

10-year Budget 2018-2028 and Auckland Plan 2050 consultation feedback report for Rodney Local Board

1. Purpose

This report summarises feedback relating to the Rodney Local Board received through the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 and Auckland Plan 2050 consultation. This includes:

- Feedback on the Rodney Local Board priorities for 2018/19.
- Feedback on regional proposals in the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 and Auckland Plan 2050 from people or organisations based in the Rodney local board area.

The feedback received will inform the Rodney Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2018/2019. It will also inform the Rodney Local Board input and advocacy on regional budgets and proposals that will be agreed at their business meeting on 10 May 2018 and subsequently discussed with the Finance and Performance Committee on 17/18 May 2018.

2. Executive Summary

This report summarises consultation feedback on the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 (including on local board priorities for 2018/19) and the Auckland Plan 2050.

Council received feedback in person at community engagement events, through written forms (including online and hard copy forms, emails and letters) and through social media.

Feedback on Rodney Local Board priorities for 2018/2019

The local board consulted on the following 5 priorities:

- Priority 1: the completion of a masterplan (concept plan) for the future reserve at Green Road, Dairy Flat
- Priority 2: contributing funding to the design of the future multisport building at the Warkworth Showgrounds
- Priority 3: funding and supporting community projects to improve our town centres
- Priority 4: contributing funding to construct a local indoor court facility at Huapai Domain (OLI)
- Priority 5: transport targeted rate

The majority of people either partially support (45 per cent) or support (26 per cent) the local board's priorities and consider that the local board is heading in the right direction. Only 29 per cent of submitters disagreed with the local board's priorities, with most of them citing that not enough is being done for roading and transport issues, or coping with growth.

Feedback on regional proposals in the 10-year Budget 2018-2028 from the Rodney local board area

Out of the **26,556** written submissions received on the regional proposals in the 10-year Budget 2018-2028, **1,799** submissions were from people living in the Rodney local board area.

Issue 1: Transport

Feedback shows the majority of submissions for Rodney do not support the proposed regional fuel tax (56 per cent)

Issue 2: Natural Environment

The majority of submissions for Rodney support the proposed water quality targeted rate (54 per cent)

Issue 3: Rates and charges

The submissions indicate that there is support for the natural environment targeted rate (50 per cent) but there was a division as to whether the rate should be \$21 per year (23 per cent) or \$47 per year (27 per cent). Only 36 per cent of submissions opposed the proposed rate entirely.

Issue 4: Other changes and budget information

The submissions indicate that people in Rodney do not support the proposed rate rises of 2.5 per cent for the first three years of the 10yr budget and 3.5 per cent thereafter, with 52 per cent of responses against this proposal.

There is clear support for the online accommodation providers targeted rate with 60per cent of submissions in support of this proposal.

Feedback on the Auckland Plan 2050 from the Rodney local board area

Most submissions on the Auckland Plan 2050 outcome areas were evenly divided between agree, not agree and partially agree across all six outcome areas, few showed clear agreement or disagreement with the statement that the focus areas would lead to the outcomes proposed.

Outcome area 1: Belonging and participation

Most submissions either agreed (38 per cent) or partially agreed (35 per cent) that the focus areas in the Auckland Plan 2050 would lead to a more inclusive Auckland. Only 29 per cent did not agree with this statement.

Outcome area 2: Māori identity and wellbeing

Most submissions either agreed (31 per cent) or partially agreed (29 per cent) that the focus areas would support Maori wellbeing, however the largest singular group was those that did not agree with this statement (41 per cent).

Outcome area 3: Homes and places

Only 28 per cent of submissions agreed that the focus areas would lead to more affordable homes in Auckland. A further 38 per cent partially agreed with this statement, and 34 per cent did not agree.

Outcome area 4: Transport and access

Most submissions agreed (41 per cent) or partially agreed (36 per cent) that the focus areas would make moving around Auckland easier, with only 24 per cent not agreeing with this statement.

Outcome area 5: Environment and cultural heritage

A clear majority of the submissions (52 per cent) agree that the focus areas would lead to the protecting and enhancing of our environment. Only 17 per cent disagreed with this statement.

Outcome area 6: Opportunity and prosperity

Most submissions either agreed (38 per cent) or partially agreed (38 per cent) that the focus areas in the Auckland Plan 2050 would equip people for future jobs. Only 24 per cent did not agree with this statement.

Shaping our growth

Most submissions agreed (39 per cent) or partially agreed (35 per cent) that the proposed approach for enabling growth would prepare Auckland for the future; 26 per cent of submissions did not agree with this statement.

3. Context

Auckland Council consulted on its 10-year Budget 2018-2028 and the Auckland Plan 2050 between 28 February and 28 March 2018.

