

Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation feedback report for Rodney Local Board

1. Purpose

- A. This report summarises all feedback received through the Annual Budget 2017/2018 consultation on Rodney Local Board proposals. It also summarises feedback on the regional proposals from people or organisations based in the Rodney local board area.
- B. The purpose of this report is to inform the Rodney Local Board of the views of their local community on the annual proposals. This will build on the boards understanding of community priorities and preferences as established in the development of the Rodney Local Board Plan 2014.
- C. The feedback received will inform the Rodney Local Board decisions on allocation of their local budgets in their local board agreement for 2017/2018. It will also inform the Rodney Local Board discussions with the Finance and Performance Committee on 9 May on advocacy and local priorities in relation to the regional budgets and proposals.

2. Executive Summary

Out of the 8058 submissions received on the Annual Budget 2017/2018, 354 were submissions from people living in Rodney Local Board area or concerning Rodney Local Board local proposals.

A. Rodney Local Board local proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

- 1. Save \$50,000 per year on consequential opex by not spending the remaining \$500,000 footpath capital funds from our LDI budget.
- 2. Additional savings found by removing the remaining economic development budget and changing the focus of our ecological and environmental work. Additional funding also found from the parks volunteers and community grants budgets. These funds would be put into the following new initiatives:
 - a. Grants for improving the ecological health of our main harbours and waterways through the Healthy Waters program (\$250,000)
 - b. Grants to implement our Greenways plans through community led projects (\$250,000)
 - c. Grants for community led play spaces (\$100,000)
 - d. Targeted funding for a recognised existing events and one new event (\$30,000)
- 3. We also propose the following priorities for 2017/2018:
 - a. carrying out concept planning for the Huapai Multisports Facility (\$20,000)
 - b. Repositioning the Snells Beach Skate Park as part of the renewal of this asset (\$20,000)
 - c. Wellsford skate park and reserve redevelopment (\$50,000)
 - d. Upgrading the Muriwai Playground as a destination playground (\$50,000)

- e. Town centre upgrades in Helensville, Kumeu/Huapai and Warkworth (\$700,000)

B. Regional proposals consulted on for 2017/2018

Issue 1: Rates increases

Submissions show local people support a 2.5 per cent rates increase in the coming year (61 per cent of submissions).

Issue 2: Rating stability

Local people support the proposal to increase business and residential rates by the same amount in 2017/2018 (76 per cent of submissions).

Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

Local people support the implementation of a targeted rate for accommodation providers (62 per cent of submissions).

Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure

Local people support the implementation of a targeted rate for new housing developments to help pay for infrastructure (62 per cent of submissions).

Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

Local people support the proposal to pay council staff a living wage (58 per cent of submissions).

C. Feedback on local issues

The majority of submissions partially support the local board's priorities for 2017/2018 (46 per cent); 30 per cent believe the local board has its priorities wrong and 21 per cent believe the local board priorities are correct.

3. Context

- A. This report is being provided to the Rodney Local Board summarising the local consultation feedback received on the annual budget. Council received feedback in person at community engagement events, through written forms (including those submitted online) and through social media.
- B. Feedback on Rodney Local Board local proposals and on regional proposals from the Rodney Local Board area was received through:
 - Written feedback – 354 feedback forms
 - In person – Feedback was received through two Have Your Say events at Kumeu and Matakana

4. Feedback received on the local proposals

- A. Key themes across all feedback received were:

- A significant number of submissions want the local board to focus on fixing roads and transport issues before it does anything else. Similarly, a number of submissions requested that the local board focus on “core services” (water, sewerage, waste etc) and fixing urban design and planning issues rather than carry out the priorities proposed in the consultation material.
- There was support for reallocating funding into grants (41 per cent), but a reasonable percentage of feedback points (37 per cent) were only partially in support. A recurring theme was concerns that the community groups which will get these grants may not represent the real views of the whole community, or that these grants will only help the loudest groups with certain biases or pet projects.
- Greenways received wide support with most feedback points on the topic of grants being in support of greenways as a priority. There were a significant number of comments requesting that bridleways be constructed as part of these greenways, and that more is done for the horse riding community, particularly in and around Dairy Flat/Coatesville. Similarly, the environmental grants received wide support, even amongst those who otherwise opposed grants.
- The least supported priorities with respect to grants were the funding of events and playgrounds with feedback points ranging from suggestions that infrastructure should be a higher priority than both events or playgrounds, that events should be self-funding, and that the focus should be on sport and outdoor recreation rather than playgrounds.

