

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2020/2021

Rodney Local Board

Annual Report 2020/2021



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 ranga 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: Kayakers explore the picturesque Rangitopuni Stream 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 2020 to 30 June 2021.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2020/2021. 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 also reports against the council's Long-term Plan 2018-2028 (10-year Budget 2018-2028) and the Rodney Local Board Agreement 2020/2021.

This report also reflects the local flavour of your area by profiling its population, people and council facilities. It also 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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Te Puawai Kowhai, meaning blooming of the kowhai, is a new public space next to Warkworth Library that opened in June.



He kōrero mai i te heamana

From the chairperson

The past year has had its share of challenges and uncertainty with the grip COVID-19 has had on the world, and the different ways that has impacted us all.

Auckland Council was hit hard financially and implemented an Emergency Budget to respond to its financial shortfall. Tough choices had to be made, and ultimately many activities had to be deferred.

But when we reflect on the year, I am still heartened by what we've achieved in Rodney:

- Continued investment in town centres, particularly in Warkworth, with the development of Te Puawai Kowhai (the shared space between the Masonic Hall and the library), and in Helensville, with improvements to street furniture and the planting of native trees along Commercial Road.
- Renewal of key facilities, including Kumeū Library, Warkworth Wharf, and Leigh Hall, as well as the playgrounds in Merlot Heights and Whangateau Reserve, and the toilets and changing rooms at Rautawhiri Park.
- Activation work in the Huapai Hub and Wellsford Community Centre, focused on developing community initiatives that bring people together, and creating spaces that are vibrant and enjoyable for residents.
- The completion of site assessments in Green Road Park which have informed our priorities as we progress towards the goal of developing the park for the future.
- Delivering another successful year with the Rodney Healthy Harbours and Waterways Fund, which provides match-funding to enhance waterways through riparian planting and fencing.
- A successful trial of the Forestry Ambassadors Programme - a new initiative focused on reducing sediment run-off into local waterways.



In addition, some of our key achievements this year have been delivered through the Rodney Local Board Transport Targeted Rate. Auckland Transport confirmed it will take over the funding of two of our targeted rate - funded bus services due to their strong patronage rates (the 126 service via Coatesville and Riverhead, and the 998 service between Wellsford and Warkworth). We also saw construction commence on the Warkworth Community Transport Hub.

As a local board, we are grateful to our community volunteers who have continued to strive for progress during a challenging year. A number of events supported by the local board had to be re-scheduled or re-invented to withstand the potential impacts of COVID-19, including a number of the Christmas parades that bring together the people of our towns and villages. Significant environmental work has also been carried out by community groups, with a total of 40 community group-led projects, and eight school-led projects utilising local board funding to support environmental outcomes in local parks across Rodney.

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

As we end the year, Auckland Council has confirmed its Recovery Budget for the coming year. It will continue to be challenging for some time, but we look forward to strong progress in Rodney.

Phelan Pirrie
Chairperson, Rodney Local Board

Te Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney

Rodney Local Board



Your board

(L to R) Vicki Kenny, Tim Holdgate, Colin Smith, Steven Garner, Beth Houlbrooke (Deputy Chairperson), Danielle Hancock, Phelan Pirrie (Chairperson), Brent Bailey, Louise Johnston.



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Closed Saturday, Sunday and public holidays



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Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

Our performance report

● **Achieved**
Target has been met or exceeded

● **Substantially achieved**
Target has not been met by a slim margin (+/-2%)

● **Not achieved**
Target not achieved

▲ **Progress made**
Result improved from prior-year result

— **No change**
No change from prior-year result

▼ **No improvements**
Not improved from prior-year result

* **Impacted by COVID-19**
Measures favourably / unfavourably impacted by COVID-19

Local Community Services

We implemented town centre revitalisation work at Warkworth and Helensville, refurbished the Leigh Hall, renewed the Kumeū Library, and relocated and renewed the playspace at Merlot Heights Reserve. We also provided operational funding for concept plans, site assessments and feasibility work which will inform future capital investment across the local board area. We supported the Helensville Arts Centre (\$20,000) and Kumeū Arts Centre (\$40,000) with operational grants. We funded ecological volunteers who contributed to ecological outcomes across the local board area and provided funding for increased maintenance of street furniture in our town centres.

