

Draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2023 - Summary of Feedback





Summary of feedback on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan

2023

Purpose

This report summarises feedback received during the public consultation in July/August 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.

The draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2023 was adopted for consultation on 21 June 2023. Public consultation on the draft plan ran from 13 July – 14 August 2023 using a Special Consultative Procedure (SCP).

Feedback was gathered through online and written submission forms, emails and at various events. Two hundred and thirty-one pieces of feedback were received on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2023, with 213 from individuals and 18 from organisations.

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

Submission Channel	Total submissions	Percent of submissions
Online forms	198	86%
Hardcopy forms	9	4%
Emailed submissions	13	6%
Event feedback	11	5%
TOTAL	231	100%

Engagement Approach

The draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2023 was developed using feedback received from public engagement carried out between November 2022 and April 2023. Feedback previously heard from the community on a wide range of topics, particularly during the 2023 Annual Budget consultation period, was also considered.



Between 13 July and 14 August 2023, 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, emails and letters.

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

Mana whenua engagement

A co-ordinated approach to mana whenua engagement was taken by local boards so that mana whenua were not being contacted individually by multiple local boards. To outline the proposed process, two online hui for mana whenua were held in early June 2023, providing an opportunity for mana whenua to hear about the local board plans, how the perspective of Māori could be reflected through their input, the feedback process and timelines.

Mana whenua organisations were asked which of the 21 draft local boards plans they wanted to be review, and the draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2023 was shared with Ngāti Manuhiri, Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, and Te Uri O Hau. Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara requested that a different process be followed.

At the time of publishing this summary report, no written feedback has been received from mana whenua organisations on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2023.

Mataawaka engagement

No written feedback on the draft Rodney Local Board Plan 2023 was received from mataawaka organisations.


Seventeen individuals identifying as Māori provided feedback on the draft plan, providing nine per cent of submissions.

Stakeholder and community engagement

During the consultation period a range of events took place, including:

- two hearing-style 'Have Your Say' events, one in Kumeū and one in Warkworth
- a drop-in session at the Mahurangi East library community café
- a stall at the Kumeū Markets
- an interactive display in the Mahurangi East library.

Table 2: Summary of consultation activities during the consultation period



Activity	Who was involved	How many people participated
Kumeū hearing-style event	Members of the public	2 submitters 5 community members viewing proceedings
Warkworth hearing-style event	Rodney Inclusive Communities, Warkworth Cement Works, MERRA and members of the public	10 submitters
Kumeū market conversations	Members of the public	400+ interactions
Mahurangi East library café conversations	Snells Beach residents, other members of the public	30+ community members
Mahurangi East library interactive display	Members of the public attending Mahurangi East library	40+ points raised

Displays and submission boxes were also set up in the five Rodney libraries:

- Kumeū
- Helensville
- Mahurangi East
- Warkworth
- Wellsford.

Submissions from organisations

Eighteen organisations provided submissions on the Rodney Local Board plan 2023. Of these two were generic submissions to all local boards.

Table 3: Organisations that submitted on the Rodney Local Board Plan 2023

Submissions to Rodney Local Board Plan 2023	Generic submissions to all local boards
Active	Community Cat Coalition Inc.
Bike Auckland	Disabled Persons Assembly NZ
Civic Trust Auckland	
Community Groups Feeding the Homeless Inc.	
Disabled Persons Assembly NZ	
Forest and Bird Warkworth Area	
Friends of Awa Matakanakana Catchment Inc (FOAM)	
Harbour Sport	
Kumeū Arts	
Mahurangi East Residents and Ratepayers Association (MERRA)	

One Mahurangi Business Association	
Rainbows End & Rivers Environmental Group Inc	
Rodney Inclusive Communities Inc. (RICI) Silverdale Pony Club	
Taupaki flood committee	
The Tree Council	
Waiwera Valley Association Incorporated	





Summary of feedback

Māori Outcomes

Delivering outcomes for Māori is an important feature of the Rodney Local Board Plan 2023.

Māori outcomes respond to council’s legislative obligations and to extensive engagement with Auckland’s Māori communities.

The draft local board plan proposed the following initiatives to support Māori outcomes in our area:

- Support Māori-led initiatives that build whānau wellbeing and strengthen resilience
- Build relationships with Te Uri o Hau, Ngāti Manuhiri and Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara and create opportunities to understand what is important to them
- Develop partnerships and projects with mana whenua, mataawaka and Māori groups that respond to and further their aspirations
- Support mana whenua to enhance and restore biodiversity in Rodney including coastal infrastructure, waterways, sites of significance, urupa, wāhi tapu
- Partner with mana whenua to support community groups to build an understanding of te ao Māori and support opportunities for collaboration between iwi and community groups on biodiversity projects of mutual interest
- Protect and develop areas of particular importance to mana whenua in ways that are in accordance with mana whenua tikanga and aspirations
- Create more opportunities to share Māori stories, heritage and te ao Māori with local communities
- Support and celebrate events of significance in the Māori calendar – Matariki, Waitangi Day, Te Matatini
- Work with mana whenua and mataawaka to integrate Māori design into local parks and facilities and include Māra Hūpara elements (traditional Māori play) in play areas and outdoor spaces
- Reflect Māori cultural values and history in placemaking and town improvement projects and include mana whenua as a critical part of planning and design processes.

