. They also reflect the council’s commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, our statutory responsibilities, and our ongoing relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities across Tāmaki Makaurau.

The refreshed *Tāmaki Ora Māori Outcomes Strategy* reflects the vision that when Māori are well, Tāmaki Makaurau will also be well. *Tāmaki Ora* guides Auckland Council to focus on seven Ora outcomes (wellbeing areas) that mana whenua and Māori communities have told us are important to them:

- Iwi Ora - Iwi wellbeing
- Te Taiao Ora - Environmental wellbeing
- Tuakiri Ora - Cultural identity wellbeing
- Huatau Ora – Future wellbeing
- Te Hapori Ora – Whānau & community wellbeing:
- Whai Rawa Ora – Economic wellbeing
- Marae Ora - Marae vitality

Local boards play a key role in achieving *Tāmaki Ora*. This can be through:

- partnering with mana whenua and Māori communities

- supporting local initiatives that reflect Māori priorities
- embedding Māori identity, language and values into local spaces and activities.

This work will focus on Mana ki te Mana (authority to authority) engagements between local boards and mana whenua. The aim is to build relationships based on respect, shared priorities and mutual recognition for the mana that we each hold.

Local insights

The Rodney Local Board is working to strengthen Mana ki te Mana relationships with mana whenua to support kaitiakitanga (guardianship), Māori leadership and the expression of cultural narratives across parks, waterways and communities.

Rodney aspires to reflect the mauri and living presence of Māori throughout the rohe (area) through:

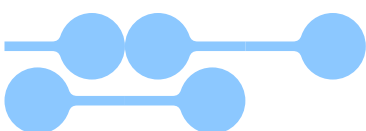
- Māori-led events and programmes
- working together on nature-based resilience and environmental restoration projects
- including Māori identity and stories into local places and design.

He huanga āhuarangi

Climate outcomes

In 2019, Auckland Council declared a climate emergency and adopted *Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland’s Climate Plan* in 2020. Meeting the goals of this plan requires ambitious action to reduce emissions and adapt to a changing climate.

Local boards contribute by including climate action into everything we do – from community investment and transport choices to restoring the environment and local events. We also support regional initiatives and enable community-led initiatives that build local resilience to the effects of climate change. Climate action also connects with the *Ngā Hapori Momoho / Thriving Communities Strategy 2022–*



2032, which recognises that social and environmental wellbeing are closely linked— communities thrive when they have healthy environments, green spaces and can respond together to climate challenges.

Tāmaki Ora also recognises Māori goals around climate leadership and resilience.

Local insights

The Rodney Local Board’s approach to climate change is shaped by the area’s long coastlines, flood-prone catchments, rural landscapes and growing settlements. These make adaptation and resilience to climate change a local priority.

The local board aims to better protect communities and ecosystems as climate impacts increase. We will do this with:

- more nature-based solutions
- climate-resilient design
- better planning for parks and public spaces
- preparing communities for emergencies.

He huanga tautika Equitable outcomes

Auckland is one of the most diverse cities in the world, yet not all communities experience the same access to opportunity, wellbeing or resources.

Supporting more equitable outcomes is central to the Auckland Plan 2050. It recognises that the region’s success depends on making sure all Aucklanders can be part of and contribute to society, access

opportunities and have a chance to develop to their full potential.




Ngā Hapori Momoho | Thriving Communities Strategy 2022–2032 is Auckland Council’s regional strategy for a fairer and more sustainable Tāmaki Makaurau where every Aucklander belongs. It reflects what communities say they need to thrive, for Tāmaki Makaurau to be a region where whānau have everything they need to live a good life, where diversity is celebrated, and where all Aucklanders can participate and belong.

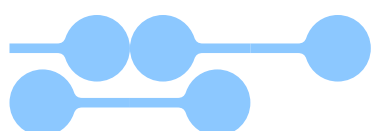
At its heart *Ngā Hapori Momoho* focuses on ensuring equitable outcomes for all Aucklanders – guiding Auckland Council to recognise that different groups and communities need different things to fully participate in the life of our region, and to feel valued, included, and that they belong.

