



Te Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney  
Te Rīpoata ā-Tau 2023/2024

# Rodney Local Board

Annual Report 2023/2024



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.”

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.”

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.”

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.”

## 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 2023 to 30 June 2024.

You can read about our progress, expenditure, service performance and challenges faced in 2023/2024. 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 2023/2024.

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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▲ Preschoolers from Muddy Toes Early Learning Centre visit Warkworth Library



## He kōrero mai i te heamana From the chairperson

I am pleased to present the annual report for the Rodney Local Board 2023/2024. This year, despite significant challenges in the aftermath of the weather events in early 2023, we achieved remarkable milestones that underscore our community’s resilience.

Our commitment to restoring infrastructure and public spaces demanded immense effort, navigating necessary repairs and upgrades. Despite setbacks, our unwavering dedication has laid the foundation for a stronger Rodney. We prioritised critical projects during the recovery phase, ensuring our efforts were targeted where most needed.

Throughout the year, the board advocated vigorously for essential improvements in rural road maintenance, public transport, and community facilities. We made progress across a wide range of projects:

- renewal of the Mahurangi Community Building
- rebuilding of the Whangateau Reserve toilet block and renewal of the wastewater system
- upgrades at Riverhead War Memorial Park
- renewal of open space assets at Muriwai Village Green
- replacement of components and renewal of open space assets at Te Hana playground
- renewal of open space assets, including carpark and grandstand seismic upgrade at Port Albert Recreation Reserve
- development of Green Road pathway connections
- refurbishment of Matakana Wharf Reserve carpark and pergola
- improvement of the Helensville River Walkway viewing platform, wharf structure, and walkway
- track renewals at Highfield Garden Reserve and Rotary Grove
- fencing and bollard installation at Warkworth Showgrounds and Green Road
- completion of the Omaha walkway renewal.

We also provided funding for local, community-led initiatives aimed at managing pests and restoring environmental conditions in significant ecological areas, supporting private landowners with pest management efforts. Our ongoing collaboration with North West Country Incorporated and One Mahurangi Business Association continued to enhance community engagement and economic development.

Balancing community needs with strategic interests has been a profound learning experience, guided by our commitment to equitable service and sustainable development. I am proud of our achievements, shaped by your invaluable feedback and support.

Looking ahead, we remain dedicated to confronting challenges and seizing opportunities that benefit all Rodney residents. Together, we will build a resilient community where everyone can thrive.

Thank you,



**Brent Bailey**  
Chairperson,  
Rodney Local Board



## Te Poari ā-Rohe o Rodney Rodney Local Board



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

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# Ngā kaupapa me ngā whakapaipai ake Rodney projects and improvements

## Key to current and planned projects

### Delivered projects

- 1 Matakana Wharf Reserve - renew carpark & refurbish pergola
- 2 Helensville River Walkway - renew viewing platform, wharf structure and walkway improvements
- 3 Omaha - renew walkways and signage
- 4 Shelly Beach Reserve - renew play spaces and minor assets

### Current projects

- 1 Mahurangi Community Building - comprehensive renewal
- 2 Whangateau Reserve - rebuild toilet blocks and renewing wastewater system
- 3 Riverhead War Memorial Park - optimise play space, renew carpark and minor assets
- 4 Helensville, 49 Commercial Road - comprehensive renewal
- 5 Green Road develop pathway connections
- 6 Puhoi Pioneers Memorial Park - renew soil field
- 7 Muriwai Village Green - renew open space assets
- 8 Te Hana - replace playground components & open space assets
- 9 Port Albert Recreation Reserve - renew open space assets, including carpark and toilet block, and seismic upgrade for the grandstand

### Map legend

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



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

Rodney has a population of **81,000** and is expected to increase to **103,946** by 2050



We are home to more than **290** local parks, **5** libraries, **23** council-owned community halls. Rodney has more than **1500km** of coastline **37** towns and villages



Data sources: Stats NZ Population Estimates, as at 30 June 2023

# Tā mātou pūrongo whakahaere mahi

## Our performance report

### Local Community Services

We delivered a range of programmes through our five libraries, despite temporary closures at Helensville and Mahurangi East. We also continued our support for mobile library services and volunteer libraries.