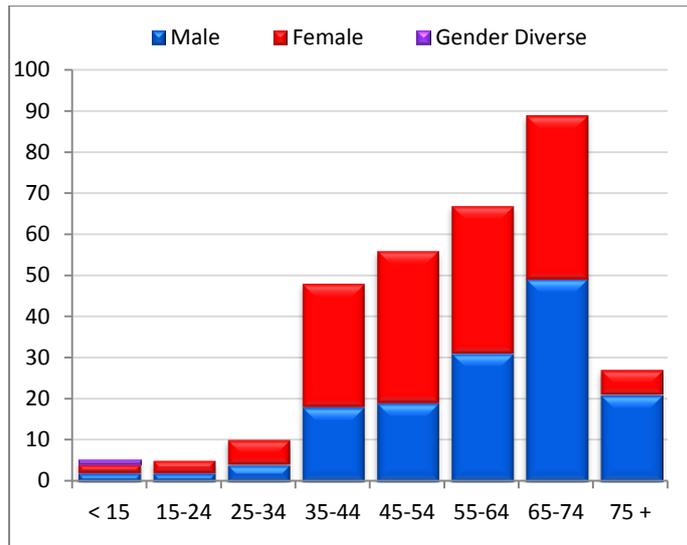
B. A summary of the feedback received through each channel is provided below.

Written feedback received

Demographics

The majority of submissions were made by females (52 per cent) of European ethnicity (92 per cent). The most submissions were received from submitters in the 65-74 age group which submitted approximately 29 per cent of all submissions.

Of note, only seven per cent of submissions were received from people under the age of 35. While similar to the responses in 2015/2016, this result is very low even taking into account Rodney’s older demographic base. As a point of reference, only Waiheke and Great Barrier had a smaller percentage of submissions from people aged under 35.



Local Board Priorities - General

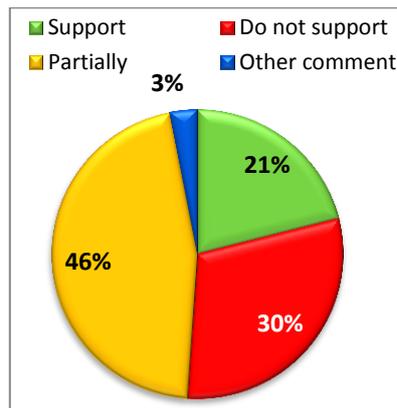
The majority of submissions (168 submissions or 46 per cent) only partially supported the local board’s proposed priorities and there were more submissions opposed to the local board’s priorities (30 per cent) than were in favour (21 per cent).

Of the 109 feedback points that were made by submitters against or only partially in favour of the local board’s priorities, 30 feedback points stated that transport and roading needs to be addressed before the local board does anything else and 12 feedback points cited a need for proper planning and resolving issues with Rodney’s growth to take priority over anything else.

The remaining feedback points covered a range of initiatives which submitters thought should take a higher priority than they were being given in the proposed plan, such as building greenways which many feedback points indicated was more important than other proposals. Several feedback points called for a reserve management plan at Greens Road Dairy Flat and two feedback points want a plan in place at Te Arai and the local board’s priorities were opposed or only partially supported because these issues aren’t proposed for 2017/2018. Several submissions opposed the local board’s priorities stating that they want Rodney’s rates spent in Rodney.

The remaining 169 submissions did not give a specific reason for opposing or only partially supporting the local board’s initiatives so their reasoning cannot be interpreted.

Q1: Have we got our priorities right?



Some comments received include:

- We support the plan to spend \$700,000 to revitalise our town centres particularly Kumeu/Huapai and Helensville.
- [I support] greenways, walkways, sportsfield and multisports facility development, skateparks renewals and community play facilities, all of which contribute to the health and wellbeing of our communities.
- Fix the roads
- Huge development no infrastructure to support.
- Events? Not your role. Not the role of the local board either. Stop it.
- More needs to be done in rural villages like Kaukapakapa. With more houses and subdivisions be [sic] built the footpaths and local amenities needs to be reviewed.
- We don't need better town halls, we need better roads
- Where is a fitness trail...we have a walkway around the [Huapai] domain, and a rather basic playground at Huapai, but what else is there for older people? What about seating around the Huapai Domain
- Support Greenways in our area. Provide more bridgeways & share areas for walking, cycling, equestrian
- Need more pest management strategies on gulf islands, especially Kawau.
- Warkworth needs more parking so that shoppers can reach their objective, not revitalisation
- The rubbish bins that are piling up at the Sandspit are disgusting and it is apparently largely due to the local Sandspit residents.