For those that provided feedback on how the local board could better meet their Māori outcomes aspirations, most spoke to two key themes:

Number of comments	Type of comments
15	Need more education to bring community together: history, meaning behind placenames, te reo in dual signage.
	Importance of kaitiaki: preserving land, enhance biodiversity and protecting waterways from sediment run off



Climate action

Local boards also have an important role to play in leading and supporting Auckland’s response to the climate emergency, including supporting regional climate plan initiatives, integrating climate awareness into all decisions, including community investment.

The draft local board plan proposed to meet the challenge of taking climate action in the following ways:

- Support community initiatives that will encourage sharing and reuse of resources at the local level
- Support the community, and community resource recovery and recycling centres, to minimise waste, turn waste into resources, and to promote education on waste reduction
- Increase the provision and uptake of public transport to reduce congestion, make roads safer and mitigate climate change
- Develop our town centres, parks and facilities so they are fit for the future, high quality, low carbon and resilient while protecting the natural environment as we grow
- Support community access to skills and knowledge that will help households to be more resilient and self-reliant
- Support communities to develop local community emergency leadership groups and emergency action plans
- Support the development of shoreline adaptation plans to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change.

For those that provided feedback on how the local board could better meet their climate action goals, most spoke to the following themes:

Number of comments	Theme	Type of comments
32	Climate action: Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more education/awareness raising. • Support for community groups to work together such as through community gardens/permaculture, planting more native planting. • More public transport (minibuses) and less traffic
13	Climate action: Adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep waterways/drainage clear to mitigate flooding • Help people to plan and respond and need earlier warning systems • Don’t build in flood plains

Our People

The Our People outcome of the plan included the following objectives:

- People have a strong sense of connection and feel included and able to participate in community life
- People have the skills and capacity to lead and make change in their communities
- People and households are resilient, sustainable and adaptable to change
- Empower communities to prepare for disasters
- The local board has a good understanding of what people want and value their expertise



- People are engaged and able to have a say on issues that affect them
- We have valued and productive relationships with mana whenua and mataawaka, Māori groups and residents
- People have access to a variety of quality local learning, training and skills development opportunities.

and advocacy:

- Advocate to central government for increased resourcing for capacity building and training for community groups/volunteers and equipment to support community resilience during emergencies.

No question was specifically asked about the Our People outcome. However, feedback provided in other questions was relevant to this outcome.

Number of comments	Outcome	Type of comments
16	In response to the Our Community outcome question	Not enough for kids to do. Affordability is an issue. Need to provide for youth to keep off streets, better mental health/wellbeing
21	In response to the general feedback question	Plan is a bit vague, not specific enough, what will actually be done?

Our Environment

The Our Environment outcome of the plan included the following objectives:

- The water in our streams, rivers, harbours and beaches is healthy, clean and swimmable
- Flood mitigation initiatives respond to the challenges of climate change - sea level rising, storms, flooding
- We work together to protect and restore our biodiversity and natural ecosystems
- There is an increase in sustainable waste management options.

and advocacy:

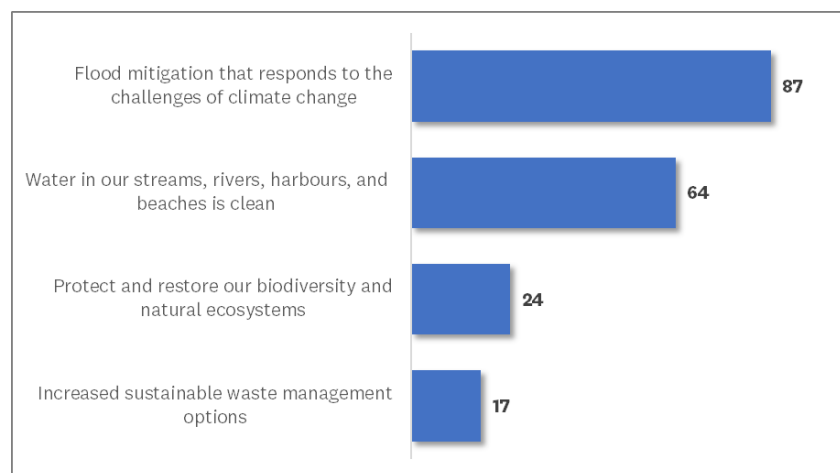
- Advocate to the Governing Body, relevant council departments and council-controlled organisations (CCOs) for improved stormwater and wastewater infrastructure services to mitigate flooding and respond to the challenges of climate change
- Advocate to the Governing Body for sensitive planning to avoid any impact on our natural landscapes with high biodiversity values, working with the environment to protect and preserve it
- Advocate to the Governing Body for adequately resourced and effectively enforced environmental compliance to both public and private entities to protect our environment
- Advocate to the Governing Body for better solutions for septic systems and the reduction of industrial waste leakage