Local insights

Rodney’s communities are diverse and spread across towns, villages and rural settlements. They have strong local networks, volunteers and community-led initiatives that support participation, identity and wellbeing.

Supporting equitable outcomes in Rodney means making sure people of all ages, abilities, cultures and locations can access parks, facilities, town centres, transport connections, local opportunities and information — particularly as growth, climate impacts and change affect communities in different ways.

Auckland-wide outcomes	How it’s reflected across the plan
 Ngā huanga Māori Māori outcomes	Partnership with mana whenua, Māori identity in local places, support for initiatives that reflect Māori priorities.
 He huanga āhuarangi Climate outcomes	Reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, building community resilience.
 He huanga tautika Equitable outcomes	Targeted investment, access to services, focus on inclusion and fairness.





Matariki celebration at Mahurangi East Library and Community Centre

Te hāpori 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.

Rodney's communities are diverse and strongly connected to their local places. As our area grows, we face increasing demands on parks, facilities and community spaces, and the challenge of maintaining our rural and small-town character. At the same time, high numbers of volunteers, emergency readiness and community-led activity are real strengths.

To achieve our community goals, we will focus on supporting inclusive, flexible spaces that grow local leadership and build resilience, so communities can continue to thrive as Rodney changes.

Challenges

- Population growth is placing pressure on community connection and the small-town character of Rodney's towns and settlements.
- Increasing participation and changing community needs are creating greater demand for open space, sports and recreation facilities.




- Many community facilities are ageing, costly to maintain and not always fit for purpose or resilient to climate impacts and future needs.
- Rising costs mean community services, facilities and infrastructure must be carefully prioritised to make sure they can be maintained over time.











Opportunities

- Strong community connection and resilience in parts of Rodney provide a foundation for participation, local leadership and community-led action.
- There are opportunities to deliver community services in new and more sustainable ways through partnerships with community organisations, iwi and the private sector.
- Rodney’s network of parks, including around 400 local parks across over 1,400 hectares and access to ten regional parks, provides significant opportunities for physical activity, social connection and access to nature.
- High levels of community engagement in emergency response provide opportunities to strengthen local preparedness, resilience, and community connection.





Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Provide parks and open spaces for all ages, abilities, interests and cultural backgrounds that encourage participation and improve wellbeing.	Plan and prioritise park upgrades for example with seating, shade, drinking water, accessible paths, and lighting so spaces are easy for everyone to access, flexible and support varied activities. 
Build climate-resilient community spaces by planning and designing parks and facilities that adapt to climate change, using nature-based	Provide for outdoor recreation in multi-use parks through appropriate design that safely supports walking, family cycling, horse riding (where appropriate), and dog-friendly provision, balancing recreation needs and local context. 
	Support local groups to deliver their own services and spaces like easy-to access activities, nature play, informal recreation and community gardens with the right support and resourcing. 
	Integrate nature-based solutions into park renewals to enhance the function and amenity of the assets, using elements such as swales and wetland planting, shade canopy, resilient all-weather surface. 
	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. 
	Include climate-resilient design features in all minor works and renewals so climate-resilience becomes a routine part of everyday delivery. 



solutions where possible.	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.	
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.	Work with mana whenua, where appropriate, when developing new park and community space projects so Māori cultural narratives and wayfinding signage reflect the mauri (life force) of each place.	
	Enable Māori-led programmes and events like hīkoi, cultural storytelling, taonga tākaro and connections with nature in parks and community spaces in partnership with mana whenua and marae.	
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.	Implement a three-year play programme guided by the Rodney Gap Analysis and Play Provision Guidelines and the Rodney Play Plan to provide play options (including nature play) for people of all ages and abilities in areas of greatest need and growth.	
	Transition facilities to multi-use, adaptable places and review our under-used buildings and spaces to repurpose or sell and reinvest where growth and usage are highest.	
	Make community facilities more multi-purpose by coordinating bookings, using movable equipment and offering a wider mix of activities across halls, libraries and recreation spaces.	
	Establish community ‘living rooms’ or hubs and support local people to act as community ‘champions’ by offering mentoring, training and connections to make it easier for everyone to get involved.	
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.	Run programmes in local hubs and town centres that create welcoming places through arts, culture, and community-led activities, helping to strengthen local identity and encourage participation.	
	Provide resourcing to enable community-led projects, including activities for all ages across towns and villages.	
	Reflect local identity in minor upgrades like furnishings, art and wayfinding signage to help small towns and rural areas keep their unique character as they evolve.	



