

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney  
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2022/2023

# Rodney Local Board

Annual Report 2022/2023



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:** Cody Nelson and his daughter Shelby give the thumbs up to the playground at Point Drive, Riverhead.

## 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 2022 to 30 June 2023.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2022/2023. 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 2021-2031 (10-year Budget 2021-2031) and the Rodney Local Board Agreement 2022/2023.

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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▲ Enjoying a day at the beach, Matheson Bay

# He kōrero mai i te heamana

## From the chairperson

Rodney has had a very challenging year. The extreme weather has caused tremendous damage to infrastructure, community facilities, homes and businesses. Throughout, I have been humbled by the way our communities have responded and looked out for each other. Clearly it will take some time to put right the damage and restore services to pre-cyclone levels.

That said, there have been several valuable projects completed; the Riverhead Memorial Park playground, the Matua Road neighbourhood park, the William Fraser Reserve toilet facilities, the new pocket park adjacent to the Wellsford Toilets and the adoption of the Wellsford Centennial Park Masterplan. Several footpaths and pedestrian safety projects have also been delivered and work is ongoing on the Warkworth Town Centre Plan and the Green Road 154-hectare reserve in Dairy Flat.



Previous consultation responses have suggested that local and central government must collaborate on improving transport infrastructure capacity and performance and the promotion of public transport. While these are things the local board can advocate for, our decision making is primarily around playgrounds, parks and community facilities.

While compromises will need to be made, we encourage everyone in our communities to share their interests and concerns with us. Your input is important in helping

us consider the options and set our priorities as we move forward together.



**Brent Bailey**  
Chairperson, Rodney Local Board

Newly elected members have settled into their roles and have been bringing fresh ideas to the table with much enthusiasm. An effective team will be valuable as we navigate our way through budget cuts and refocused priorities, which is challenging but necessary given the council's current financial situation.

# Te Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney

## Rodney Local Board



### Your local board

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



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# Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake