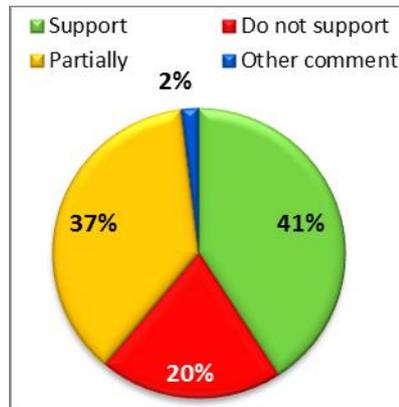
Reallocation of Funding into Grants

The proposal to reallocate funding into larger grants was generally supported, with 105 submissions (41 per cent of those who answered the question) supporting this initiative. A minority of 20 per cent opposed the reallocation and 37 per cent (95 submissions) partially supported the initiative.

A common theme amongst those that were opposed or only partially in support of the reallocation of funding was a concern about using community groups to deliver projects. Several commented that community groups are not representative of the wider community as many are specialised self interest groups “grandstanding for their own egos”. Several were concerned that by using community groups the projects would be limited to one area or to certain “squeaky wheels” and not spread fairly across Rodney. A distinct theme was a concern about accountability and the lack of oversight if community groups carried out projects, with one feedback point noting “council is not a tax collector for other organisations”. Others observed that some good small initiatives will be overlooked if the focus is on bigger projects.

Except for a very small number of feedback points asking for support for Scouts and Guiding or noting some general non-specific concern with the loss of funding for initiatives, there was no real objection to reallocating funding away from economic development, the parks volunteers or community grants budgets

Q2: Do you agree with our focus on re-allocating funding away from some initiatives into the proposed, larger grants for recognised community groups and organisations to carry out work in their area?



Some other comments received include:

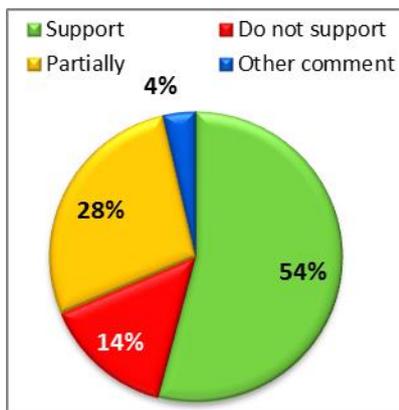
- Yes [I support this] as they know what will work well and not so well for their areas
- [I support this but] With the usual accountability that ensures the community groups have been through some levels of verification of working for the dynamic cross-section of
- Sometimes community groups can get carried away by a few strong minded individuals, or those with particular interests, so Council should still retain sound oversight of ratepayers

- | | communities | funds. |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communities should be given more priority and gets everyone involved to develop a stronger groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise excellence and capacity in existing community groups but also find prudent ways of supporting new groups or new activities where they meet appropriate environmental and social objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to have central strategic control over Auckland's spend. Special interest localised groups tend to be dominated by a few self-interested parties will never get the best outcomes for Auckland. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While this may be easier than getting the Council to act, it is also a copout to devolve responsibility to community groups. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a very dangerous policy that looks good on paper, but will read with tremendous Council bias toward one or other group. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised community groups will be able to do more with more funding |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So long as the community groups are in touch with their REAL communities, rather than grand standing for their own egos, some are out of touch with the lower socio groups within their communities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pressure groups and self-interest groups will always hold sway | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should be wholly responsible for work carried out in their area as if it is diluted by private organisations it dilutes the accountability |

The Focus of the Proposed Grants

The proposed grants for 2017/2018 have four areas of focus: ecological health of harbours and waterways, Greenways implementation, play spaces, and events. A majority of submitters who answered the question on whether they support the grants focus agreed with the proposed categories (150 submissions, or 54 per cent). Only 14 per cent opposed where the grants were being targeted, with most of those submissions points that the local board shouldn't offer grants at all until other issues (eg transport, planning etc) were addressed.

Q3: Do you agree with the focus of the proposed grants (ecological health of harbours and waterways, Greenways implementation, play spaces, and events)?