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.	Keep the Rodney Local Board Emergency Readiness and Response Plan up to date and in use, including clear roles and responsibilities, appointed local leads and public communications.	
	Develop and support a network of community emergency groups and Civil Defence Centres through training, capability building, appropriate equipment and ongoing maintenance.	
	Connect and develop new community, faith-based, schools and marae groups and provide them with resources to help prepare for an emergency - including workshops, translated materials and group support.	 

Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. ‘Advocacy’ is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)	Who we will advocate to
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.	Governing Body
Advocate for more investment in regional parks in our local board area to meet the pressures of population growth and tourism.	Governing Body
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.	Governing Body





One of the walkways winding through Parry Kauri Park.

Te taiao māori

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.

Rodney's natural environment is central to our identity, lifestyle and wellbeing, yet it is increasingly affected by climate related hazards, including increased flood risk driven by more extreme weather events, alongside biodiversity loss, and pressures from growth and land use change.

Our extensive coastlines, forests, wetlands and waterways support recreation, wellbeing and connection to nature and are treasured by residents and visitors alike. Our natural environment goals focus on restoring ecosystems, improving waterway health, reducing waste and pollution, and increasing climate resilience so Rodney's natural spaces are healthy, safe and valued long into the future.

Challenges

- Recent and projected climate-related hazards like flooding, landslides, coastal erosion and storm damage are intensifying risks to our waterways, coastal and forest ecosystems, and rural communities.
- Rodney's large geographic area is rich with diverse threatened ecosystems and endemic wildlife. Restoring, protecting and monitoring this complex ecology at scale requires extensive and consistent resources.













- Ongoing development, together with existing land-use pressures, is increasing sediment and nutrient runoff, degrading habitats, and placing pressure on forests, streams, wetlands, and coastal areas.

Opportunities

- Strong networks of environmental volunteers and coordinators provide opportunities for more restoration, predator control and long-term care for the environment through partnerships with landowners, schools, iwi and community groups.
- Rodney’s extensive natural assets, including regional parks, coastlines, wetlands, dune systems, freshwater catchments and native forests provide a strong foundation for restoration, climate resilience, environmental education initiatives and a wide range of recreational opportunities.
- The new ‘Making Space for Water’ programme and its long-term blue-green network approach provide an opportunity for Rodney to be considered in future council-wide prioritisation and funding decisions as high flood-risk areas are identified.

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
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.	Support protection and restoration projects that protect priority ecological areas such as the forests of Tamahunga, South Head and Atuanui, the dune and coastal ecosystems of Te Arai / Pākiri, and significant species habitats around Kaipara Harbour, Omaha, and Tomarata’s dune lakes.  
Improve the health and resilience of waterways, wetlands, and catchments	<p>Support community-led conservation that restores connectivity between fragmented habitats and ecosystems, creating safe pathways for indigenous biodiversity to flourish through resilient populations and functioning ecosystems across Rodney.  </p> <p>Partner with mana whenua on kaitiakitanga-led (guardianship) restoration, supporting cultural values and taonga (treasured) species across landscapes like Kaipara Moana, forested maunga (mountains) and coastal areas.  </p> <p>Increase community awareness and action to reduce the spread of freshwater and marine pests, with a focus on lakes, waterways and key boat-launching points connecting Rodney’s coastal communities with Kawau and the Hauraki Gulf Islands.  </p>
	Restore streams, wetlands, riparian margins, and floodplains in priority catchments like those flowing to Kaipara Harbour, Mahurangi, and Tomarata’s dune lakes, improving water quality reducing sediment and giving water more space to flow naturally.  