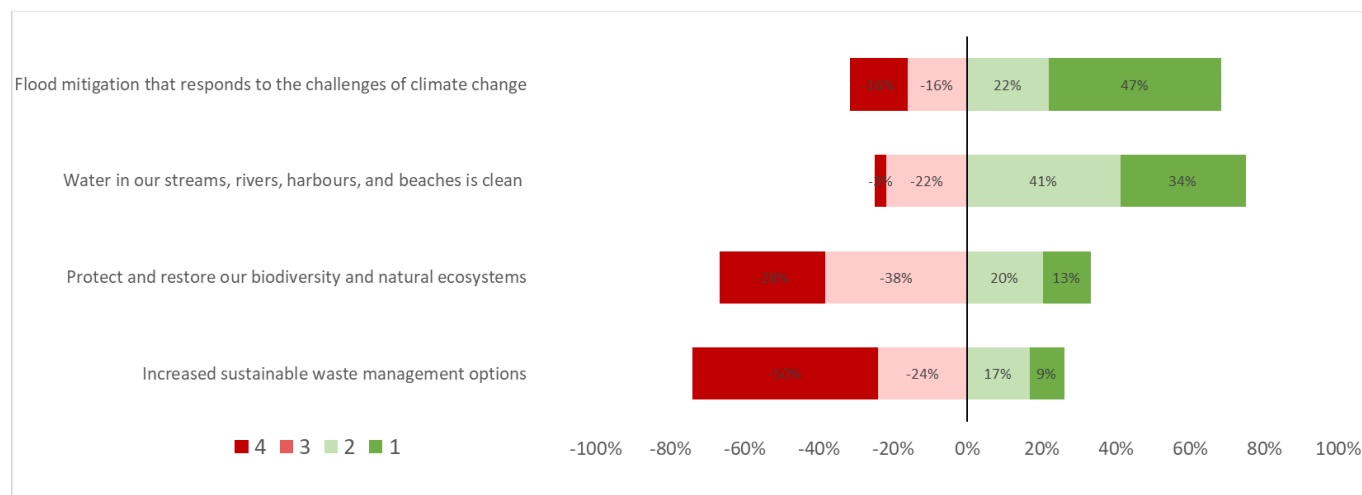
- Advocate to the Governing Body for Kawau Island to become pest free, with the support of the community, iwi, the Department of Conservation and stakeholders.

The survey asked respondents which Our Environment objectives were most important to them (ranking them).

Number of **individuals** that rated objective as most important



Priority rating (1st to 4th) across all objectives according to **individuals**



Of the 18 organisations that answered this question, they ranked the objectives as follows:

1. Flood mitigation
2. Water quality
3. Biodiversity and natural ecosystems
4. Waste management

For those that provided feedback on their selection, the following types of comments/themes were provided by objective:



Number of comments	Objectives*	Type of comments
44	Flood mitigation initiatives respond to the challenges of climate change - sea level rising, storms, flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many refer to recent storms. Warn that we should expect flooding to keep occurring. Need to be prepared. • We should avoid building in flood plains. • Storm water infrastructure is old and useless. Drainage and blocked waterways the cause of flooding. • People are suffering. Climate change getting worse with financial/social consequence.
28	The water in our streams, rivers, harbours, and beaches is healthy, clean and swimmable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean water essential/sustains life. • Many pollutants (stormwater, sewage discharge, run off from rural roads, sediment runoff, etc) • Clean waterways are important to tourism “jewel in our crown of tourism”.
18	We work together to protect and restore our biodiversity and natural ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most said focus on this and it will lead to the other objectives of this outcome being realised. • Critical to not lose iconic endangered/at risk species. “Once gone they are gone forever.”
13	There is an increase in sustainable waste management options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many mentioned ‘waste’ in relation to pollution • Several noted their opposition to the Dome Valley tip.
Number of comments	General theme	Type of comments
18	All interconnected /important	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to prioritise as all interconnected. All extremely important. “We are dependent on the health of our environment for our survival”.

* To aid with comprehension the wording of the objectives was adapted for the survey. The plan objectives are included in the above table.