Some comments received include:

- I can't support all of the Councils grants, but the thrust of this is to be applauded. I do feel that good Council money should be spent on encouraging locals to volunteer their help
- More events are good. But fix traffic so we can go.
- Dairy Flat in particular is woefully lacking in these facilities
- I think events should be self-funded
- This is very important with the expectation of major development in the future for the Warkworth, these are future tourist attractions and important economic factors which need to be recognised and designed now
- The environment in this area justifies a priority focus.
- I don't see the need for events
- Play space and events are not needed. Clean toilets, rubbish facilities and maintenance of harbours and waterways are
- No. It's not the Council's job. How come we didn't ask Council to take control of this as a community - but Council has just assumed control & incurred more rates for it?
- Essential for the local board to make this commitment so the harbours etc are environmentally sustainable.
- These are all important for a healthy functioning city
- roading and footpaths should come before play spaces and events, we need to be able to get to these safely.

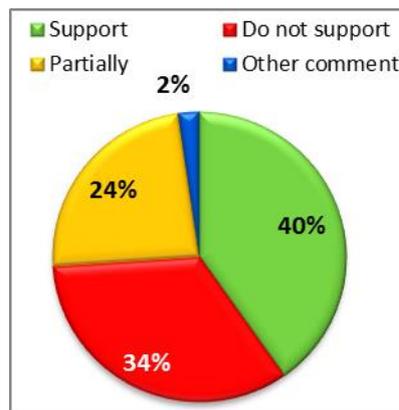
Funding of Footpaths

Submissions were quite evenly split on the proposal not to fund any additional footpaths in 2017/2018; 105 submissions support the local board's proposal not to build footpaths (40 per cent) while 88 submitters (34 per cent) do not. The remainder partially supported the

proposal, some citing that it was not clear what Auckland Transport's role in footpaths was so they didn't think they could make an informed comment, others said that they would support the proposal so long as it did not compromise safety.

However, it is clear from the feedback points that some submitters likely misread the question as many of the submissions that were in support of not funding footpaths provided comments to the contrary - stating that more footpaths are a good idea. Accordingly, the data needs to be read in context of the comments.

Q4: Do you agree with the proposed approach not to build additional footpaths over and above those to be built by Auckland Transport?



Some comments received include:

- [funding footpaths] seems pointless
- Old people like me need footpaths
- Let's make walking a practical alternative
- I only support the building of new footpaths where they will reduce pedestrian travel times significantly, or (eg) a new suburb has overloaded pedestrian.
- If more footpaths are deemed to be required - it's obviously a lack of planning by AT - they should stump up!
- AT has a better handle on priorities and real needs rather than the ad-hoc "pet" projects that seem to get built.
- We need additional footpaths, we need to be able to go for a walk or run and not have to run around the block five times. We need to be able to walk our kids to primary school or bike there. We can't because there are no footpaths linking the region
- Footpaths are expensive, and not essential in all areas given the lower population levels, but areas where younger families reside should have footpaths for children and prams.
- Savings are good BUT I would not support this if ratepayers safety was compromised. People need to be able to walk on well-constructed and safe footpaths.
- So long as it supports Greenway's Plan for Coatesville - Dairy Flat I'm
- No opinion. I don't know enough about it. It sounds like something that should
- It is a safety issue. Footpaths keep pedestrians off the road.

ok with it.

be funded by local groups with maybe a little help.

Other Comments

Other comments received included a range of themes, including requests for funding from the proposed events grants for Helensville Lions Book Fair and Kawau "Music in the Gardens", general comments both in support of and critical of the local board, and statements that skate parks should not be a priority.

Some of the general comments received include:

- Undrinkable Wellsford water a priority.
- Council should allow events held by charitable organization within the district raising funds for community purposes be allowed continuing use of council facilities free of charge.
- What about heritage? A particularly big opportunity in Rodney
- a swimming pool is desperately needed in the Warkworth area but nothing is being done to make this happen quickly.
- Omaha has been neglected.
- I don't support money for play spaces or events but I do support environmental initiatives within reason if ratepayers participate. Not like any of that ever happens out here on the fringe.
- Music in the Garden has brought the Kawau community together with more than 700 people spending seven or eight hours on an island. We ask that it be included in the ongoing Rodney Local Board community grant program.
- In Kaukapakapa we don't like focus on the two main centres, we want some equity across the smaller rural villages who have no facilities and are growing (potentially greater per capita than other centres)
- Skate park? Surely not a priority! It is unused anyway.
- Dairy Flat Subdivision need a Greenways path as it is no longer safe for kids to cycle, ride horses along the road. The traffic volumes have increased as a result of subdivisions in Millwater and the heavy trucks dumping clean fill in Dairy Flat.
- North Harbour Cycling Club request the inclusion of significant budgetary allowance for the development of a competitive criterium cycle track at Green Road Reserve on Green Road Dairy Flat.
- I think the current local board is ineffective and has very little insight into what the community needs or requires.