through restoration and integrated management.	Enable and connect local freshwater groups, schools and volunteers – including those active around Warkworth, Snells–Mahurangi, Te Arai / Pākiri, Helensville and the Kaipara edge – with tools, training and monitoring programmes that support hands-on freshwater restoration.	
	Empower community-led water catchment planning across Rodney’s rural and coastal communities – from upland forest systems such as Tamahunga to estuaries like Mahurangi and Kaipara – so local actions are connected and work toward shared freshwater and environmental goals.	
Strengthen climate resilience using nature-based solutions, improved land and soil management, and adaptive planning.	Deliver nature-based resilience projects such as wetland regeneration around Tomarata and Kaipara tributaries, dune restoration at Te Arai / Pākiri and native buffers in erosion-prone rural areas to reduce the impacts of floods and storms.	
	Support practical soil-health and land-management programmes in high-sediment-risk areas like Kaipara, Mahurangi and inland valleys to improve soil structure, reduce run-off and slip and flooding risks.	
	Progress actions from the Shoreline Adaptation Plans (SAPs) with local communities in priority coastal areas such as Snells Beach, Ti Point, South Head and Kaipara Moana.	
	Keep communities informed about climate-resilience projects like changes to beaches in Pakiri, and Muriwai and updates on inland flood resilience in settlements like Kumeū and Helensville.	
Reduce waste and pollution through local recovery initiatives, education and stronger, more proactive compliance.	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.	

Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. ‘Advocacy’ is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)	Who we will advocate to
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	Governing Body



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 areas.





Construction is underway at a new development in Warkworth.

Te taiao kua hangaia

Built environment

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

Rodney's towns, villages and rural settlements are evolving as growth accelerates across the region. This creates opportunities to shape well-designed, character-rich places, but also challenges where infrastructure is not keeping up with development.

Our built environments must be safe, resilient and able to adapt to climate impacts while supporting everyday community life. Our goals for Rodney's built environment focus on strengthening town centres, securing quality public spaces through growth and ensuring new development is well-supported by parks, paths, facilities and essential infrastructure.

Challenges

- The scale and pace of development enabled through planning decisions is creating challenges for managing growth at a local level across a large, rural and widely spread local board area.








- There is often a delay between new development and the delivery of public spaces and important infrastructure like water services, particularly in high-growth areas such as Milldale, Warkworth, Kumeū-Huapai and Dairy Flat.
- Built places are increasingly exposed to resilience pressures, including flooding and coastal hazards, and some public spaces are not fit for purpose under current and future conditions.
- Ongoing growth creates tension between accommodating change and retaining the local character and identity of towns, villages and coastal settlements.

Opportunities

- Planning and consenting processes provide opportunities to shape the design, quality and character of new housing and employment areas.
- Reviewing the assets we own in the community allows us to retire under-used facilities and direct investment towards modern, fit-for-purpose spaces where they are most needed.
- Strong local identity, community pride and high levels of engagement provide a foundation for place shaping that reflects the character and aspirations of Rodney’s towns and settlements.
- Warkworth’s role as a rural growth hub provides opportunities to focus investment and design quality to create a well-serviced centre that supports surrounding rural and coastal communities.

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)
Strengthen town centres and local hubs so they remain vibrant, attractive and reflect local character, supported by coordinated placemaking and high-quality public spaces.	Improve public spaces across Rodney’s town centres and local hubs so they are welcoming, safe and support everyday community life for people of all ages. 
Ensure growth is supported by the parks, paths, public spaces and facilities our communities need, using partnerships and development	Strengthen ‘place identity’ by reflecting local history, cultural narratives and community character in the design of public spaces. 
Invest in outdoor recreation and public spaces to respond to growth and increasing use, including more paths, shade, seating, green spaces and small-park upgrades in growing neighbourhoods.	Support coordinated placemaking to create welcoming places so improvements to paths, parks, transport and shared spaces work well together for local communities. 
Use partnerships and development opportunities to provide more community spaces, playgrounds, paths, access to pools and other amenities that would otherwise be difficult to fund through local board budgets alone.	Invest in outdoor recreation and public spaces to respond to growth and increasing use, including more paths, shade, seating, green spaces and small-park upgrades in growing neighbourhoods. 
	Use partnerships and development opportunities to provide more community spaces, playgrounds, paths, access to pools and other amenities that would otherwise be difficult to fund through local board budgets alone. 



opportunities to secure high-quality outdoor recreation and community infrastructure.	Plan new parks and public spaces in growth areas like Milldale and parts of Warkworth, and coordinate infrastructure upgrades like transport, stormwater and open spaces so delivery keeps pace with development.	 
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.	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 about how major works improve long-term safety and resilience.	 

