



# NAG Presentation to the RLB: Working for Rodney in 2022

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Improving engagement and  
promoting Rodney's interests within  
AC

The Northern Action Group Inc.

# How does NAG see its role?

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- Working for:
  - localism,
  - subsidiarity,
  - better representation,
  - fairer and more efficient governance;
- Leading or supporting campaigns on public issues of local concern;
- Promoting awareness of issues relevant to Rodney ratepayers;
- Working with the RLB, Councillor, MPs and other community groups towards better outcomes for Rodney ratepayers.

# Projects for 2022

Continue Billboard campaigns e.g.:

- RFT use
- Landfill opposition
- 3 waters opposition

Coordinating Community Group efforts on common interests

Support a Private Members Bill for better governance for Rodney;

Support the idea of targeting a fair rate for road sealing.

## Active Issues: RLB should:

- Push for fair RFT Use – for Rodney’s roads:
  - With 23% of AC’s roads (Kms) we should get 23% of AT’s budgets\*.
- Oppose the budget’s Climate Action Targeted Rate proposal:
  - a 2.2% increase (Rodney ~\$2m p.a.) does nothing for Rodney...
- Oppose the budget’s changing “PAYT” domestic waste collection to rates funding:
  - it will cost Rodney ratepayers more and incentivize more domestic waste.
- Support the Mayor’s opposition to the Government’s 3 Waters proposal:
  - see our arguments at [nag.org.nz](http://nag.org.nz) or [waterusers.org.nz](http://waterusers.org.nz)

\* Last year AT spent \$526m on Roads and Renewals Cap.Ex. - \$122m of that should have gone to Rodney!

# Coordinate Community Groups

- Board Member Beth Houlbrooke has done an excellent job providing a central mailing list of community group contacts for the Warkworth subdivision.
- Our AGM emphasized the need for bringing Rodney's communities together – contact and engagement - not just communication....
- Possible ways to help, that RLB could support:
  - Peoples panel – from Community Groups?
  - Rodney-wide public database of Community Group contacts (expanding Beth's list)?
  - An Annual Community Group meeting of reps with RLB?
- This would help focus Rodney-wide community support on key issues

# Support a local private Members Bill

- Rodney watches AC spend up on urban city projects while it continues to pay ever higher rates, targeted rates, and the RFT but gets little back.
- Urban Aucklanders continue to exploit Rodney resources (e.g. sand), enjoy our parks, use facilities, and seek to leave their rubbish, with no contribution to Rodney's costs or development
- AC makes all the important decisions and the RLB can only recommend.
- Its time Rodney got its equal and fair share of resources.
- Rodney is relatively underserved in community assets and rural development
- 60% of Rodney ratepayers are rural, and rural is underrepresented, as NAG argued in its subdivision submissions to AC
- NAG will be supporting having a local MP's members Bill to address that and hopes the RLB will also support it.

# Targeting Rodney's Rates for roads

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- NAG supports member Colin Smith's idea of recommending "ring-fencing" rates money for roads to the GB in the current 2021/22 budget discussions.
- AC/AT Funding for Rodney road improvement and sealing is derisory.
- Health problems, vehicle damage and bad drainage result.
- Fixing unsealed roads qualifies as a climate action.
- Rodney has a \$150 annual TTR for footpaths and Buses. All ratepayers pay the rate but it only benefits urban ratepayers.
- ~60% of Rodney ratepayers are rural
- Fairness demands targeting an equivalent amount that is paid by all but benefits rural ratepayers.
- Rodney Ratepayers don't want more targeted rates, so the funding should come from reducing other rates or the UAGC, making the effect neutral on ratepayers.
- The responsibility for underfunding Rodney roads should be placed squarely on the GB, not the RLB – who represent Rodney ratepayers!