Feedback received through Have your say events

The local board held two Have Your Say events – at the Kumeu Show and at the Matakana Market. Most feedback from these events focussed on the regional questions as this was the primary focus of Have Your Say events this year. Some themes from these events include that:

- Rodney should not pay for development of the inner city
- rates on farms are too high
- Matakana should get a share of the \$700k for town centre improvements as Matakana town centre is in need of major work
- the river bank at Point Wells is eroding and needs attention
- the local board should keep community grants for groups like Muriwai lifesaving
- the emphasis on sport and recreation is wrong and that more needs to be put into making areas nice to live in

5. Overview of feedback received on regional proposals from Rodney Local Board area

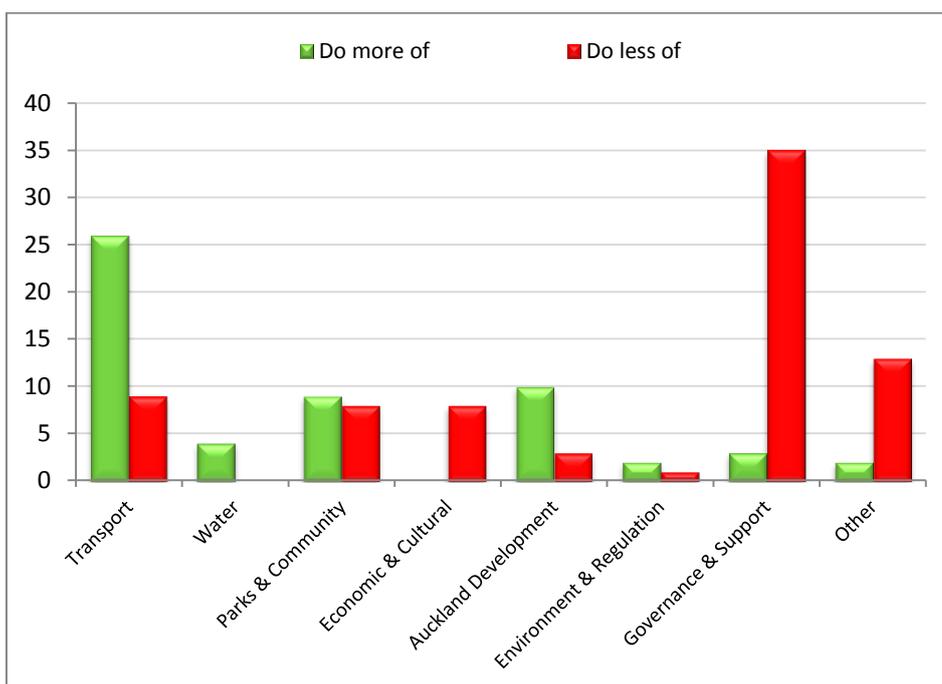
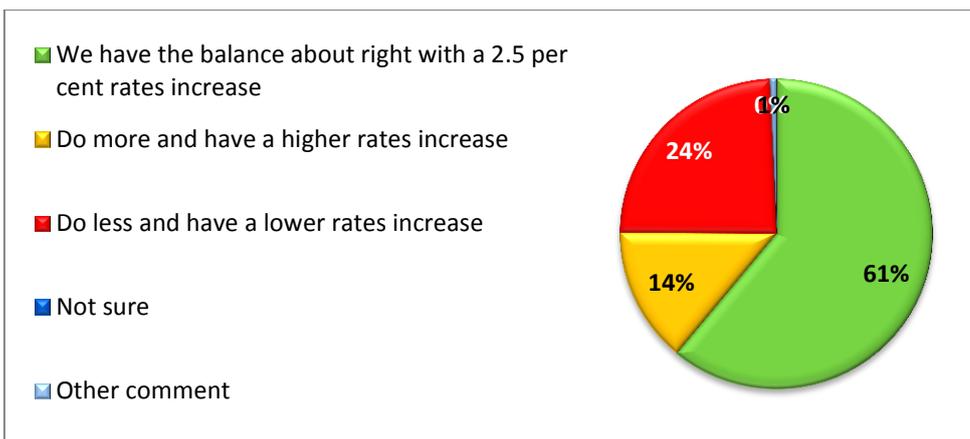
The consultation on the proposed annual budget focused on five key issues, Issue 1: Rates increases, Issue 2: Rating stability, Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion, Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure and Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage. The written feedback received from the Rodney Local Board area on these key consultation topics is summarised below, along with an overview of any other areas of feedback on regional proposals with a local impact.