Advocacy

Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. ‘Advocacy’ is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)	Who we will advocate to
Ensure Rodney’s community priorities and local character are clearly understood and considered in decisions around planning and growth.	Governing Body Watercare
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.	Governing Body
Advocate in support of measures to prevent inappropriate development in flood prone areas.	Central government Governing Body
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.	Central government Governing Body
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.	Governing Body
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.	Central government



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. Governing Body

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. Governing Body





Martins Bay Holiday Park offers a range of accommodation options with stunning views.

Economic development

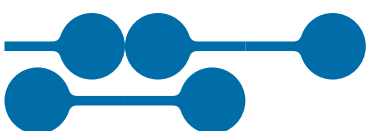
Rodney has a strong, diverse local economy where businesses and town centres thrive and people can access local jobs, skills and sustainable tourism opportunities.

Rodney's economy is diverse, with strong construction, visitor, rural and small-business sectors. Yet access to jobs, training and economic opportunity can be uneven across our large rural area, and rapid change can place pressure on local businesses and town centres.

Our economic development goals focus on supporting business resilience, growing sustainable tourism, strengthening local skills pathways and making sure that as Rodney grows, economic opportunities are accessible, vibrant and reflect the strengths of our communities and natural landscapes.

Challenges

- Pockets of socioeconomic disadvantage, including in Wellsford, have limited access to employment opportunities and participation in the local economy.
- Transport constraints limit people's access to employment, education, and training opportunities across a geographically dispersed local economy.
- Growth-related construction, infrastructure upgrades, and change are placing pressure on small businesses and the vitality of town centres.
- The conversion of commercial and employment-zoned land to residential use is reducing space for local businesses and employment growth.



Opportunities

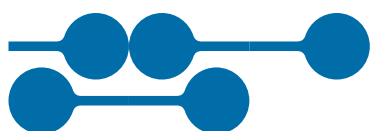
- A strong and growing local economy, with construction as a major employer, supports local jobs, skills-development and business growth across sectors.
- An established and diverse visitor economy, including regional parks, coastal destinations and local food producers, supports growth in sustainable tourism and tourism that benefits local producers and improves the vitality of town centres.
- Planned land supply for housing and employment areas means more people can live and work locally over time and support the growth of local businesses.

Our Plan

Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we plan to deliver in the next 3 years to make this happen (Key initiatives)	
Strong, resilient local businesses and thriving town centres.	Provide training and support, networking activities, events and programmes to help businesses thrive in places like Warkworth, Snells Beach, Kumeū-Huapai, Wellsford, Helensville and Matakana.	 
	Consider opportunities to boost small-business innovation, social enterprise development and sustainable tourism experiences, strengthening Rodney’s local economy and town centres.	
Grow the visitor economy through sustainable, place-based tourism.	Support local organisations involved in ‘destination management’ planning for Rodney’s visitor areas, including the existing Matakana Coast plan and new North West Rodney plan, and consider local board support to grow visitation and tourism.	
	Enhance Rodney’s visitor economy by supporting community-led trails and recreation routes, and by establishing Whangateau and Martins Bay Holiday Parks as high-quality, accessible, sustainable accommodation hubs for nature-based tourism.	 
Improve access to local jobs, skills, and training pathways.	Offer digital skills, job readiness, and learning programmes at local libraries and through community groups so people can access training close to where they live.	
	Connect residents with training pathways like trades training and youth programmes and help employers find local talent, reducing commuting barriers and supporting Rodney’s growing workforce.	