	Results against target	Year-on-year change	2021 Target	2021 Result	2020	2019	How did we perform
Provide safe, reliable and accessible social infrastructure for Aucklanders that contributes to placemaking and thriving communities							
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - day time	●	▼	92%	88%	89%	91%	While the 2020/2021 result did not meet the target, it was a good result overall with majority of comments noting that people feel safe. Comments in the residents survey noted that respondents feel unsafe during the day time due to a number of factors, including poor quality of footpaths, and some recent incidents of crime.
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - night time	●	▲	60%	53%	51%	56%	Comments in the residents survey noted that respondents feel unsafe at night due to a number of factors, including poor quality of street lighting and footpaths, some recent incidents of break-ins and car theft, and a lack of police presence.
Utilising the Empowered Communities Approach, we support Aucklanders to create thriving, connected and inclusive communities							
The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that are community led	●	▼	50%	67%	71%	75%	Community-led practice is a core way of working in Rodney. Activities included construction of the Kawau Fishing Club Sun Shelter, the activation of the Huapai hub and a successful trial of the Old Wellsford Library Arts Hub in Wellsford.
The percentage of Empowered Communities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goal	●	▲	50%	50%	19%	68%	Many groups and organisations in Rodney have built considerable capacity. Main focus has been South Kaipara Food Security Plan, appointment of activation co-ordinators for the Huapai Hub, and Wellsford Community Centre.
We fund, enable and deliver arts and culture experiences that enhance identity and connect people							
The percentage of arts and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	●	—	95%	100%	100%	100%	All programmes have been community led.
We fund, enable and deliver community events and experiences that enhance identity and connect people							
The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event			75%	Not measured*	Not measured	76%	Satisfaction survey methods require physical engagement with event attendees. The promotion of physical distancing to minimise risk at community events meant that satisfaction surveys were unable to be carried out this year.
We provide art facilities, community centres and hire venues that enable Aucklanders to run locally responsive activities, promoting participation, inclusion and connection							
The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues	●	▼	91,000	123,201*	129,707*	158,603	While our venues were working with reduced capacities due to physical distancing rules during COVID-19 restrictions, we still managed to exceed our targets. This was due to higher than anticipated attendance at our rural halls and Warkworth Town Hall, which can partially be attributed to additional local board investment into this service delivery area.
The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led	●	—	64%	64%	64%	64%	The result was right in line with our target as there were no changes to our community-led portfolio model.
We provide library services and programmes that support Aucklanders with reading and literacy, and opportunities to participate in community and civic life							
The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public Wi-Fi networks)	●	▼	230,000	134,402*	152,111*	215,408	Reduction was partly due to the two alert levels restrictions during this financial year, customers opting for online services and more users having internet available at home. Kumeū library was closed in April 2021 for remedial work.
The number of visits to library facilities	●	▼	330,000	303,790*	327,581*	400,072	Library visits continued to decline due to changing customer behaviour and preference for online services. This was further affected by closures during COVID-19 lockdowns and the residual effect of initial outbreaks. Furthermore, Kumeū library was closed for remedial work in April 2021.
Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery	●	▲	85%	98%	97%	97%	The overall satisfaction rating of libraries in the Rodney local board is one of the highest in Auckland, and driven to a large extent by the great service delivered by staff.

