



The Northern Action Group Incorporated

Lets Celebrate some wins – and make them stick!

Dear NAG Members and Supporters,

In March I had three things to draw to your attention:

1. Sealing Rodney's roads;
2. Subdivision boundaries for the current representation review; and
3. Having your say on the 10 year plan.

Well you had your say and it looks like Auckland Council (AC) has listened, keeping rate increases in line with inflation generally and starting to look seriously at cutting out wasteful spending that ratepayers don't support.

I think we can take the wins on these three concerns but the struggle for a fairer deal for Rodney in the Super city it is never over, and your support continues to be important so we don't get backsliding on some of these improvements.

The current situation is:

10 Year Plan: Still broke, but not quite so broken?

Well you had your say and it looks like Auckland Council (AC) has listened, keeping rate increases in line with inflation generally and starting to look seriously at cutting out wasteful spending that ratepayers don't support. More could be done, as our submission [[NAG Mar 2024 Response on AC's 10 Year Plan](#)] showed, but Rodney's voice continues to be a minority (5%) despite our significance (40% of AC's land) and other councillors get votes by spending your money on their constituents.

Road Sealing: Bring on the URIP!

The Mayor and your Councillor Greg Sayers have combined to impress on Auckland Transport (AT) the need for a substantial increase in funding to improve Rodney's neglected unsealed roads – the Unsealed Road Improvement Programme (URIP). **Greg's petition helped so thanks if you completed it!**

The current programme being consulted on in the Auckland Regional Land Transport Plan (ARLTP) is \$125m over 10 years. The problem, and this is where we need your support, is that the initial draft plan continues to push any significant funding out its promises into the

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future and we need to get some serious front loading of the programme to make a difference. The following table sets out the situation.

UNSEALED ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM											
Rephasing for the Regional Land Transport Program 2024- 2034											
Currently Proposed Budget											TOTAL
Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	
Unsealed Road Improvements	\$6.2m	\$6.4m	\$13m	13.3m	\$13.6m	\$13.8m	\$14.1m	\$14.4m	\$14.7m	\$15m	\$124.5m
Option 1 Alternative Budget: Front Loaded											
Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	
Unsealed Road Improvements	\$18.8m	\$18.7m	\$16.4m	\$14.1m	\$11.8m	\$11.6m	\$10.3m	\$9.7m	\$6.9m	\$6.2m	\$124.5m
Option 2 Alternative Budget: Evenly Spread											
Year	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	
Unsealed Road Improvements	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$12.45m	\$124.5m

We have until the 17th of June to submit on the ARLTP and I encourage you all to put in a submission arguing that we need that programme front loaded. If you want an easy draft of what to say we have put that for you up on our website. [[ARLTP Submission](#)]
You can attach that or copy it and send it to ATengagement@at.govt.nz

Rodney Subdivision Boundaries

Thanks to a majority of our Rodney Local Board (RLB) members who have seen the need for more rural representation in Rodney we now have a proposal going out for consultation that provides appropriate recognition.

NAG has been arguing for this change since 20/20 and has spent a lot of time on your behalf making the case for a structure of democratic representation at the local board level that is fair to all of Rodney's communities and recognises the different service needs of rural communities and our towns and rural settlements.

The proposal will go out for consultation shortly.

NAG's proposal was for 4 rural members elected at large,, but RLB members have opted for a split into two northern and two southern rural members to ensure a balance of representation between North and South Rodney. You will get an opportunity to support the change directly in the consultation and say which of these you prefer. Please also, if you haven't done this so complete our survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HH65GJF>

As that will help provide support for what the community thinks in case the changes prove contentious.

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But wait – there's more

1, 2, 3 or 4 waters....take your pick...

From the Clouds to the Sea....

Following the strong opposition from NAG and many others to the last Government's 3 waters centralization proposal and its flawed design, (e.g. see [3 Waters 3 Lies](#)) the new coalition government has come to the party and recognised that there are more efficient and responsive ways of addressing our water problems.

It's no surprise to us that local ratepayers may actually have a better understanding of our local water issues than Wellington bureaucrats.

So restoring the responsibility for Auckland's 2 waters (Drinking and Waste) to Watercare and freeing up its balance sheet so that ratepayers don't have to directly fund new (and upgrading) investments in water infrastructure is a giant step forward.

Sadly we can't recover the millions that have been lost in preparation for the failed 3 waters implementation.

The fine print on "local water done well" and what is proposed is still to be seen, but we are hoping that the sensible approaches championed by the Water Users Group <https://www.waterusers.org.nz> (of which NAG is a member) and the Taxpayers Union will carry some weight.

Of course more needs to be done to better manage Auckland's stormwater, overland flow paths, streams and rivers and coastal waters (the other two – managed and natural water and storm water flows). The quality of AC's spatial planning to integrate infrastructure and development timing, address environmental protection and ratepayers interests, and avoid ad hoc everything leaves much to be desired, and plenty for NAG to attend to..

As I noted again last time as long as the current structure remains this situation is perpetuated and we have to continually remind the Auckland city majority that:

- the structure of Auckland was never fit for purpose from the beginning;
- that Rodney should never have been in the "super" city;
- that we continue to pay as ratepayers for the pleasures of Auckland city dwellers; and
- that Rodney is just another resource for the expansion and pleasure of city Aucklanders – but one which WE are expected to pay for.



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AGM

It's coming up on the:

24th June, at the Totara Park Village Hall, Warkworth at 7.00 p.m.

We hope to see as many of you there as possible.

Greg Sayers and our local MP Chris Penk have confirmed their attendance and we are also hoping to see some of our local board members.

Put it in your diaries now!

Donations

Our ongoing reminder that we don't charge an annual membership fee but rely on donors to fund our limited expenses. If we had a bit more we could think about running some advertising to promote NAG's messaging.

I know times are tight but if you can contribute anything, it will be spent to continue our push for localism and ideally Rodney or North Rodney independence!!

Please Donate now:

Donations to NAGs Bank Account ASB WW **12 3095 0233547 00**

Comments to northernactiongroup@gmail.com

Want to help? Join NAG, <https://mailchi.mp/a06a70fcda9a/registration-page> and encourage others to put themselves on our mailing list.

Yours sincerely

Bill Foster
Chairman
Northern Action Group Inc.