## Rodney projects and improvements

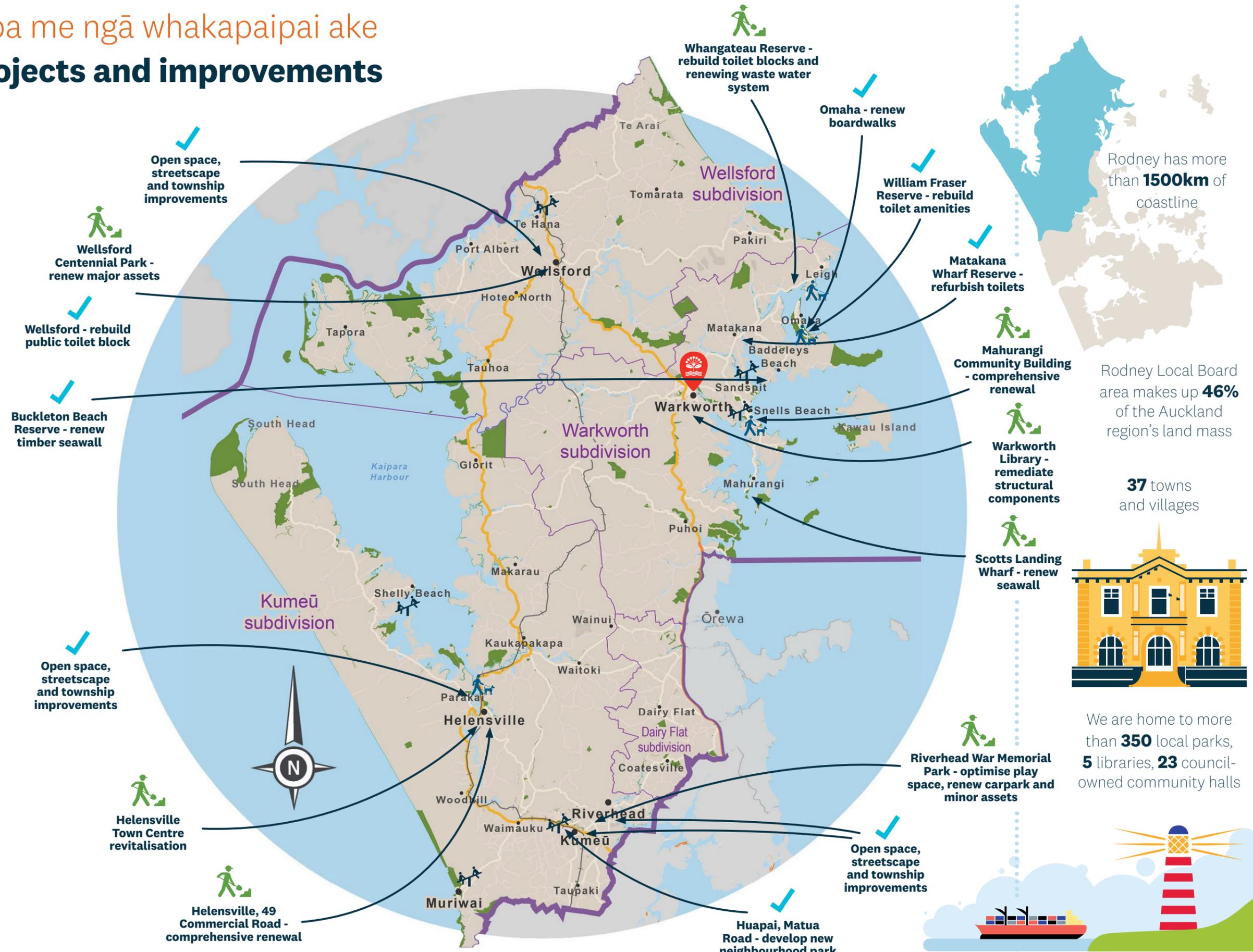
### KEY CURRENT AND PLANNED PROJECTS

-  **Delivered projects**
-  **Current projects**
-  **Current playspace renewals**
-  **Current track renewals**

Data sources: Council Growth model i11v6 (August 2020). Statistics New Zealand 2018 Census.

### LEGEND

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



Rodney has more than **1500km** of coastline

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

**37** towns and villages



We are home to more than **350** local parks, **5** libraries, **23** council-owned community halls



# Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

## Our performance report

### Local community services

We delivered improvements to our open spaces and streetscapes at Kumeū and Huapai, Riverhead, Wellsford and Parakai and continued implementing actions from the Green Road masterplan and pathways plan.

We funded plants and pest traps for our local ecological volunteers to carry out environmental work in our local parks, and two compliance wardens to increase public safety and drive enhanced environmental outcomes.

We also continued financial support for our two local arts centres, contributing to a vibrant local arts scene.

 <b>Achieved</b> Target has been met or exceeded	 <b>Substantially achieved</b> Target has not been met by a slim margin (+/-2%)	 <b>Not achieved</b> Target not achieved	<b>* Impacted by COVID-19</b> Measures favourably/unfavourably impacted by COVID-19
 <b>Progress made</b> Result improved from prior-year result	 <b>No change</b> No change from prior-year result	 <b>No improvements</b> Not improved from prior-year result	

For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to page 171 of Volume 1 of the annual report.

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2023 Target	2023 Result	2022	2021	How did we perform
<b>Provide safe, reliable and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities</b>							
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - day time			90%	79%	84%	88%	While the 2022/2023 result did not meet target, the majority of comments noted people felt safe during the day. A stronger sense of community helped with residents feeling safe, but crime is still an issue for some. Only seven percent of residents surveyed actively felt unsafe during the day.
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - night time			54%	36%	40%	53%	Common themes from survey respondents included wanting more streetlights, cameras and foot police to help with reducing the feeling of being unsafe at night. There were concerns relating to increased crimes and suggestions to improve safety included providing more cameras and police or patrol presence at night to act as deterrents. Thirty one percent of residents surveyed actively felt unsafe during the night.
<b>Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities</b>							
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that are community led			65%	50%	70%	67%	While the result did not meet target, local community groups continue to play an active role, such as establishing community gardens and taking ownership over the Kumeū emergency response plan.
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goals			45%	68%	70%	50%	We continued to focus on ensuring that local communities are capable, resilient and informed, through the development of the Kumeū emergency response plan and engaging with and gathering local community feedback on the Warkworth Town Centre Plan.
<b>We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, beaches, recreation programmes, opportunities and facilities to get Aucklanders more active, more often</b>							
The percentage of park visitors who are satisfied with the overall quality of sportsfields			70%	60%	66%*	79%	Flooding and weather events have significantly impacted the maintenance and availability of sports fields. Renewal works were also delayed due to poor weather and ground conditions, such as for the Huapai Recreation Reserve cricket pitch. These factors have impacted customer satisfaction.
The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks			69%	61%	63%*	81%	User satisfaction with local parks has reduced compared to prior years and is below target. This year's weather events have disrupted park mowing, especially larger grass areas, and damaged and caused closure of some local parks, walkways and paths.
The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months			83%	84%	81%	86%	
<b>We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture</b>							
The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations			17%	6%	21%	20%	There has been significant mana whenua engagement and input on one of this year's largest projects, the Warkworth Town Centre Plan. However there has been many smaller community projects delivered this year with minimal Māori outcomes, therefore the result appears low and did not meet target.