The 10-year Budget 2018-2028 sets out our priorities and how we're going to pay for them. The Auckland Plan 2050 sets our long-term direction and looks at the important challenges we need to address.

The 10-year Budget also includes information on each local board's priorities for 2018/19. These priorities have been informed by in the development of the Rodney Local Board Plan 2017.

Auckland Council also consulted on the Regional Pest Management Strategy and the Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy at the same time. The feedback received on the Waste Management and Minimisation Strategy is presented in a separate report. The feedback received on the Regional Pest Management Strategy will be presented later in the year (following decisions on the 10-year Budget).

Types of feedback

Overall Auckland Council received feedback through the following channels:

- Written feedback – 26,556 hard copy and online forms, emails and letters.
- In person – council interacted with a total of 5,374 people through 39 have your say events and 61 community events.
- Social media – 114 comments were received through Auckland Council's Facebook and Twitter (@aklcouncil). Additional comments were received through local board Facebook pages and other pages.

4. Feedback received on Rodney Local Board priorities for 2018/19

The Rodney local board consulted on the following 5 priorities:

- Priority 1: the completion of a masterplan (concept plan) for the future reserve at Green Road, Dairy Flat
- Priority 2: contributing funding to the design of the future multisport building at the Warkworth Showgrounds
- Priority 3: funding and supporting community projects to improve our town centres
- Priority 4: contributing funding to construct a local indoor court facility at Huapai Domain (OLI)
- Priority 5: transport targeted rate

Key themes across all feedback received (through written, event and social media channels) were:

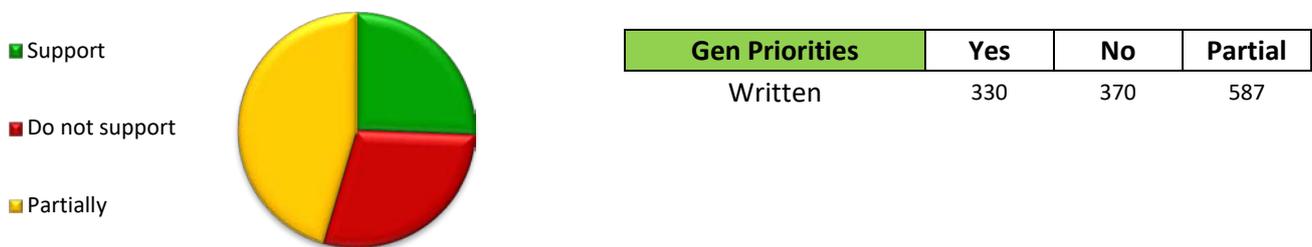
- Transport, in particular the congestion and travel times on State Highway 16 and at Hill Street, the general lack of public transport throughout Rodney, and the need to seal Rodney’s unsealed roads.
- Growth and the perception that Auckland Council cannot keep up with growth and address growth related issues, most notably traffic congestion, but also a lack of local services, facilities and infrastructure that is no longer fit for purpose.
- That Auckland Council continues to focus on the CBD and does not provide enough services or spending in the north.
- That not enough is being done for the smaller towns, mainly Wellsford and Helensville, but also the towns/villages of Kaukapakapa, Omaha and Matakana get particular mention with submitters stating that they feel “forgotten”.

A summary of the feedback received through each channel is provided below.

Feedback received through written submissions

1,799 written submissions were received on Rodney local board priorities for 2018/19 in total.

A total of 1,287 pieces of written feedback were received regarding the local board’s general priorities, showing that the majority of people either partially support (45 per cent) or support (26 per cent) the local board’s priorities.



Feedback received through events

The Rodney Local Board held two have your say events where 340 pieces of feedback were received at these events from 89 people.

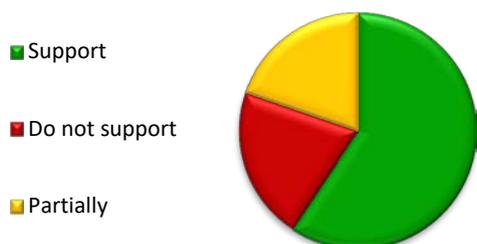
Feedback received through social media channels

No feedback was received from the @aklcouncil Facebook or Twitter channels, but 29 pieces of feedback were received from Rodney Local Board Facebook page.

Additionally, a third party Facebook page that had been set up regarding the Huapai Indoor Courts Facility was identified. It received an additional 406 pieces of feedback.