Advocacy

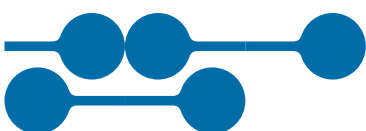
Some local priorities that matter to our community are not part of our direct decision-making role. ‘Advocacy’ is how we influence other governance decision-makers to prioritise the things our community cares about.



What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)**Who we will advocate to**

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

Governing Body





A logging truck driving along an unsealed road.

Tūnuku

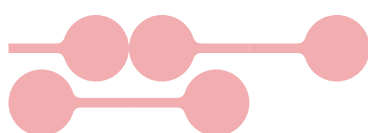
Transport

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

Rodney's size, rural geography and limited public transport options mean transport is one of our biggest challenges. Safety concerns on rural roads, a lack of walking and cycling networks and limited access to public transport all affect daily life. Major upgrades offer new opportunities to better connect areas and improve resilience.

Our transport goals focus on safer rural roads, better walking and cycling connections, improved access to public transport and coordinated investment that ensures Rodney's communities can move around safely and efficiently.

At the time of developing this draft plan, the Government is progressing the *Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill*, which, if passed, will change how transport is governed and delivered in Auckland. While the details of how transport is to be governed in Auckland are still to be confirmed, our community has told us that safe, reliable, and sustainable transport remains a top priority. The local board will continue to advocate strongly for these priorities, and will adapt this section in response to both community feedback and any changes made to the Bill throughout the Parliamentary process.



Challenges

- Limited public transport coverage, infrequent services and long travel distances makes it hard to get around Rodney’s large geographic area and dispersed rural areas.
- Road safety remains a significant concern, with high rates of deaths and serious injuries on state highways and rural roads.
- A shortage of connected walking and cycling paths, particularly outside larger town centres, restricts safe and convenient travel for people of all ages and abilities.

Opportunities

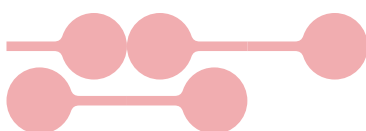
- Major investments in state highways and work to protect roads from slips and flooding – including the Northwestern and Warkworth to Wellsford routes, and central government funded work in Dome Valley – are making travel safer and more reliable for people and freight.
- Safety upgrades on key transport routes, together with the addition of walking and cycling facilities in major urban projects, support safer travel and more connected ‘active’ travel networks across the local board area.
- Growth-area transport agreements, including co-funded delivery in places such as Wainui and Redhills, enable timely transport infrastructure to support new housing and employment.















Our priorities

Set out below are the transport priorities for the Rodney Local Board area. In some instances, implementing these may require Governing Body decisions, under the governance arrangements proposed in the *Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill*.

This proposed legislation change is expected to impact on what things might be a part of our direct decision-making role and what things might be considered as advocacy. Due to this uncertainty, the local board’s transport priorities are set out in a single category in this draft plan.

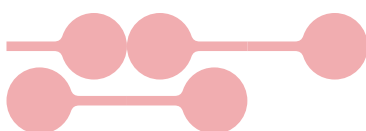
Our 3-year goals (Objectives)	What we want to happen in the next 3 years (Priorities)	
Improve the safety, reliability and performance of rural roads by addressing key factors like drainage, visibility, surface	Apply consistent rural road design standards by embedding the Rural Road Design Guide and promoting good practice in relevant local projects.	 
	Progress multi-year programmes on priority rural roads by coordinating work on drainage, culverts, roadside vegetation, and clear views for drivers to improve safety and traffic flow.	 
	Support increased investment in the Unsealed Road Improvement Programme (URIP), including accelerated seal extensions, to address rural road safety and long-standing underinvestment.	