Local Community Services measures cont'd over

## Local community services cont'd

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2023 Target	2023 Result	2022	2021	How did we perform
<b>We fund, enable, and deliver services, programmes, and facilities (art facilities, community centres, hire venues, and libraries) that enhance identity, connect people, and support Aucklanders to participate in community and civic life</b>							
The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks)	●	▲	130,200	117,111	70,715*	134,402*	While the internet usage did not meet target, Rodney libraries have largely returned to normal usage, and next year's performance is expected to improve.
The percentage of local community services, programmes and facilities that are community led	●		Set baseline <sup>1</sup>	Baseline not set	Not measured	New measure	
The percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	●	▬	90%	100%	100%	100%	The Rodney Local Board does not have any council owned or managed arts centres. However the local board supports and funds two community arts partners on an annual basis, Kumeū Arts Centre and Helensville Arts Centre. All arts and culture programmes are led and delivered by the community.
The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led	●	▬	68%	68%	68%	64%	
The number of participants for local community services, programmes, and facilities	●		Set baseline <sup>1</sup>	Baseline not set	Not measured	New measure	
The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues	●	▲	92,000	205,987	105,164*	123,201*	Participants in activities at rural halls contributed to over half the result this year, reflecting the recovery of rural communities. Warkworth Town Hall was the top contributor. The local board has revised its target for the upcoming year 2023/2024 to reflect the high usage of rural halls.
The number of visits to library facilities	●	▲	350,500	277,823	203,287*	303,790*	Although physical visitation at libraries has increased, it is not yet at the pre-COVID-19 level, and is recovering more slowly than expected.
The percentage of customers satisfied with quality of local community services, programmes, and facilities	●		Set baseline <sup>1</sup>	Baseline not set	Not measured	New measure	
The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event	●		75%	85%	Not measured*	Not measured	The Warkworth A&P show was surveyed this year and attendee satisfaction exceeded the target.
Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery	●	▲	85%	98%	95%	98%	Our five libraries continued to exceed the customer satisfaction target in line with prior year expectations. Customers were especially satisfied with the service provided by our frontline library staff.

1. Better measures on overall participation, satisfaction and enabling more community-led community services were the original intent when these measures were included in the 2021-2031 Long-term Plan, signalling a shift in our approach and scope in delivering community services. We explored different methodologies but data gaps in some services mean a consolidated measure across community services is difficult to measure, while the scope of council-led community services are expected to change. Further work will be on hold until future options for community services are considered as part of the 2024-2034 Long-term Plan.

## Local planning and development

We continued our support and engagement with North West Country Incorporated and One Mahurangi Business Association to help promote local vibrant business communities.

We also supported the Kumeū Huapai Management Group to update their Emergency Action Plan.

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2023 Target	2023 Result	2022	2021	How did we perform
<b>We help attract investment, businesses and a skilled workforce to Auckland</b>							
The percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) Partnership Programme obligations	●	—	100%	100%	100%	100%	North West Country and One Mahurangi Business Associations have complied with their BID programme obligations

## Local environmental management

We expanded on our construction and demolition waste minimisation programme at the Helensville Community Recycling Centre, diverting building waste from landfill, and funded many environmental coordinators for local community-led pest control work.

	Outcome	Year-on-year change	2023 Target	2023 Result	2022	2021	How did we perform
<b>We work with Aucklanders to manage the natural environment and enable low carbon lifestyles to build resilience to the effects of climate change</b>							
The percentage of local low carbon or sustainability projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes			75%	Not Measured <sup>1</sup>	100%	New measure	
The percentage of local water quality or natural environment improvement projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes	●	—	85%	100%	100%	New measure	Rodney Local Board funded and delivered four projects enabling environmental restoration and pest management.
The percentage of local waste minimisation projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes	●	—	75%	100%	100%	New measure	Rodney Local Board funded the successful delivery of the Helensville construction and demolition waste minimisation programme.

1. Rodney Local Board did not directly fund a low carbon or sustainability project in 2022/2023. However many environmental projects which the Local Board supported indirectly contribute to low carbon or sustainability outcomes. Due to this the result is not measured.



► Sitting at Te Puawai Kōwhai, a public space outside Warkworth Library.

# He whakamārama mō ā mātou mahi whakahaere

## Our performance explained

Rodney Local Board supports the restoration of Rodney’s natural environment by funding key pest management and planting initiatives.

In 2022/2023, we continued to fund our Ecological Volunteer and Environmental Programme, which has been ongoing for a number of years. This programme supports community and volunteer initiatives across the local board area, such as community planting days, pest plant and animal control work, and local park clean ups.

This year, we recorded over 11,000 volunteer hours, and planted over 22,000 trees and shrubs. During the planting season, our wonderful volunteers undertook planting in parks, including at Matheson Bay, Kaukapakapa Reserve, Helensville River, Riverhead War Memorial Park, Leigh Scenic Reserve and Matakana Diamond Jubilee Park. The rest of the year was spent on restoration work, including weed and animal pest control, planting maintenance and preparation, and educational activities.