Priority 1: Green Road (1386 total submission points)

The graph below gives an overview of all of the responses for this priority; responses from the Rodney Local Board area are also listed:



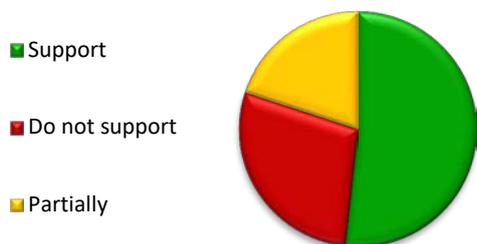
Green Rd	Yes	No	Partial
Written	659	241	238
Events	22	17	8
	681	258	246

Most submissions were in support of this proposal (58 per cent) with key themes noting excitement/ a preference that this site could become the “Cornwall Park of the North.” Additionally, there were numerous requests that the site be dedicated to equestrian facilities. Many submitters saw the value in progressing with this proposal given the expected growth.

Those submissions that did not support the proposal (22 per cent) stated they did not agree with the location ie Dairy Flat isn’t as important as their town; that this project is not as high a priority as other projects (ie roading); or, that it would have no benefit for them personally.

Priority 2: Warkworth Multisport (1363 total submission points)

The graph below gives an overview of all of the responses for this priority; responses from the Rodney Local Board area are also listed:



Warkworth Multisport	Yes	No	Partial
Written	582	316	237
Social Media (AC)	3	0	0
Events	25	9	6
	608	325	243

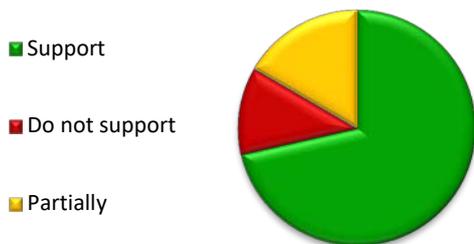
Most submissions (51 per cent) were in favour of this priority, with common themes including that this project is long overdue, that this will provide a much needed facility for the local community, and that submitters support it, but also want a swimming pool.

Those submissions that did not support the proposal (28 per cent) cited reasons such as that this facility should be paid for by the users and/or clubs that would benefit, that there are higher priorities (ie roading) or that Warkworth Showgrounds has had enough spent on it in recent years.

A further theme in those that provided partial support was that they did not want to see the multisport proceed at the expense of the existing ponyclub or Warkworth Rodeo.

Priority 3: Town Centres
(1409 total submission points)

The graph below gives an overview of all of the responses for this priority; responses from the Rodney Local Board area are also listed:



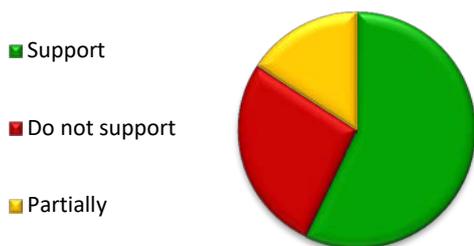
Town Centres	Yes	No	Partial
Written	817	143	196
Events	52	2	5
	869	145	201

A clear majority of submissions supported this proposal (71 per cent) with common themes including that these improvements are important to bring communities together as well as creating jobs and attracting tourists to our towns.

Those that did not support the proposal (12 per cent) did so because they believed there were higher priorities (ie roading) or that they consider the proposal “a waste of money”, or that this is a role for business associations and local communities to fund and deliver privately.

Priority 4: Huapai Indoor Courts (OLI)
(1708 total submission points)

The graph below gives an overview of all of the responses for this priority; responses from the Rodney Local Board area are also listed:



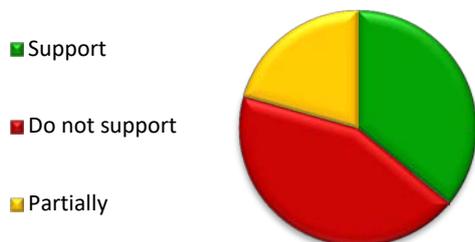
OLI	Yes	No	Partial
Written	441	379	230
Social Media (AC)	11	13	8
Social Media (Ors)	406	0	0
Events	12	21	3
	870	413	241

Only 42 per cent of written submissions support this proposal, but a considerable contribution via social media boosted support to 57 per cent. Submissions that supported the initiative cited that it will be a significant community asset in the growing community.

Those that did not support this proposal primarily stated that the proposed facility should be paid for by users and/or the sports clubs, or that they believed there were higher priorities, in particular roading.

Priority 5: Transport Targeted Rate (1452 total submission points)

The graph below gives an overview of all of the responses for this priority; responses from the Rodney Local Board area are also listed:



Targeted Rate	Yes	No	Partial
Written	428	507	243
Social Media (AC)	1	24	0
HYS	11	23	17
	440	554	260

The largest group of submitters did not support the proposal (43 per cent) with only 36 per cent of submission points in support. However, 21 per cent of submitters partially support the proposal (which would bring the combination of support/partially support to 57 per cent).

