



# ***The Northern Action Group Incorporated***

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Issues for Mayor Wayne Brown: Meeting 31 January 2023

Key Points:

**Rural Unfairness:**

1. Rural people and small rural communities pay 50% of Rodney's rates, yet the only services they get are roading and drainage. Instead AC's service provision and investment in Rodney is Urban centric (Public Transport, infrastructure, community facilities);
2. Representation is urban biased and needs to change (NAG has made submissions on this);
3. Local MP (Chris Penk) is interested in a local Bill to tag a % of Rodney (and Franklin) rates for roading to address rural unfairness.

**Inefficiencies, overheads, bureaucracy:**

1. AC structure does not work (not fit for purpose) for Rodney (and perhaps Franklin);
2. silo system means no service provision integration at local level;
3. Local Boards without decision-making authority or staff (2 shared governance helpers only!) are an inefficient overhead on AC - expensive central AC staff are needed to produce papers, support LB deliberations, review, filter, and bring decisions and recommendations together for central/silo decision making. Most is just process with no added value. Rural concerns are ignored by the urban GB majority;
4. LB needs a Local Area Manager (staff) with authority to plan and direct silo service activity in the area and its provision - This requires local level budgetary management;
5. Localism and proper subsidiarity needed (authority, accountability);
6. ratepayers want to see local rates for local services.

**Central Planning is poor and wasted:**

1. District Planning is uncoordinated and ignored; Rodney doesn't have a plan, just a collection of silo and (some – e.g Warkworth) particular area plans;
2. plans, rules and by-laws are not enforced;
3. development occurs before infrastructure is ready (e.g. Matakana link road);
4. there is no accountability when changes are made; and
5. the consent process is being abused to by-pass regional plans (Spatial, Unitary, Long-term, Waste).

Question for Mayor

Cutting the bureaucracy – where are the promised staff (consultants, managers, committees, admin overhead) reductions?

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**“Campaigning to get Democracy for the people of North Rodney”**



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## Other Points

### Transport

- Urban-centric transport planning does not work for low density Rodney;
- Public transport (PT) options are too expensive and idealistic. (Urban planners are trying to make Rodney a suburb!);
- Transport funding needs review;
- RFT allocation review needed (big projects dominate and delay funding use – roads can proceed tomorrow); and
- AT road funding is subject to operational budget demands – e.g. meeting PT spending growth demands takes money away from road maintenance.

### Local Issues

- 3 Waters – support continued opposition – offers nothing for Rodney (a stand-alone catchment area).
- Wayby Landfill – contradicts AC Plans (waste management planning) and an environmental disaster, so who in AC approved AC supporting the consent application to overturn GB approved Unitary and WM Plans?
- Rodney Road maintenance and improvement critical (half of Rodney ratepayers are rural).
- Northern initiative – youth, rural and digital focus – like Southern Initiative it needs support to get off the ground.