In addition to supporting our volunteers, we

also continued to further support pest control efforts across Rodney by funding facilitation and coordination roles for Restore Rodney East, Rodney West, Pest Free Coatesville and Te Arai Shorebirds Trust. The coordination roles facilitate networks between local communities, volunteer groups and landowners, to deliver pest-management activities which protect our local native biodiversity and ecosystems. Overall, 2022/2023 was a very successful year for pest trapping, despite challenges faced due to the numerous weather events.

With the support of our local volunteers with their efforts and time, we have successfully delivered another year of our planned environmental programmes, continuing our journey to ensure Rodney’s natural environment is healthy and protected.

▼ Students from Te Kura o Puhinui / Warkworth School helped design the new playground at Shoesmith Reserve in collaboration with Ngāti Manuhiri.



# Te āhuatanga ā-rohe Local flavour

## A helping hand for Rodney environmental groups

Support for community groups engaged in conservation projects in eastern Rodney has gone from strength to strength with the establishment of Restore Rodney East.

Set up during COVID-19 lockdowns, the group became operational nearly two years ago, and now with incorporated society status, Restore Rodney East helps volunteer groups across the rohe from Puhoi to Te Arai realise their full potential when delivering environmental projects.

Rodney Local Board Chairperson Brent Bailey says Rodney is fortunate to have many hardworking volunteer groups who deliver a huge range of environmental restoration projects, and the local board is very keen to support their tremendous efforts.

Funding from the board has been essential to develop a community restoration strategy, an ecological connectivity roadmap, and to establish the facilitator role at Restore Rodney East.

Restore Rodney East facilitator Sarah Churchouse says that many opportunities are created for the groups to network, collaborate, share and celebrate their successes.

“The Connect & Inspire event hit all the right notes, reinforcing connections and making potentially lifelong relationships. Restore Rodney East provided to the community groups the promises made in our constitution, and we gained respect from our peers and guests.”

Restore Rodney East Chairperson Tim Armitage believes it’s an exciting time for environmental restoration projects right across the region.

“We’re working hard to frame up and launch a Pest Free Mahurangi East Peninsula project.

“We are seeking funds to support groups to undertake a comprehensive survey of some of the endangered species we have within the district.

“In parallel; we are continuing to help promote the work of many of the local groups to help attract more volunteers to support their efforts. Our shared library of equipment and tools that groups can borrow is expanding. We will be running and supporting more events by bringing in outstanding speakers and educators who can help us all to better achieve our goals.”



▲ Groups set up displays to share their projects with the community at the Warkworth A&P Lifestyle Show.

# Te tahua pūtea

## Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2023

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2022/2023	Annual Plan 2022/2023	Annual Plan 2021/2022*
<b>Sources of operating funding:</b>				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		16,325	16,325	19,573
Targeted rates		306	319	314
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		14	9	9
Fees and charges		211	162	142
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		268	300	515
<b>Total operating funding</b>		<b>17,124</b>	<b>17,115</b>	<b>20,553</b>
<b>Applications of operating funding:</b>				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	13,429	13,160	16,247
Finance costs		1,441	1,441	1,283
Internal charges and overheads applied		2,157	2,157	2,880
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
<b>Total applications of operating funding</b>		<b>17,027</b>	<b>16,758</b>	<b>20,410</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) of operating funding</b>		<b>97</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>143</b>
<b>Sources of capital funding:</b>				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	12,006	11,496	9,294
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
<b>Total sources of capital funding</b>		<b>12,006</b>	<b>11,496</b>	<b>9,294</b>
<b>Application of capital funding:</b>				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		896	2,143	1,545
- to improve the level of service		71	0	623
- to replace existing assets		11,136	9,711	7,269
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
<b>Total applications of capital funding</b>		<b>12,103</b>	<b>11,853</b>	<b>9,437</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) of capital funding</b>		<b>(97)</b>	<b>(357)</b>	<b>(143)</b>
<b>Funding balance</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Variance explanation Actual 2022/2023 to Annual Plan 2022/2023**

1. Payments to staff and suppliers were above planned expenditure due to adverse weather conditions and Cyclone Gabrielle damaging open spaces and tracks. In addition, contractors have increased the level of general maintenance this year to improve the quality of maintenance of local open spaces and facilities.
2. Capital expenditure and payments to staff and suppliers were higher than planned. This resulted in a funding deficit which meant that more debt funding was required than was planned.
3. Capital expenditure was above plan primarily due to remedial works at the Helensville Library building following the discovery of more asbestos than anticipated, as well as an increased scope of works following recent weather events.

\* Same target as the Year 1 of the Long-term Plan 2021-2031 (10-year Budget 2021-2031).

Public toilets at 124 Rodney Street, Wellsford ►





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