Our Community

The Our Community outcome of the plan included the following objectives:

- Community facilities and services are well used, inclusive and cater to the changing needs of our local communities
- Children, young people and whanau are able to access services, activities and programmes locally
- Communities have a range of local opportunities to experience arts, culture, heritage and events
- Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities
- Parks and open spaces meet the needs of our growing town centres and diverse rural communities

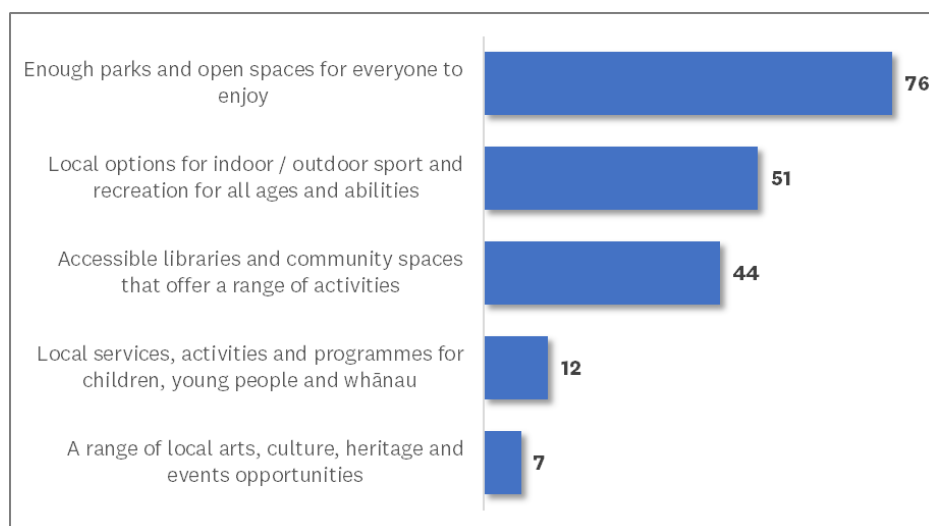
and advocacy:



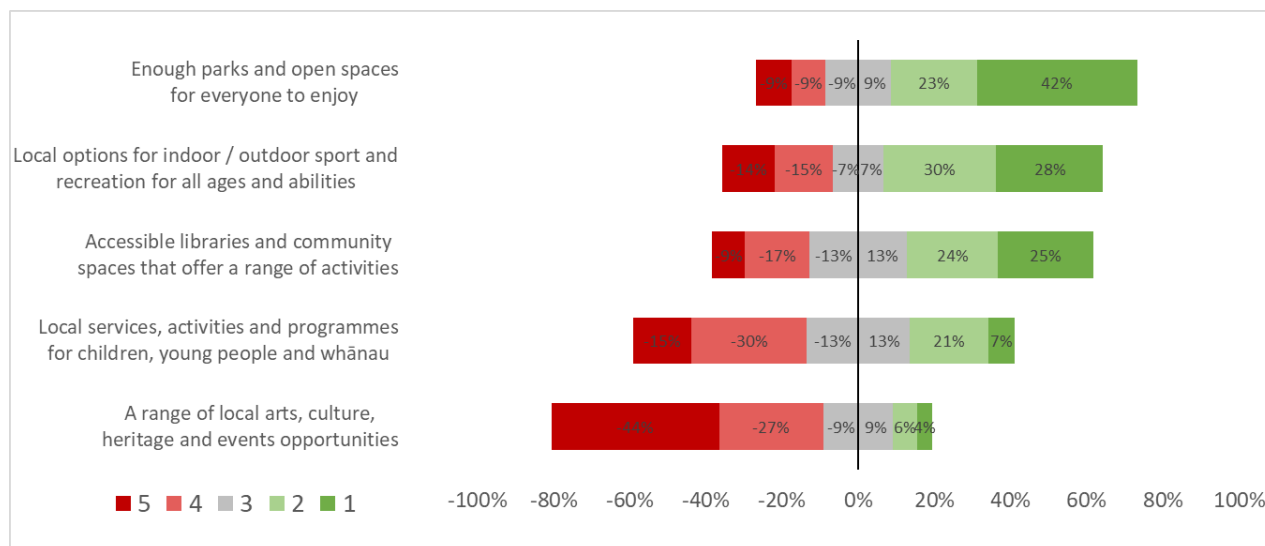
- Advocate to the Governing Body for more investment in regional parks in our local board area and resourcing for service provision, such as with service centres, to meet the pressures of population growth and tourism.

The survey asked respondents which Our Environment objectives were most important to them (ranking them).

Number of **individuals** that rated objective as most important



Priority rating (1st to 5th) across all objectives according to **individuals**



Of the 18 organisations that answered this question, they ranked the objectives as follows:

1. Opportunities to experience arts, culture, heritage and events.
2. Indoor and outdoor sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities.
3. Services, activities and programmes for children, young people and whanau.
4. Enough parks and open spaces.
5. Accessible libraries and community spaces with a range of activities.