condition and shoulder integrity.	Improve safety and travel times on rural highways to ensure Rodney residents and visitors can travel safely and efficiently around or through Rodney.	
	Deliver intersection improvements on rural highways.	
Create safer, more connected walking and cycling routes to key local destinations.	Deliver ongoing improvements to walking and cycling routes around schools, town and village centres, and key destinations by filling in missing links, improving footpaths and crossings, and making routes clearer, so people can get around locally more safely and easily.	
	Close critical gaps in footpaths, shared paths and greenways to create connected local networks.	
	Upgrade Matakana Road between Hill Street intersection and Te Honohono ki Tai roundabout to complete safer walking and cycling connections around the Warkworth urban area.	 
Expand and improve the ways people can reach public transport from rural communities and growth areas.	Identify potential park-and-ride and interchange locations to serve spread-out communities and growing areas, and plan ahead to protect these sites for future use where possible.	 
	Improve the user experience at existing bus stops and local transfer points by upgrading shelters, lighting, signage and safety features where needed.	 
	Expand public transport coverage in rural and growth-areas.	 
	Improve public transport frequency, reliability and services hours on key routes.	 

Advocacy

What we will advocate for in the next 3 years (Advocacy)	Who we will advocate to
Advocate for the extension of the Northwestern Busway to Huapai as part of the Northwest Rapid Transport Corridor.	NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
Advocate for an additional pedestrian crossing at Rodney Street, Wellsford (from the War Memorial Park to public toilets).	NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi
Advocate to upgrade the rail line from Swanson to Helensville to enable passenger trains.	KiwiRail



He kōrero take pūtea

Funding information

Local board funding is approved through Auckland Council's budget-setting process. This includes the Governing Body adopting a long-term plan every three years and an annual plan each year.

The Local Board Funding Policy sets out how funding is allocated to local boards for local activities, services and facilities within their decision-making responsibilities.

Funding for local activities, services and facilities is split into:

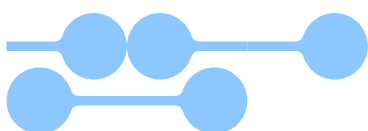
- operating expenditure (opex): to maintain and operate local assets like libraries, pools and parks, and to provide local activities and services
- capital expenditure (capex): to renew and develop local assets.

The priorities in this local board plan will inform decisions about funding that are made through the annual plan process and local board work programmes. This applies to decisions for both operating and capital spend.

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.

The financial and levels of service statements in this plan are based on the information included in the Long-term Plan 2024-2034 and the Annual Plan 2025/2026.

The next long-term plan is due to take effect from 1 July 2027. This could change funding for operating and capital spend in our area and will affect how we achieve the goals set out in this local board plan.



Kaupapa ā-rohe me ngā paerewa ā-mahi

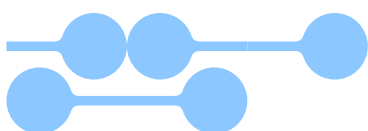
Levels of service

The Long-term Plan 2024–2034 outlines the decision-making responsibilities of local boards, as set out in legislation or allocated to the local boards. These responsibilities are grouped into local activities and described through levels of service statements. The following table summarises the local activities and levels of service for this local board area.

Local Activities	Level of service statements
<p>Local community services</p> <p>We 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</p>	<p>Enable a range of choices to access community services and recreation opportunities.</p> <p><i>Provide opportunities for communities to lead and deliver their own initiatives. *</i></p> <p>Provide urban green spaces (local parks, paths and Ngahere) and access to the Coast</p>
<p>Local planning and development</p> <p>We support local town centres and communities to thrive by developing town centre plans and development, supporting Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), heritage plans and initiatives</p>	<p>Facilitate economic development opportunities and promote Auckland as a destination (<i>Support a strong economy. *</i>)</p>
<p>Local environmental management</p> <p>We support healthy ecosystems and sustainability through local board-funded initiatives such as planting, pest control, stream and water quality enhancements, healthy homes, and waste minimisation projects.</p>	<p>Protect, improve and minimise risks to the natural environments and cultural heritage.</p>
<p>Local governance</p> <p>Activities in this group support the local board to engage with and represent their communities and make decisions on local activities. This support includes providing strategic advice, leadership of the preparation of local board plans, support in developing the local board agreements, community engagement including relationships with mana whenua and Māori communities, and democracy and administrative support.</p>	<p>Lead Council Group response to partnership and participation of Māori in decision making and deliver Māori outcomes (<i>Respond to the needs and aspirations of mana whenua and Māori Communities. *</i>)</p>