The comments provided by those that gave partial support shows varying degrees of support for the proposal, ranging from those that support the proposal in principle, but not the individual projects or the specific amount (\$150); those that want assurances that the rate would be spent in Rodney; and, those that are sceptical that the rate will be collected and spent correctly at all. A notable number qualified their support stating that they could not support the proposal if the regional fuel tax was also implemented.

Submissions that did not support the targeted rate commonly cited that rates are already too high; that they object to paying for services other parts of Auckland get from general taxation; or, that they did not know what the projects proposed were/the proposed projects had no value for them.

Feedback on other local topics

Key themes across feedback received on other local topics include:

- Not enough money is spent locally. At a higher level this is a comment that Auckland Council is CBD centric and Rodney is missing out. However this includes those submitters that deem "local" to be their immediate town, ie submitters from Warkworth do not consider Kumeu to be local (and vice versa) and object to funding being directed there.
- Smaller towns need to be a higher priority. Primarily these comments come from Wellsford and Helensville, but Kaukapakapa, Omaha, Matakana are also noted in the submissions feedback.
- Issues outside of the local board area, most notably, funding Penlink.

Requests for local funding

Requests for local funding included:

- Two submissions requesting that more funding is given to the Kumeu and Helensville arts centres, and that Helensville's funding match that given to Kumeu.

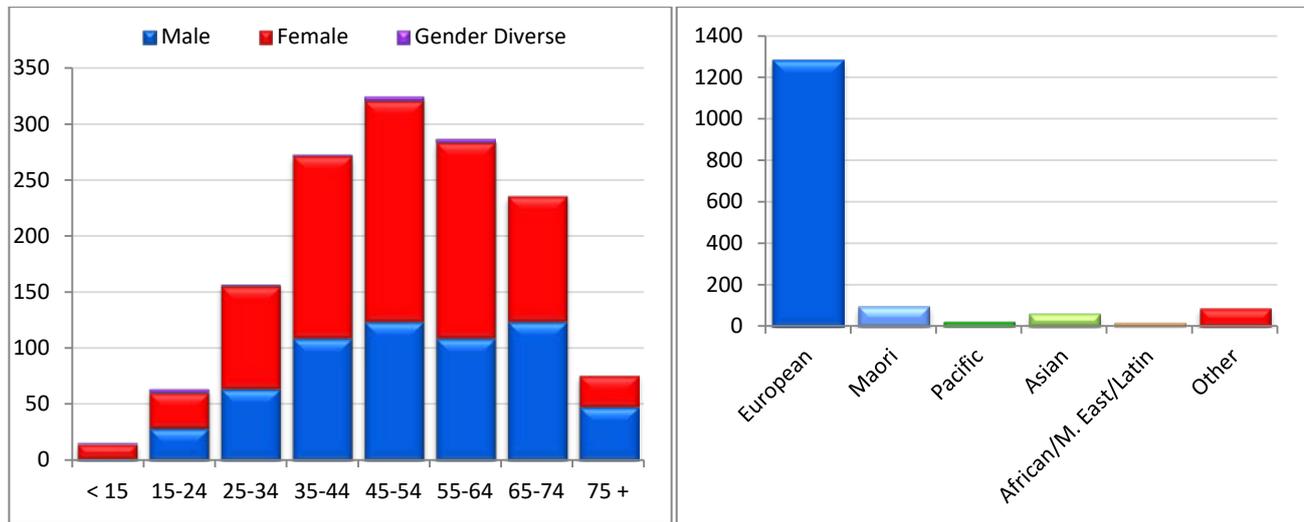
Information on submitters

The majority of submissions were made by females (56 per cent) of European ethnicity (82 per cent). The next highest ethnicity was Maori (6 per cent) followed by "other" (5 per cent). The most submissions were received from submitters in the 45-54 age group which submitted approximately 23

per cent of all submissions. The next highest group were in the 55-64 range (20 per cent). Since the average age of a person in Rodney is 42, this represents a slight bias towards submissions from the older age group, but is significantly more balanced than submissions received on the 2017/2018 annual plan.

Of note, only 17 per cent of submissions were received from people under the age of 35.

The tables and graphs below indicate what demographic categories people identified with. This information only relates to those submitters who provided demographic information.



5. Overview of feedback received on the 10-year Budget from Rodney Local Board area

The 10-year Budget 2018-2028 sets out our priorities and how we're going to pay for them. The regional consultation on the proposed 10-year Budget focused on four key issues:

- Issue 1: Transport
- Issue 2: Natural Environment
- Issue 3: Rates and charges
- Issue 4: Other changes and budget information

The written submissions received from the Rodney Local Board area on these key issues is summarised below, along with an overview of any other areas of feedback on regional proposals with a local impact.