For those that provided feedback on their selection, the following types of comments/themes were provided by objective:

Number of comments	Objectives*	Type of comments
32	Parks and open spaces meet the needs of our growing town centres and diverse rural communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most spoke to importance of these for wellbeing, mental health, enjoyment • Concern about impacts of Intensification on green spaces. “Legacy for the future”
27	Community facilities and services are well used, inclusive and cater to the changing needs of our local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most comments spoke to the importance of libraries: very important/vital/ excellent/essential “the heart of any community”
23	Communities have great local options for indoor and outdoor sport and recreation that provide opportunities for all ages and abilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important for wellbeing. • Several highlighted support for the “all ages” part. • Several mentioned the need for a public swimming pool. • Support for more indoor sports but also outdoor pump track, skate park, climbing wall.
16	Children, young people and whānau are able to access services, activities and programmes locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough for kids to do. • Affordability is an issue. • Need to provide for youth to keep off streets, better mental health/wellbeing
7	Communities have a range of local opportunities to experience arts, culture, heritage and events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important for social cohesion/connection
Number of comments	Theme	Type of comments
8	Don’t support this outcome / not for council to do	Not a priority or not core services that should be funded from rates
5	Accessibility	Should be more focus on accessibility throughout plan. “It’s a legal requirement and a basic human right”

* To aid with comprehension the wording of the objectives was adapted for the survey. The plan objectives are included in the above table.

Our Places



The Our Places outcome of the plan included the following objectives:

- Towns and villages are well planned, attractive, vibrant and cared for. They reflect local heritage, culture and identity and complement our stunning natural environments
- Growth and development are supported by first class infrastructure and facilities that meet the needs of our growing communities and support sustainability outcomes
- Local business communities and business improvement districts (BIDs) are resilient and prosperous
- There are more local jobs for local people and profits are kept in local communities

and advocacy:

- Advocate to the Governing Body for better planning that considers the impacts of climate change to future proof new housing and growth. This would include consideration such as the location of town centres and more stringent zoning and consenting guidelines
- Advocate to Eke Panuku for development and growth in Rodney to include land use provision and zoning for employment land that will deliver more high-quality local jobs.
- Advocate for amenities and services that will attract high quality businesses and staff. These include accessible and affordable public transport, a skilled local population, attractive local facilities, access to suppliers
- Advocate to central government and the Governing Body for an increased economic development focus for Wellsford to enhance household prosperity for residents
- Advocate to the Governing Body and Auckland Transport for the funding of flood mitigation work in areas where homes and main transport routes are regularly flooded, and floods are causing commuters and communities to be significantly adversely affected or isolated by flood waters
- Advocate to central government and the Governing Body to prevent development in areas vulnerable to climate change and ensuring development is only allowed when funding is available for the transport infrastructure, including public transport and community facilities and central government funded infrastructure, such as schools and hospitals
- Advocate to protect our rural zones from haphazard industrial zones.

No question was specifically asked about the Our Places outcome. However, feedback provided in other questions was relevant to this outcome. However, organisations rated this outcome as their first priority.

Number of comments	Question	Type of comments
7	In response to question asking if the draft plan reflects the needs and aspirations for our community over the next three years	More beautification especially in Northwest
11		Better planning for intensification and away from flood plains



Our Transport

The Our Transport outcome of the plan included the following objectives:

- Pedestrians and non-road users are safe
- Affordable, accessible and frequent public transport
- Safer road surfaces

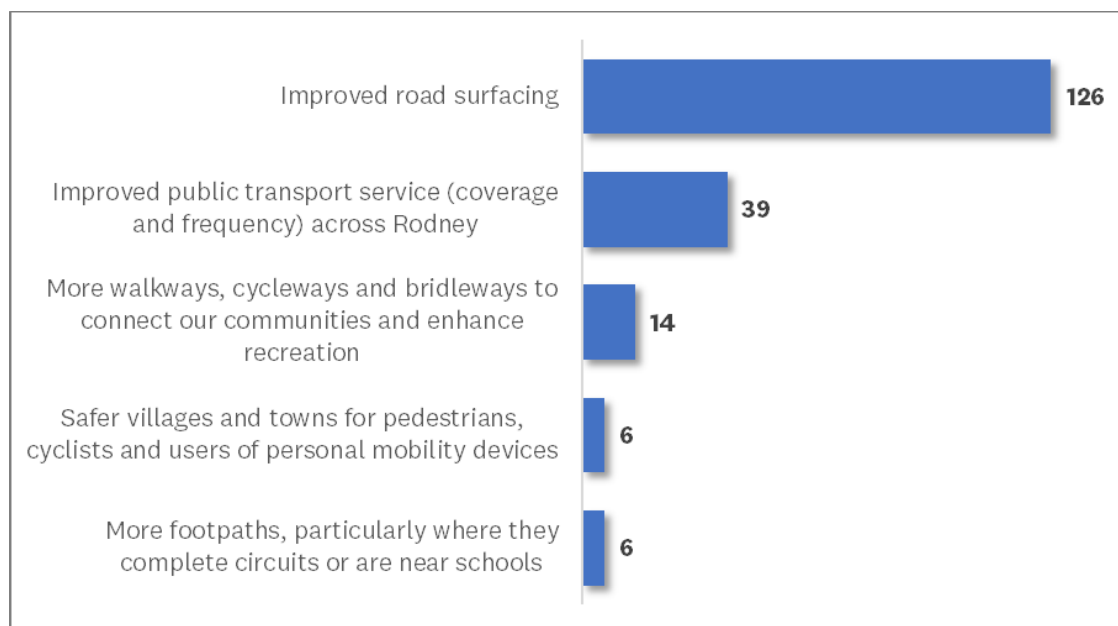
and advocacy:

- Advocate to Auckland Transport for increased funding in the 10-year budget (long-term plan) for fit for purpose rural roads including:
 - \$121 million for Auckland Transport's Unsealed Roads Improvement Programme to improve unsealed roads through strengthening and other methods
 - an increase of funding, ringfenced for maintenance and renewals exclusively, that allows Auckland Transport to renew and maintain at least 8 to 9 per cent of Auckland's roads in any given year as per Auckland Transport's Asset Management Plan.
- Advocate to Auckland Transport and Waka Kotahi to improve traffic congestion on State Highway 16 by funding the delivery of the North West Strategic Network individual transport projects taking into account flood plains and for these projects to be included in the next Regional Land Transport Plan
- Advocate to Waka Kotahi to prioritise enhanced safety and address congestion on state highways particularly for key transport corridors and provide feedback on resource consents applications to limit the number of vehicle crossings, such as side roads and driveways, being introduced on state highways
- Advocate to Auckland Transport for the use of the existing rail network to be used for commuter transport to service the North West
- Advocate to Waka Kotahi to identify and mitigate flooding on key corridors that are vulnerable to flooding causing commuters and communities to be significantly adversely affected or isolated by flood waters
- Advocate for changes to the unitary plan for the development and/or adoption of the Rural Roads Design Guide to set principles for various rural road types and provide more appropriate design standards for rural conditions such as for gravel footpaths and rural bus stops
- Advocate to Auckland Transport for further improvements and the expansion of Rodney bus services particularly in new development areas including park-and-rides, dedicated bus ways, additional routes and stops, weekend services on busier routes, higher frequency on busy routes and greater safety for bus drivers
- Advocate for Auckland Council and Auckland Transport to work together to support the delivery of walkways, trails and bridleways, as guided by greenways plans, to better connect our rural areas with local villages and recreational spaces, and to increase safety – ensuring that any new developments and subdivisions are also connected to this network.

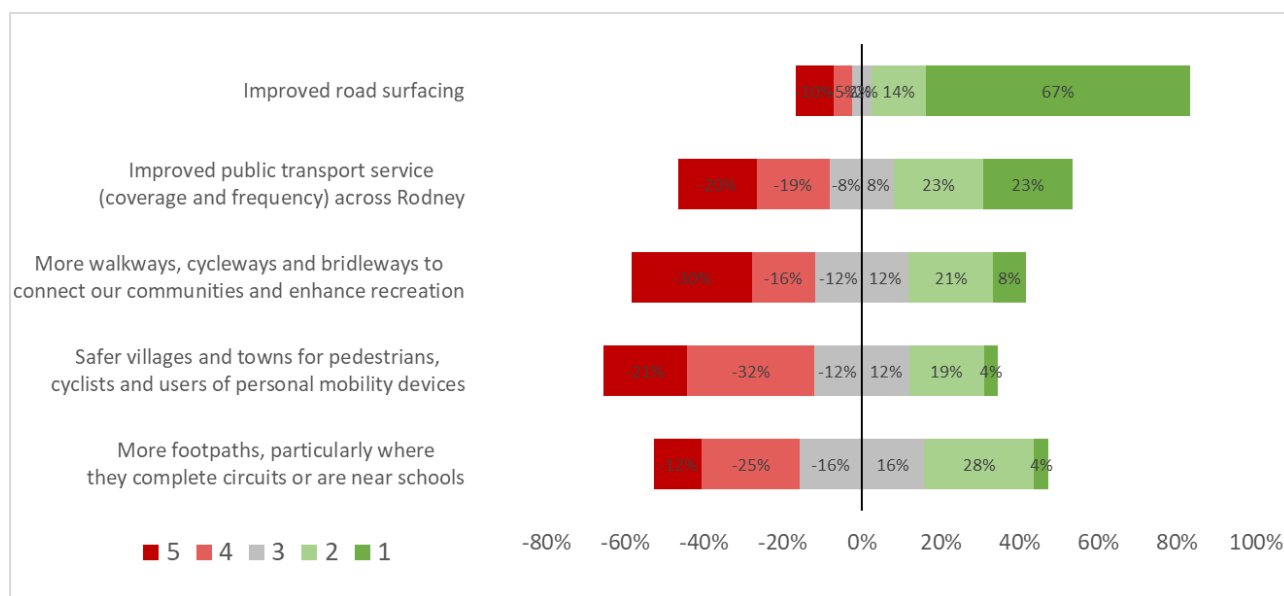
The survey asked respondents which Our Environment objectives were most important to them (ranking them).



Number of **individuals** that rated objective as most important



Priority rating (1st to 5th) across all objectives according to **individuals**



Of the 18 organisations that answered this question, they ranked the objectives as follows:

1. Improved public transport.
2. More walkways, cycleways and bridleways.
3. Safer villages and towns for pedestrians, cyclists and other users.
4. More footpaths, particularly in regard to schools.
5. Improved road surfacing.