** Levels of service statement from Local Board Agreement.*

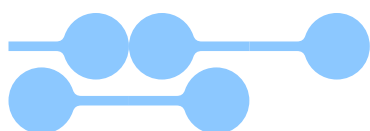
The statement of service provision, default levels of service statements, performance measures and performance targets from our last long-term plan can be found in section 2.6 in [volume 2 of the 10-Long-term Plan 2024-2034](#). The local board’s performance measures and performance targets, can be found in the Rodney Local Board Agreement 2025/2026 which is available as part of the [Annual Plan 2025/2026](#).



Setting priorities and making ‘trade-offs’

The local board will use this plan to inform how it prioritises resources, services and activities in the local area over the next three years. In doing so, it will take into account rising costs, limited resources and changing community needs. When making financial decisions, the local board will:

- prioritise actions that most strongly contribute to achieving the intended outcomes and goals of this local board plan
- consider value for money when making decisions about local services and assets within its decision-making responsibilities
- consider advice on ways to increase funding for services, activities and facilities from sources other than rates where appropriate,
- consider advice on opportunities to work with other local boards and external partners, where this supports shared goals
- consider advice on the ongoing suitability, performance and community value of local assets.



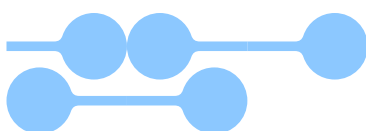
Tirohanga take pūtea whānui

Financial overview

The estimated costs shown in the table below for major service priorities are high-level, indicative only, and subject to change. These figures should not be relied upon as final and will be reviewed and updated through the Long-term Plan and Annual Plan processes.

\$ 000	2026/2027	Indicative 2027/2028	Indicative 2028/2029	Indicative 2029/2030
Operating funding				
General rates	23,175	23,735	24,397	24,771
Targeted rates	361	353	360	367
Fees and charges	2,151	3,069	3,183	3,305
Other revenue	1,110	295	301	307
Total operating funding	26,797	27,453	28,241	28,750
Operating expenditure				
Community services (Community)				
Libraries	2,997	3,057	3,119	3,181
Maintenance	7,700	7,746	8,011	8,058
Utilities	1,563	1,213	1,305	1,342
Other community expenses	12,302	13,150	13,422	13,756
Local Environmental Management (Natural Environment)				
Local Planning - BIDs	361	359	366	373
Local Governance	1,311	1,328	1,397	1,396
Total operating expenditure	26,797	27,454	28,241	28,750
Net operating funding	0	0	0	0
Capital funding				
Increase in debt	10,450	11,299	10,986	11,208
Total capital funding	10,450	11,299	10,986	11,208
Capital expenditure				
Community services (Community)	10,450	11,299	10,986	11,208
Total capital expenditure	10,450	11,299	10,986	11,208
Net capital funding	0	0	0	0

The local board's latest funding impact statement can be found in the Rodney Local Board Agreement 2025/2026 which is available as part of the [Annual Plan 2025/2026](#).



Ngā Mema o tō Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney

Your Rodney Local Board members



Guy Wishart

Chairperson

Phone: 027 334 1737

guy.wishart@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Ivan Wagstaff

Deputy Chairperson

Phone: 027 334 1317

ivan.wagstaff@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Mark Dennis

Phone: 027 334 4498

mark.dennis@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Tim Holdgate

Phone: 021 195 6366

tim.holdgate@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Paul Manton

Phone: 027 210 9111

paul.manton@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Matt Ross

Phone: 027 210 7325

matt.ross@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Colin Smith

Phone: 021 731 051

colin.smith@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Geoff Upson

Phone: 027 334 5062

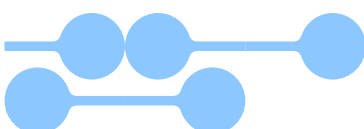
geoff.upson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Lisa Whyte

Phone: 027 210 9254

lisa.whyte1@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



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