We continued streetscape improvements in local town centres, including Te Hana, Coatesville, Tauhoa and Waimauku, and delivered significant levels of planting in Rodney’s local parks, with a substantial effort from volunteers, especially local schools.

We delivered several community infrastructure projects this year, and developed a draft Rodney Readiness Dashboard to help us better understand the needs and levels of community emergency group readiness for the future.

**KEY** ● Achieved ● Substantially achieved ● Not achieved \*Measures favourably/unfavourably impacted by COVID-19  
For more information on our service performance judgements and assumptions please refer to pages 166-167 of Volume 1 of the annual report.

#### 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

While the 2023/2024 result did not meet target, most respondents felt safe during the day. The score was on par with the previous year’s result.

Respondents described feeling safe in established local town centres with tight communities, however antisocial and intimidating behaviour is still a concern. Respondents want to see more police presence in public areas and town centres.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		90%
Result	2024	80%
	2023	79%
	2022	84%

##### Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe - night time

Night time safety perception has increased over the previous year, however it is still below target. Respondents limit their outings at night, with perceptions of more crime occurring at night, and suggested more police presence and lighting to help with feeling safer.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		54%
Result	2024	40%
	2023	36%
	2022	40%

#### 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<sup>1</sup>

There has been an improvement in the percentage of community-led activities. The local board supported the delivery of a variety of events and programmes, such as Wellsford Spring Fiesta, Community wellness classes, Warkworth movie nights and Friends of Green Road contributed to the result.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		70%
Result	2024	60%
	2023	50%
	2022	70%

##### The percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goals<sup>1</sup>

While the result was below target and prior year, there were still a reasonable level of capacity and capability activities delivered this year. These include Wellsford night markets, Rodney Readiness Dashboard project, youth arts programme in Kumeū, and volunteer network meetings.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		70%
Result	2024	62%
	2023	68%
	2022	70%

#### We provide safe and accessible parks, reserves, beaches, 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

Survey results have seen an improvement over prior year results and almost achieved the target. The board has invested in the upgrade of local sports fields including Warkworth Showgrounds, and LED lighting in multiple sports fields across the area.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		70%
Result	2024	68%
	2023	60%
	2022	66%*

##### The percentage of users who are satisfied with the overall quality of local parks

User satisfaction with local parks has shown an improvement compared to prior year feedback, however we were still below target.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		69%
Result	2024	66%
	2023	61%
	2022	63%*

##### The percentage of residents who visited a local park in the last 12 months

Weather events have caused significant damage and closures to parks, walkways, and paths. Coastal reserves including Snells Beach, Sandspit, Martins Bay and other eastern beach’s experienced damage to the seawalls and hard infrastructure along with erosion of the coastal edge. Contractors have worked to make these spaces safe and where required carry out further repairs. This damage, and closures, have impacted residents’ visitation of local parks.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		83%
Result	2024	77%
	2023	84%
	2022	81%

#### We showcase Auckland’s Māori identity and vibrant Māori culture

##### The percentage of local programmes, grants and activities that respond to Māori aspirations

The result was below target and similar to prior year. Rodney Local Board supported activities responding to Māori aspirations such as through funding Kumeū Arts Centre, which led in-depth Māori focused programmes engaging emergent Māori artists, and funding Matariki events with high participation.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		21%
Result	2024	5%
	2023	6%
	2022	21%



**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**

**The number of internet sessions at libraries (unique sessions over public computing or public WIFI networks)**

Internet sessions were below target this year, largely driven by Helensville and Mahurangi East Libraries operating at reduced service levels and hours because of refurbishment work.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		130,200
Result	2024	124,257
	2023	117,111
	2022	70,715*

**The percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led**

All arts programmes and activities are delivered by the two community-led arts facilities in Rodney, Helensville Arts Centre and Kumeū Arts Centre.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		100%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	100%

**The percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led**

Two facilities, Kourawhero Hall and Wellsford Community Centre, have changed management to council-led during this year. In addition, Warkworth Town Hall, which is council-led, was omitted in prior years but included this year.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		68%
Result	2024	56%
	2023	68%
	2022	68%

**The number of participants in activities at art facilities, community centres and hire venues**

The number of participants at art facilities, community centres and hire venues exceeded target, although slightly below prior year result.