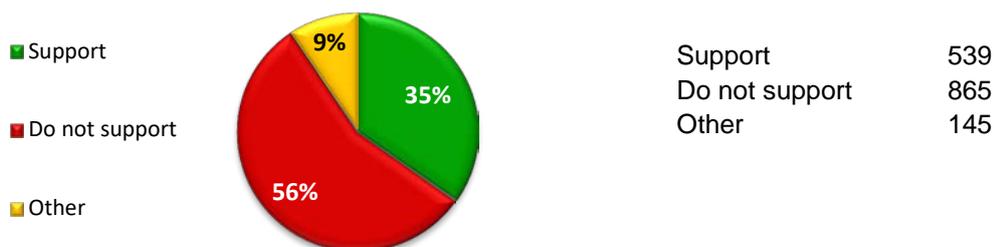
Issue 1: Transport

Aucklanders were asked their opinion on whether they would support a regional fuel tax to help pay for improvements to the transport system.

Question 1: We want to improve our transport system. As the population grows, congestion (and the pollution it creates) is getting worse, safety is declining and businesses are struggling to move freight and people. We are proposing that a regional fuel tax of 10 cents per litre (plus GST) be used to raise more funding for transport projects and services.

What is your opinion on the proposal to introduce a regional fuel tax to help pay for improvements to the transport system?

The graph below gives an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



Those submissions that were against the proposal primarily did so because they considered it unaffordable (116) or that it would have a disproportional impact on rural communities (165). A lot of “other” comments were received (257), with most stating that they did not know what the projects were, or that they suspected all the revenue would go to the CBD and therefore, they couldn’t support this tax.

Most of the feedback in support of the proposal cited the potential to improve public transport in Rodney (144), and a broad support for user pays as a solution to transport issues (44). A lot of “other” comments were also made (95) with themes including that the submitters weren’t happy, but realised there were no other options available, and that support was given only on the basis that the submitter expected it to solve roading issues in Rodney.

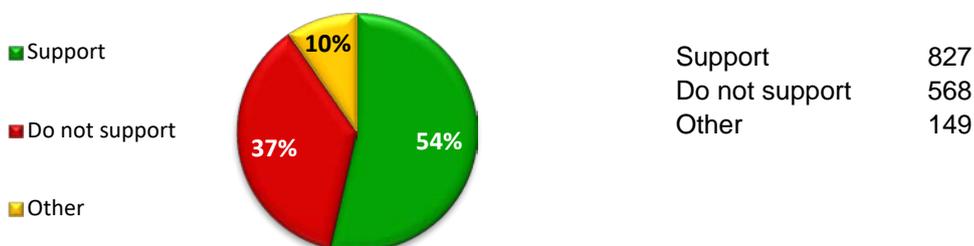
Issue 2: Natural environment

Aucklanders were asked whether they would support a water quality targeted rate

Question 2: Our harbours, beaches and streams are being polluted by overflows from ageing sewerage and stormwater systems that can't cope with heavy rainfall and from contaminants washed into natural waterways. We want to improve our infrastructure to address this problem. Under current budgets this would take 30 years to achieve. We propose to introduce a new targeted rate to increase our funding of water infrastructure and speed up delivery of cleaner harbours, beaches and streams to 10 years. Our proposed targeted rate would cost the average residential ratepayer \$66 per year (\$1.30 per week), although this will vary based on your property value.

What is your opinion on this proposed targeted rate to speed up the delivery of cleaner harbours, beaches and streams?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



Those that supported this proposal, did so because of they value/support the environmental benefits (141).

Those that did not support the proposal stated that rates were already too high (99) or that they would not see any benefit (33). A lot of “other” comments were received (225), most citing this as a “city” problem that they shouldn’t have to fix, or blaming Auckland Council waste or mismanagement etc for not having enough money to fix it out of regular rates.

People were also asked if they supported a natural environment targeted rate. Two options (A and B) were provided for the natural environment targeted rate.

Question 3: Auckland’s rapid growth is putting pressure on the environment, as is the spread of pests, weeds and diseases that are threatening many of our native species. Approximately two-thirds of Auckland’s local native species are under threat of extinction.

Our proposal is to invest more in environment initiatives and to fund this through a targeted rate (based on your property value) at one of two levels described below.

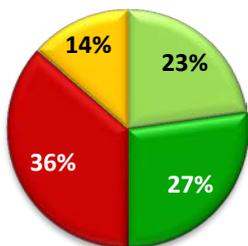
Option A – a targeted rate of an average rate of \$21 per year per residential ratepayer. This increase would allow us to make limited improvements to environmental protection, mainly focusing on kauri dieback disease.