Issue 1: Rates increases

Aucklanders were asked if we have the balance right with a 2.5 per cent average rates increase or should we have a higher rates increase (3.5 per cent) and do more or a lower rates increase (2 per cent) and do less.

Question 1: Delivering our planned investments and services will require an average rates increase of 2.5 per cent for 2017/2018. A higher rates increase would enable us to do more, while a lower rates increase would mean we can do less. What do you think?

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

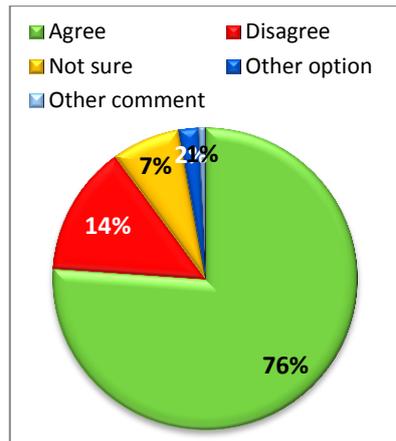


Issue 2: Rating stability

Aucklanders were asked if businesses should receive the same rates increase as residential ratepayers in 2017/2018.

Question 2: The council has been adjusting the share of general rates between businesses and residential ratepayers over time. This has resulted in businesses having a smaller increase than residential ratepayers. We are proposing that for 2017/2018 both should receive the same rates increase. What do you think?

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

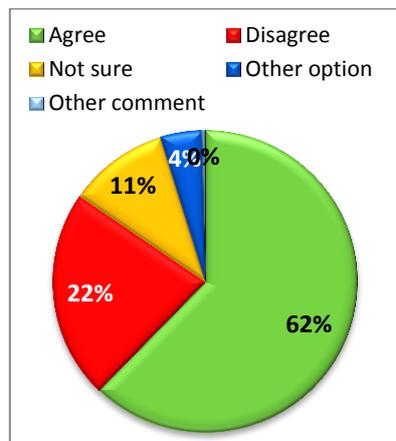


Issue 3: Paying for tourism promotion

Aucklanders were asked if they agree or disagree with the proposed targeted rate on accommodation providers to fund tourism promotion rather than from general rates.

Question 3: The council spends \$20-30 million on tourism promotion and major events each year. We are proposing to fund this from a targeted rate on accommodation providers rather than general rates. What do you think?

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

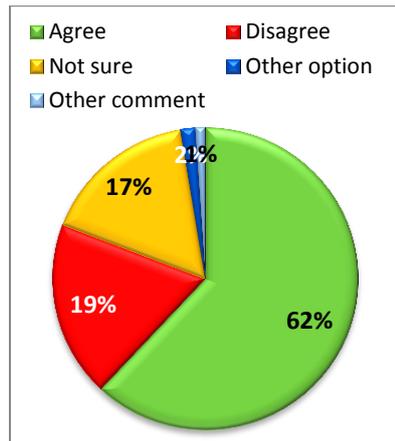


Issue 4: Paying for housing infrastructure

People were asked if they supported changing our funding policy to allow infrastructure for new housing developments to be funded by targeted rates alongside existing growth charges, rather than ratepayers across Auckland.

Question 4: The council is proposing to change our funding policy to allow infrastructure for new housing developments to be funded by targeted rates, rather than ratepayers across Auckland. What do you think?

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



Issue 5: Paying council staff a living wage

People were asked if they support the council to implement a living wage policy over the council term ending October 2019 to ensure all council staff can afford typical living costs. This would be funded from savings within the existing budgets.

Question 5: The council is proposing to implement a living wage policy over the council term ending October 2019 to ensure all council staff can afford typical living costs. This would be funded from savings within the existing budgets. What do you think?

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