The top three venues were Warkworth Town Hall, Wellsford Community Centre, and Mahurangi East Community Centre. This is an expected result as Rodney Local Board provides activation services to promote and increase usage of these facilities.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		120,000
Result	2024	190,859
	2023	205,987
	2022	105,164*

**The number of visits to library facilities**

Despite high visitor numbers at Warkworth, Wellsford and Kumeū Libraries, this was offset by lower numbers at Helensville and Mahurangi East Libraries due to renovation work affecting service levels and opening hours.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		300,000
Result	2024	287,679
	2023	277,823
	2022	203,287*

**The percentage of attendees satisfied with a nominated local community event**

The Warkworth Santa Parade was surveyed. Overall net satisfaction of 86 per cent is an excellent result and represents a very high level of alignment with expectations of attendees.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		75%
Result	2024	86%
	2023	85%
	2022	Not measured*

**Percentage of customers satisfied with the quality of library service delivery**

Result against target		●
Target 2024		95%
Result	2024	96%
	2023	98%
	2022	95%

1. This financial year, a reporting responsibility change and more diverse community delivery strategy have had an impact on reported results for a number of local boards. Although framework and direction were consistent with previous years, different interpretations have been applied by the new information providers. This has had a varying impact across different local boards, and has led to some variances in the current year results compared to the prior year.

## Local Planning and Development

We supported the continuation of the Business Improvement District programme in Rodney to help promote local vibrant business communities.

**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**

North West Country and One Mahurangi Business Associations have complied with their BID targeted rate programme obligations.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		100%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	100%

## Local Environmental Management

The first year of the Helensville construction and demolition waste minimisation programme has seen successful results, with over 80 per cent of waste materials from new-build sites diverted away from landfill.

We continued to partner with, and fund, local environmental groups across Rodney to manage and reduce animal and plant pests and restore environmental conditions in significant ecological areas.

**We work with Aucklanders to manage the natural environment and enable low carbon lifestyles to build resilience to the effects of climate change**

**The percentage of local low carbon or sustainability projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes**

Result against target		
Target 2024		NA <sup>1</sup>
Result	2024	Not Measured <sup>1</sup>
	2023	Not Measured <sup>1</sup>
	2022	100%

**The percentage of local water quality or natural environment improvement projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes**

We successfully delivered all seven of our planned water quality and natural environment improvement projects.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		85%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	100%

**The percentage of local waste minimisation projects that have successfully contributed towards local board plan outcomes**

We successfully delivered the Helensville construction and demolition waste minimisation programme which contributes towards the Rodney Local Board Plan.

Result against target		●
Target 2024		80%
Result	2024	100%
	2023	100%
	2022	100%

1. Rodney Local Board did not directly fund a low carbon or sustainability project in 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. 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.



He whakamārama mō ā mātou mahi whakahaere

# Our performance explained

The Rodney Local Board continued its support of our three main community centres – Warkworth Town Hall, Wellsford District Community Centre, and Mahurangi East Community Centre. We also provided high level support and guidance to rural hall advisory groups across Rodney.

These activities are designed to create friendly, welcoming community spaces, offering a variety of activities reflecting the needs and interests of residents and the wider community. They will be delivered through an activator role which aims to achieve these outcomes and promote the three community centres so that they are vibrant, well used community spaces and outstanding venues for the district.



▲ Warkworth Library volunteer Lesley Coombe

We hope to increase use of these facilities with Warkworth Town Hall, Wellsford District Community Centre now available through council’s online venue for hire booking system. Mahurangi East will become available once renewal work is completed. These three facilities recorded the highest usage numbers across Rodney’s community centres and hire venues.

We continued investing in the promotion of local facilities and their activities which has been reflected in higher usage of local community centres and hire venues. We also made capital investments to extend the life of community assets, ensuring they are available for community benefit for years to come.



▲ Lifting the footbridge into place at Rodney Street, Wellsford

To enable the continued use of these facilities, we have also invested capital funding for refurbishing to extend their useful life. Mahurangi East Community Centre, which shares the same building as Mahurangi East Library, closed in April 2024 for renewals and improvements, including reconfiguring the library mezzanine floor, work to make the building compliant with current building standards, fix water-tightness issues, and seismic assessment recommendations.