Option B – a targeted rate of an average rate of \$47 per year per residential ratepayer. This increase would allow us to spend more on tackling kauri dieback disease, and allow us to better protect our native species and ecosystems.

What is your opinion on a proposed targeted rate to invest more to protect our environment?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.

- Option A - (\$21 p.a.)
- Option B - (\$47 p.a.)
- Do not support
- Other option



Option A - (\$21 p.a.)	348
Option B - (\$47 p.a.)	419
Do not support	555
Other option	208

Issue 3: Rates and charges

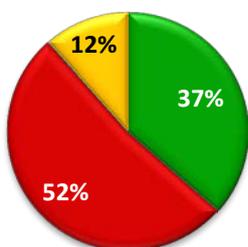
People were asked about a proposed rates increase of 2.5 percent for the first two years and 3.5 percent for years three to 10.

Question 4: For this 10-year Budget we are proposing an average general rates increase of 2.5 per cent for the first two years and then 3.5 per cent for years three to 10. This will be used to fund our growing city. Without this level of rate increase, we would have to reduce existing service levels and defer or cut some currently planned projects.

What is your opinion on this proposed rates increase?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.

- Support
- Do not support
- Other



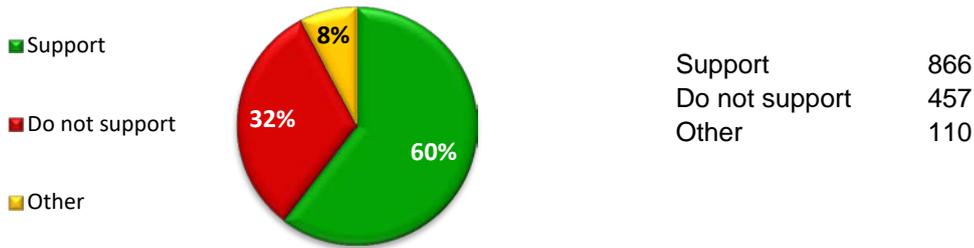
Support	546
Do not support	777
Other	172

Secondly people were asked about whether online accommodation providers that meet particular thresholds should pay business rates and the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate.

Question 5: We are proposing that online accommodation providers (e.g. Airbnb properties) who let out their whole property (not just a room) for a certain number of days per year should pay business rates and the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (if the property is within a certain zone). This would mean they are treated the same way as other accommodation providers.

What is your opinion on this proposal?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



Most submitters who supported this proposal did so because they thought it was fair because online accommodation providers are essentially businesses and should be treated as such (133). Some submitters (74) felt it was fair to treat hotels, motels and online accommodation providers equally.

Those that opposed the proposal cited reasons including that they liked AirBnB, that people pay enough rates already, or that it would hurt them renting out their bach etc.

Issue 4: other changes and budget information

Aucklanders were asked if they had any other feedback on matters in the consultation document.

Question 7: Please provide any other feedback on other matters in the consultation document or supporting information, such as changes to waste service charges (targeted rate to fund food waste collection service and standardisation of user-pays refuse collection), Tūpuna Maunga Authority Draft Operational Plan or the proposal to disestablish Auckland Council Investments Limited.

Two submissions were received from Rodney on the Tupuna Maunga Authority – one supported the plan, the other was “violently opposed to stopping vehicle access to volcanoes.”

There were no submissions received specifically on the food waste collection (which does not impact Rodney).

There were no identifiable submissions on the proposal to disestablish ACIL or any other proposal in the consultation document (such as resource consent or cremation fees, or charging for land owner approvals).

6. Overview of feedback received on the Auckland Plan 2050 from Rodney Local Board area

The Auckland Plan 2050 sets our long-term direction and looks at the important challenges we need to address in the following outcome areas:

- Outcome area 1: Belonging and participation
- Outcome area 2: Māori identity and wellbeing
- Outcome area 3: Homes and places
- Outcome area 4: Transport and access
- Outcome area 5: Environment and cultural heritage
- Outcome area 6: Opportunity and prosperity.

There is a question in the feedback form that relates to each outcome area. The questions and text below are directly from the feedback form. The feedback from the Rodney Local Board area is set out under each question.

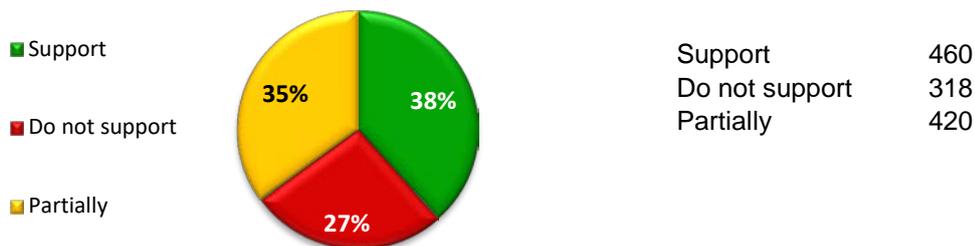
While questions asked were whether the focus areas will help deliver the outcomes, it is clear from the commentary that many people either support or do not support the outcome in general and have not discussed the focus areas. Accordingly, the lack of support for a question may be more a rejection of the outcome, rather than the proposed approach, and vice versa.