For those that provided feedback on their selection, the following types of comments/themes were provided by objective:

Number of comments	Objective*	Type of comments
73	Safer road surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roads are in poor condition, dangerous and need more maintenance • More sealing of rural roads • Many mentioned the potholes • Roads not keeping up with growth in housing/development
47	Affordable, accessible, and frequent public transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request for shuttle/linkage buses in Warkworth • More frequent buses with more pickup points • Get people on public transport and free up roads • Use rail in North-West
13	Pedestrians and non-road users are safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Majority of these comments supported this for safety reasons
Number of comments	Advocacy	Type of comments
20	More walkways, cycleways and bridleways to connect our communities and enhance recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive of this for health and wellbeing. Connection between rural towns. Local attraction. Climate friendly

* To aid with comprehension the wording of the objectives was adapted for the survey. The plan objectives are included in the above table.

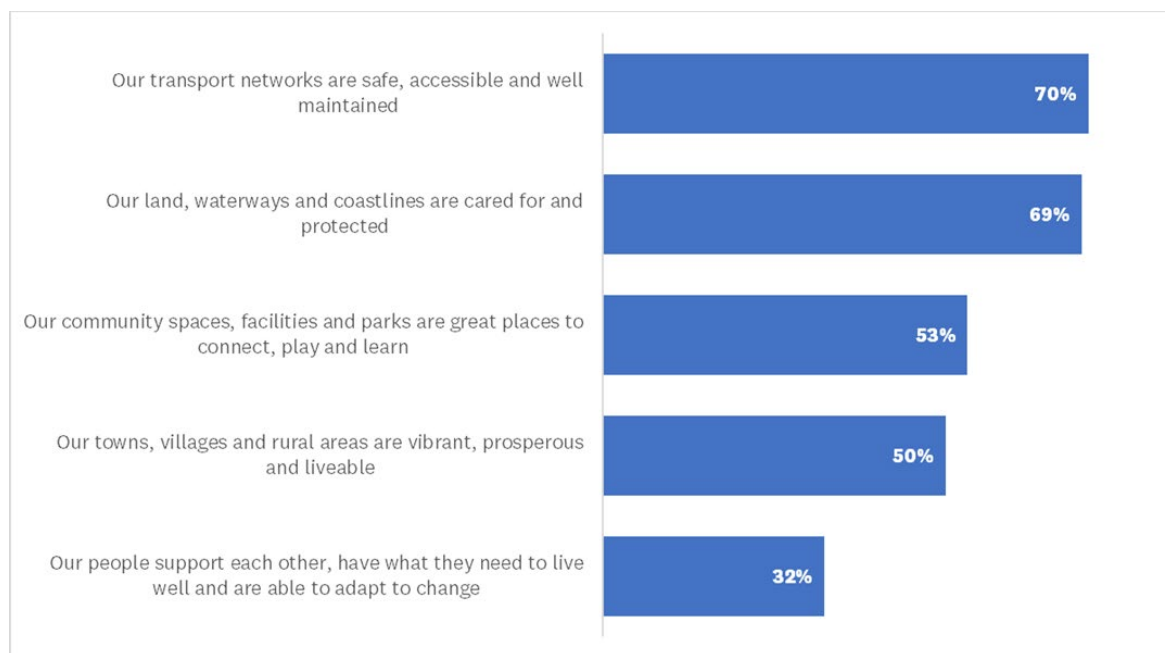
Other questions asked

As part of the draft local board plan consultation, the following additional questions were asked.

The survey asked respondents to indicate their **three most important outcomes** in the plan.



Most important outcomes according to **individuals**

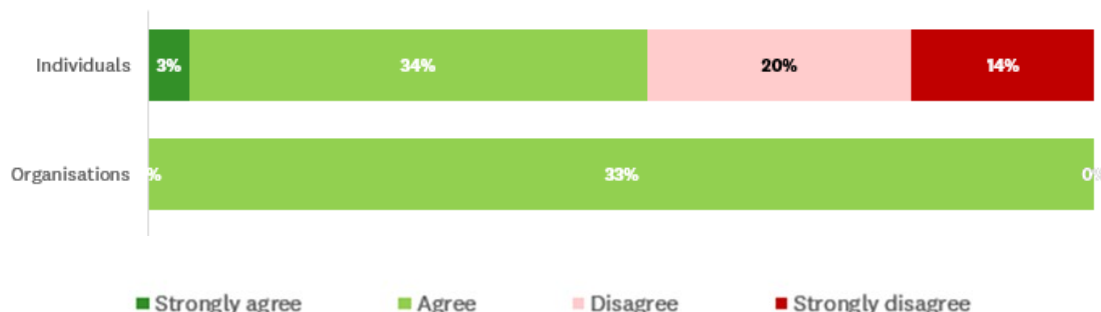


Most important outcomes according to **organisations**:

1. Our Places: Our Towns, villages and rural areas are vibrant, prosperous and liveable. (9 votes).
2. Our People: Our people support each other have what they need to live well and are able to adapt to change (8 votes).
3. Our Community: Our community spaces, facilities, and parks are great places to connect, play and learn (7 votes).
4. Our Environment: Our land, waterways and coastlines are cared for and protected (6 votes).
5. Our Transport: Our Transport networks are safe, accessible and well maintained (3 votes).