▲ The Predator Free Muriwai and Waimauku stand at the Waimauku School Agriculture Day

► Repairing Moir Road, Warkworth





## Te āhuatanga ā-rohe Local flavour

### Hunt for treasure at Shelly Beach’s revamped playgrounds

Shelly Beach is a popular recreation spot on the eastern side of South Head peninsula and is enjoyed by the local community and visitors alike.

Shelly Beach Reserve has two playgrounds and a basketball court, and after a major upgrade in May, the facilities have reopened. Families can hunt for treasure in the playgrounds and learn about the tree species in the reserve. The reserve has three play areas that are suitable for different ages and include the foreshore playground, the upper playground, and a basketball court.

Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara is connected to this beautiful rohe and their advice has helped to guide the upgrades at the reserve.

Visitors didn’t know about the existence of the upper playground and the loop track before the upgrade, creating a disconnect between the different levels of the reserve. Now, wayfinding signs point to the upper playground.

Toddlers and younger children are catered for at the foreshore playground. The playground features a mix of equipment, both existing and new, and includes a barbecue, picnic tables, bench seats, hammock and climbing frame, double swing set, tunnel, double slide, dolphin rocker, spinner, sand digger and sand pit filled with concrete items that children can dig for.

The upper playground is geared for older children and adults, and also has a mix of new and existing equipment such as picnic tables, hopscotch, skate grinding boxes, and fitness equipment.

Doubling the size of the basketball court has created a space that is geared for friendly team play.

The local board’s priority is to deliver quality recreational facilities that meet a range of needs for families and young people.

▼ Shelly Beach playground



## Te tahua pūtea Funding impact statement

Financial year ending 30 June 2024

\$000s	Notes	Actual 2023/2024	Annual Plan 2023/2024	Annual Plan 2022/2023
<b>Sources of operating funding:</b>				
General rates, UAGCs, rates penalties		17,629	17,629	16,325
Targeted rates		323	334	319
Subsidies and grants for operating purposes		25	9	9
Fees and charges		204	147	162
Local authorities fuel tax, fines, infringement fees and other receipts		234	234	300
<b>Total operating funding</b>		<b>18,415</b>	<b>18,353</b>	<b>17,115</b>
<b>Applications of operating funding:</b>				
Payments to staff and suppliers	1	14,750	13,731	13,160
Finance costs		1,506	1,506	1,441
Internal charges and overheads applied		2,459	2,459	2,157
Other operating funding applications		0	0	0
<b>Total applications of operating funding</b>		<b>18,716</b>	<b>17,697</b>	<b>16,758</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) of operating funding</b>		<b>(301)</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>357</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	17,180	9,393	11,496
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>17,180</b>	<b>9,393</b>	<b>11,496</b>
<b>Application of capital funding:</b>				
Capital expenditure:	3			
- to meet additional demand		634	62	2,143
- to improve the level of service		539	1,990	0
- to replace existing assets		15,706	7,998	9,711
Increase (decrease) in reserves		0	0	0
Increase (decrease) in investments		0	0	0
<b>Total applications of capital funding</b>		<b>16,879</b>	<b>10,050</b>	<b>11,853</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit) of capital funding</b>		<b>301</b>	<b>(656)</b>	<b>(357)</b>
<b>Funding balance</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(0)</b>

**Variance explanation Actual 2023/2024 to Annual Plan 2023/2024**

- Payments to staff and suppliers were above plan due to the allocation of maintenance costs for Rodney’s parks, open spaces and community facilities exceeding the planned levels for the year. In the first half of the year, contractors incurred higher repairs and maintenance associated with storm damage.
- 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.
- Capital expenditure was above plan mainly due to remedial work continued this year for the Helensville Library building at 49 Commercial Road. Asbestos removal and additional seismic work were identified during the process and required additional work. The plan also assumed multi-year delivery to 2025/2026, but works were brought forward for delivery, leading to higher than planned spend. There was also expenditure relating to projects funded from the Regional Coastal Renewals Work Programme, which was not in the local board agreement as funding allocations were not yet decided. Key projects in progress included seawall renewals at Snells Beach and Scotts Landing wharf. The above were partly offset by delays in commencing the development of new neighbourhood parks at Waterloo Reserve in Milldale, and Dida Park Drive in Huapai.



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