Local Community Services measures cont'd over

Local Community Services cont'd

	Results against target	Year-on-year change	2021 Target	2021 Result	2020	2019	How did we perform
We provide recreation programmes, opportunities and facilities to get Aucklanders more active, more often							
The percentage of park visitors who are satisfied with the overall quality of sportsfields	●	▼	70%	79%	80%	76%	The local board has invested significant funding over the past few years into improving the quality of sportsfields and provision of services throughout the Rodney area, contributing the higher satisfaction levels.
We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, and beaches							
The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks	●	▲	69%	81%	77%	63%	Generally residents were very satisfied with the quality of local parks, particularly that parks were well maintained, clean and tidy. Some areas where residents have suggested improvements include general tree maintenance, overflowing rubbish bins, and long grass and weeds in some parks.
The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months	●	▲	83%	86%	84%	74%	This result is relatively high, and is consistent with council's customer experience surveys. COVID-19 lockdowns have contributed to some residents not visiting parks during the year.
We showcase Auckland's Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture							
The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations	●	▲	13.0%	20%	17.0%	12.5%	Key areas of focus include working with local iwi and engagement with Ngāti Manuhiri, and contestable grants administered via Creative Communities scheme that respond to Māori aspirations.

Local Environmental Management

The major highlight is our Healthy Harbours and Waterways Fund, with \$240,000 allocated by the local board. This fund helps landowners and community groups protect and restore riparian margins by erecting fencing along waterways – grants were approved for 15 projects in 2020/2021. We also supported other environmental projects such as Pest Free Coatesville

animal pest controls, Mahurangi College living classroom coordinator, Te Arai Shorebirds Trust coordinator, Forestry Ambassadors Programme, and onsite wastewater system engagement initiatives.

	Results against target	Year-on-year change	2021 Target	2021 Result	2020	2019	How did we perform
We manage Auckland's natural environment							
The proportion of local programmes that deliver intended environmental actions and/or outcomes	●	▲	100%	75%	67%	100%	Six of eight environmental projects were successfully delivered for Rodney that contributed to the local board's environmental outcomes. Budget for the pest free management plans has been carried forward for completion in quarter one 2021/2022. The Restore East Rodney project was not delivered due to the organisation's capacity and has been carried forward for delivery in 2021/2022.

Local Planning and Development

We continued our support and engagement with North West Country Incorporated and One Mahurangi BID.

	Results against target	Year-on-year change	2021 Target	2021 Result	2020	2019	How did we perform
We help attract investment, businesses and a skilled workforce to Auckland							
The percentage of Business Associations meeting their Business Improvement District (BID) Partnership Programme obligations	●	—	100%	100%	100%	100%	Both One Mahurangi BID and North West Country Incorporated have complied with their BID Policy obligations.

Rodney Local Board Transport Targeted Rate

The Rodney Local Board Transport Targeted Rate was introduced in 2018/2019 and the programme has continued into the 2020/2021 financial year. The rate has collected \$13 million over the first three years and has seen further progress on the 10-year programme of work consulted on during the 2018-2028 Long-term Plan. To 30 June 2021, \$6.8 million has been spent on bus services, park and ride investigation and design, footpaths, and bus stops.

The targeted rate has supported the continuation of operational bus services and routes within the board area that were started in 2018/2019:

- Wellsford to Warkworth (998 bus)
- Helensville to Hibiscus Coast Station via Kaukapakapa and Waitoki (128 bus)
- Westgate to Albany, via Riverhead and Coatesville (126 bus).

The Warkworth and Kumeū sites have been selected for park and ride community hubs and works are currently being progressed. The Warkworth site at 80 Great North Road has been through a detailed design process and the construction contract was

awarded to the successful contractor in May 2021. Construction works began in June 2021 and is expected to be completed in March 2022. Auckland Transport is in consultation with the local board and is undertaking internal planning work to identify a suitable potential transport hub site for the park and ride in Kumeū.

Targeted rate funding has also been allocated to the following footpath enhancements across the local board area:

- Omaha Drive
- Dairy Flat Highway (outside Dairy Flat School)
- School Road
- Alice Street, Riverhead
- Leigh Road
- Coatesville Riverhead Highway
- Newton Road, Riverhead
- Dairy Flat Highway – Postman Road to Dairy Flat School
- Cambridge Road, Duke Street & Matua Road
- Footpath Investigation – tranche three.