This question did not include a comments section.

The survey asked respondents **how well they thought the plan reflects their needs and aspirations for their community over the next three years?**





	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	I don't know
Individuals	4	45	26	18	40
Organisations	0	1	0	0	2

As a final question, the survey asked respondents for **any further feedback on the plan**. The feedback for this question and the above question on needs and aspirations produced very similar comments. These comments were therefore themed together as below:

Number of comments	Theme / type of comments
27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fix roads • Seal roads • Less potholes
21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan is a bit vague, not specific enough, what will actually be done?
18	In relation to Our places: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More beautification especially in Northwest • Better planning for intensification and away from flood plains
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balanced, well thought out plan for all
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for alternatives to cars: More/better public transport, use smaller buses, more footpaths, walking tracks, bike paths and bridleways
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need more resources going to climate action • Support for environmental activities

Other feedback received

Feedback on topics outside of those directly consulted on included:

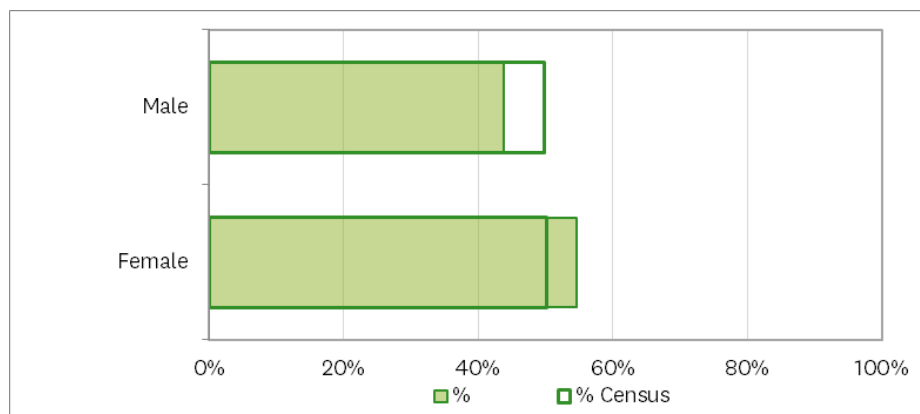
- Objections to the constitutional recognition of the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the related principle
- Concern about rates and cost of living
- Comments against super city and general distrust in council
- While the Rodney Local Board has some limited discretionary funding through their Transport Targeted Rate and the Local Board Transport Capital Fund, most of the feedback received in regard to roading and public transport cannot be responded to other than through advocacy to Auckland Transport and Waka Kotahi.

Who we heard from

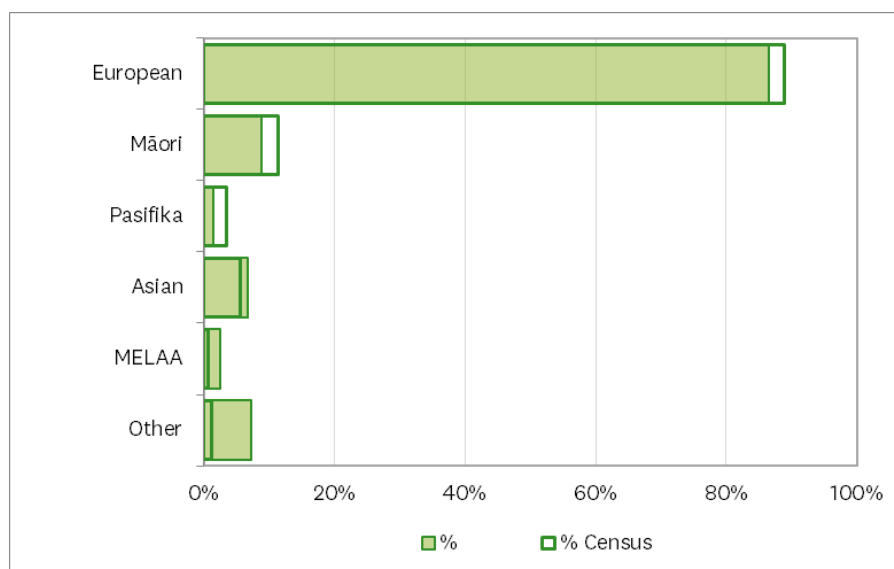
The tables and graphs below indicate the demographic profile of those that answered the demographic questions.



Gender of submitters compared to population



Ethnicity of submitters compared to population



Age of submitters compared to population