Question 1: An inclusive Auckland

In a fast-growing city of increasing diversity and social change, people may or may not feel included or enjoy positive life experiences. The Auckland Plan proposes an inclusive Auckland where people live together with trust and mutual respect and everyone has the opportunity to participate to their full potential

Do you think the six focus areas identified in Belonging and Participation will achieve this?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



Most submissions that agreed with this proposal stated that it was a good start.

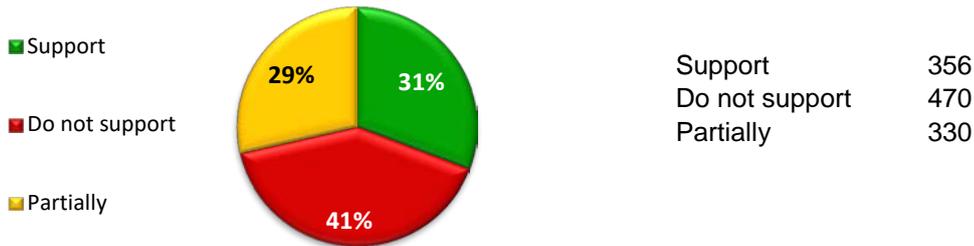
Most submissions that did not agree with the proposal considered it a waste of time and/or money, or not what the submitter thought of as part of council's core business.

Question 2: Advance Māori well-being

The strengths and contributions Māori bring to Auckland will fuel economic growth and advance Māori well-being. With nearly a third of all Māori in Auckland aged under 15 years old, the Auckland Plan proposes investing more in tamariki and rangatahi to advance Māori well-being.

Do you think the seven focus areas identified in Māori Well-being and Identity will achieve this?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



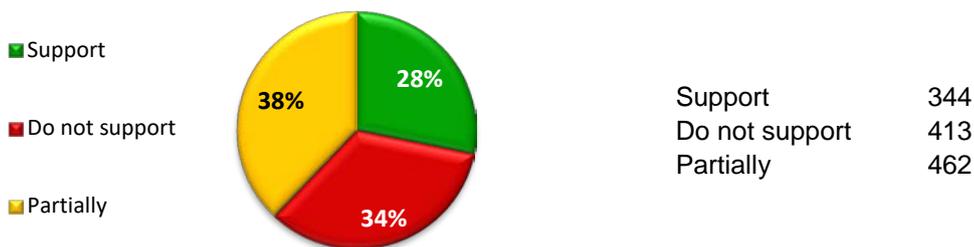
Most submission that did not agree with this question indicate that the submitter does not agree with the outcome rather than the focus areas. Even some of the submission that agreed with the questions cited this outcome as “not council’s business”.

Question 3: Affordable homes

Lack of affordable housing is creating stress for many Aucklanders. It is driving some key workers out of Auckland and limiting our ability to attract and retain talent. The Auckland Plan proposes that all Aucklanders deserve healthy, affordable homes with secure tenure in well-designed places, whether they own or rent their homes.

Do you think the five focus areas identified in Homes and Places will achieve this?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



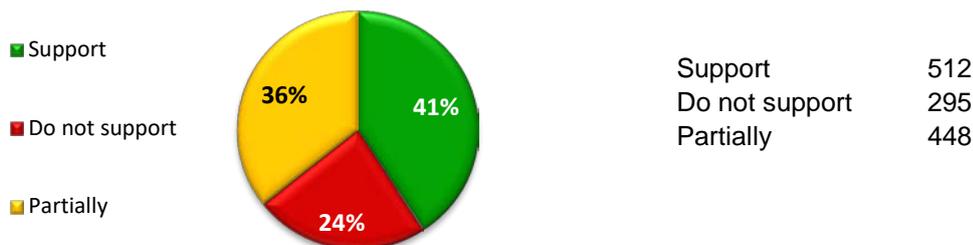
Submission points from those that partially support, or do not support this area cited concerns that the focus areas appear race based (which they object to) and that they do not consider that Auckland needs growth – so it should not be a focus. There was also a common call for council to fix infrastructure as a priority before tackling these issues.

Question 4: Moving easily around Auckland

People lack choice in how they get around and it can take a long time to get where they need to go. To better connect people and places, the Auckland Plan proposes an integrated transport system that accelerates progress on walking, cycling and public transport and makes better use of existing networks.