▲ The 998 bus service that runs between Wellsford and Warkworth is well patronised

Te āhuatanga ā-rohe Local flavour

Students explore Lake Tomarata

Tomarata students love nothing more than learning outdoors and were thrilled to explore the special character of Wellsford's Lake Tomarata earlier this year.

Funded by the Rodney Local Board and organised by Auckland Council's Healthy Waters team, 80 students, parents and teachers took part in the lake discovery day.

Tomarata School Principal Cherylene Neels says the school's vision is linked to the local area, sustainability, biculturalism and learning about nurturing the environment.

"The opportunity given to our children to gain knowledge about water, trees, eels and the special character of the Tomarata Lakes was perfect to complement our local curriculum."

Students took part in activities such as:

- Native plant knowledge and potting up – each student learned about the importance of native plants and potted up a plant to take home.
- Native fish – students looked at fish caught in the lake, learned about fish habitat and protecting native species, and played 'fish bingo' to identify particular species.
- Septic tank relays – a game teaching students what they can and can't put down their septic tank.
- Wai Care monitoring – students looked at the lake's pH levels, water clarity and macroinvertebrates.

Principal Neels says the children loved the creative activities especially the water clarity tubes, repotting native trees, and touching a live eel.



Students checking the lake's pH levels

Local Board Chair Phelan Pirrie says the lake is a popular recreation spot and a valuable habitat for native species.

"Helping children and parents understand the lake's ecology and health makes them want to protect it.

"We know that our lakes, rivers and beaches are contaminated by sediment run-off and wastewater leaks from septic tanks and that is why the local board supports programmes that educate people about the actions they can take to prevent this happening."

Principal Neels says a student's responsibility to care for the environment is developed naturally through experiences like the day at Lake Tomarata.

Te tahua pūtea

Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2021

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2020/2021	Annual Plan 2020/2021	Annual Plan 2019/2020
Sources of operating funding:				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		19,612	19,612	15,643
Targeted rates		301	315	171
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		2	5	5
Fees and charges		157	140	165
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		551	566	7
Total operating funding		20,623	20,638	15,991
Applications of operating funding:				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	15,679	16,513	11,882
Finance costs		1,371	1,368	1,383
Internal charges and overheads applied		1,775	1,775	2,062
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
Total applications of operating funding		18,824	19,656	15,327
Surplus (deficit) of operating funding		1,799	982	664
Sources of capital funding:				
Subsidies and grants for capital expenditure		0	0	0
Development and financial contributions		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in debt	2	2,789	3,364	7,994
Gross proceeds from sale of assets		0	0	0
Lump sum contributions		0	0	0
Other dedicated capital funding		0	0	0
Total sources of capital funding		2,789	3,364	7,994
Application of capital funding:				
Capital expenditure:				
- to meet additional demand		584	516	772
- to improve the level of service		421	1,039	1,139
- to replace existing assets		3,583	2,790	6,747
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
Total applications of capital funding	3	4,588	4,346	8,658
Surplus (deficit) of capital funding		(1,799)	(982)	(664)
Funding balance		0	0	0

Variance explanation Actual 2020/2021 to Annual Plan 2020/2021

1. Payments to staff and suppliers were below plan primarily due to low staff levels as a result of facility closures related to COVID-19 and the associated lockdowns.
2. Payments to staff and suppliers were lower than planned. This resulted in a funding surplus, which was partly absorbed by higher than planned capital expenditure. The overall funding surplus meant that less debt funding was required than was planned.
3. Capital expenditure was above plan due to renewal projects being brought forward and delivered this year. There was additional capacity to deliver as a result of delays with improvement projects such as structural works at 49 Commercial Road. Renewals brought forward exceeded the planned spend of delayed projects resulting in a slight overspend.

Rautawhiri toilet and changing room facility at Rautawhiri Park, Helensville ►



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