Do you think the seven focus areas identified in Transport and Access will achieve this?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



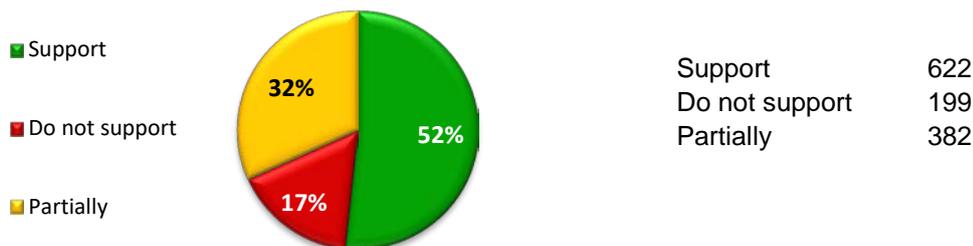
Submissions that agreed with this question used it to call for specific initiatives – notably more footpaths, and trains to Huapai. There were also requests to build Penlink.

Question 5: Protecting and enhancing our environment

Unprecedented growth has required Auckland to provide for essential development, which has had an impact on our environment and cultural heritage. The Auckland Plan proposes utilising every opportunity to protect and enhance Auckland's environment as growth and development happens.

Do you think the six focus areas identified in Environment and Cultural Heritage will achieve this?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



Most submitters that supported this approach did not leave comments, but those that did cited the need to be sustainable and to be good environmental stewards as key factors for supporting this.

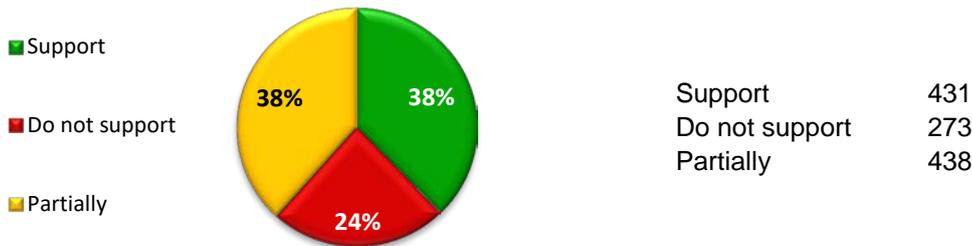
Those that only partially supported the proposal expressed concern about the potential cost (some thinking the outcome would result in the need for higher rates, others thought the focus areas sounded like council wouldn't put in enough money to achieve the outcome); others expressed some degree of scepticism that this would achieve environmental benefits at all.

Question 6: Equipping people for future jobs

Rapid technology advances will create challenges, opportunities and change across many industries and jobs. The Auckland Plan proposes Aucklanders will need to adapt to the coming changes by investing in education, training and skills development for all.

Do you think the five focus areas identified in Opportunity and Prosperity will achieve this?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



There were few comments from those that support these focus areas.

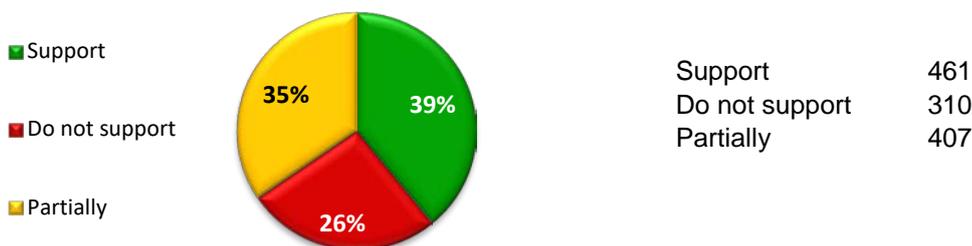
Those that partially support these focus areas commented that they disagree with the race based focus, and that this area is a job for central government, not for council.

Question 7: Shaping our growth

Auckland has to provide for around 740,000 more people in the next 30 years, which would mean another 320,000 dwellings and up to 270,000 extra jobs. The Auckland Plan proposes to manage long-term population growth by prioritising development in existing urban areas and establishing new communities and new business land in future urban areas. Investment in Auckland’s infrastructure will need to keep up with the pace and scale of growth.

Do you think the proposed approach for enabling growth will effectively provide for Auckland’s future?

The graphs below give an overview of the responses from the Rodney Local Board area.



Most submitters did not leave responses but those that did, and supported the proposal, did so primarily because they want more intensification and less sprawl (including those that said they wanted to keep rural land, rural). Some comments said that they need to build more industry/business areas closer to where people live, to avoid travel.

Those that did not support the proposal often gave very similar answers as above (so they agree with the outcome) but thought that the approach would achieve that.