



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

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**AGM**  
**28th April 2025**

**“Managing Growth”**



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

# AGENDA:

1. WELCOME
2. APOLOGIES
3. MINUTES - of the previous AGM meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

*(Copies will be available at the meeting.)*

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
3. TREASURERS' REPORT
4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE
5. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
6. ADOPTION OF A NEW CONSITUTION

*(Our Constitution needs to be revised to comply with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022. Copies of the proposed new Constitution may be viewed at <https://nag.org.nz/NAG%20revised%20Constitution%202025.pdf> )*

1. GENERAL BUSINESS
2. GUEST SPEAKER(S)
3. COMMENTS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION

# AGENDA:

## “MANAGING GROWTH”

Speakers – following Introduction from the Chair...

Hon Chris Penk: Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP  
(Will provide comments if he can't attend)

Greg Sayers: Ward Councillor

Mike Howard: Kaipara Councillor

Peter Sinton (WALG)

**Mayor Wayne Brown**

**Discussion and responses from speakers:** including Local Board members comments.

# Minutes of the 24 June 2024 AGM

## MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE NORTHERN ACTION GROUP JUNE 2024

Held at Totara Park Hall, 5 Melwood Drive, Warkworth on Monday 24th June 2024 commencing at 7.04 p.m.

### 1. WELCOME

#### Attendance:

Committee – Bill Foster (Chair), Hugh Briggs (Sec), Maurice Purdy (Treasurer), Lance Taylor, Peter Buckton, Peter Sinton, Malcolm Black

Attendees: Members, supporters and speakers: Chris Penk (MP Kaipara ki Mahurangi), Greg Sayers (Auckland Councillor), Sue Crockett, Stephen Law, Tim Holgate (RLB), Michelle Carmichael (RLB), Elizabeth Foster, Caroline Barrett, Angela Buckton, Sue Crockett, Bill Townson, Mona Townson.

The Chair, Bill Foster, welcomed all attendees (19 including the Committee and guest speakers) to the AGM. It was an excellent turnout, given the poor weather. Bill identified the key speakers: Greg Sayers (Auckland Councillor for Rodney) and Chris Penk (Local MP) and welcomed them to the meeting.

### 2. APOLOGIES

The Secretary (Hugh Briggs) read out the apologies from Colin Smith (RLB), Deanne Yardley, Glen Ashton and Brian Mason. The apologies were moved and accepted.

### 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM meeting on the 20 July 2023 were taken as read. Copies were available at the meeting but no questions were raised.

### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising and Bill Foster indicated that most of the matters in the minutes would be covered in his Chair's report later on and in subsequent discussion. The minutes of that meeting were then accepted as being a true and accurate record of that meeting. Moved Bill Foster, seconded by Hugh Briggs. Approved.

### 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair, Bill Foster, then presented his report using Powerpoint slides. This report can be viewed by way of a link on the website and in the next Newsletter. He started with a review of the 6R's from last year, which are again highlighted again in 2024. His message was that it had been a successful year for NAG (and Rodney) with several "wins".

#### Our key issues were:

1. The disconnect between planning and implementation
2. Maintenance shortfall
3. Unfair transport priorities
4. Need for fairer local board representation
5. Wayby Valley landfill

6. Storm damage repairs

7. A broken Council

8. Three (or Five) Waters

#### Action this year:

Bill then identified the successes of this year:

1. Three waters cancellation
2. Contained rates rises
3. URIP funding of \$125m (push for frontloading)
4. Improved liaison with RLB and community groups (eg WALG)
5. Representation review for fairer balance between urban and rural
6. An adjustment (small) to Local Board discretionary funding formula which helps Rodney

He showed the proposed new boundary changes, which gave a fairer presence for rural areas and identified the changes in the maintenance programme. He indicated why NAG had to continue to question the structure of Auckland Council, which he hoped the RLB and Council members would outline. He ended his presentation with thanks to the Committee, and all the supporters with their generous donations, without which NAG could not continue its fight on behalf of the Rodney communities.

Moved that the report be accepted – proposed Bill Foster; seconded Hugh Briggs (Sec): Carried.

Hugh Briggs (Sec) and many others thanked Bill for his tremendous work on behalf of NAG and the Rodney Community. There was loud applause for this.

### 6. TREASURERS' REPORT

Maurice Purdy presented the brief financial statement (copies were made available and was also shown on the Chair's presentation). The financial statement is attached to the minutes. The Society was kept financial by generous donations from supporters, given that the Society had not sought grants or funding from any appropriate agencies. The main expenditure was on materials and limited advertising. A discussion followed about getting a better (Thrifty) account with ASB, rather than the business account NAG has.

It was then moved that the accounts be accepted as a true and accurate record, as attached and signed off by the Chairperson. Moved by Bill Foster and seconded by Peter Buckton. Carried.

### 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Bill then moved that the nominations as shown on the Chair's slides for the officer and Committee positions could be accepted, unless there were more coming from the floor. None were offered. As the Chair was the only nomination, Bill stood down whilst the Secretary, Hugh, acted as Chair to undertake the voting for the Chair position. Hugh proposed that Bill be nominated as there were no others, seconded by Peter Buckton. Bill was unanimously voted as Chair.



Bill resumed in his role as Chair to complete the election process. The nominations for Secretary (Hugh Briggs) and Treasurer (Maurice Purdy) were moved and accepted, as there were no others presented. Peter Sinton, Malcolm Black, Lance Taylor and Peter Buckton were re-elected onto the Committee.

#### 8. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Bill advised the meeting that there was no annual subscription provided for. Any person that made a donation was considered to be a financial member as per the Constitution. Members just had to fill in the membership form and indicate their donation. It was resolved to maintain this process. Moved by Bill and seconded by Hugh.

#### 9. DISCUSSION

Bill opened up the discussion session by reiterating the main points of his report. His main question to the meeting was to ask how could we unify the Rodney community to get better governance and more equitable funding. NAG wanted positive ideas and possible solutions to achieve this. He then invited the guest speakers to comment on these issues and on the theme chosen: A Better Rodney.

#### 10. GUEST SPEAKERS

##### **Chris Penk: Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP**

He acknowledged NAG's work for the Rodney community, Greg and FTT for their work too.

He discussed issues:

Regional Fuel Tax coming off as it was too general going mainly to CBD projects which were too expensive.

Three Waters needed to be changed. Major infrastructure issues with Watercare needed funding solutions. It was not a perfect solution - need to get more local projects.

Supercity: the 2026 election may create new boundaries to reflect population growth. NAG wants open consultation process with any boundary changes to wards. Need accountability for Councils to ratepayers for expenditures, as there are limited powers for LB's. There is no enforcement process, nor transparency of decision making and financial accountability. Need fairness of allocations across all LB's.

FTB: Michelle wanted proper sustainable development and all expressed concern about Fast Track Bill. Need for real (integrated) planning.

He was thanked for his attendance and thoughts, and his hard work for the Rodney communities.

##### **Greg Sayers: Ward Councillor**

He acknowledged NAG's fight had not always been fully successful but it had repositioned itself to get appropriate changes to representation, better integrated planning and better maintenance expenditure. He congratulated NAG on its hard work for the Rodney communities.

His main points were:

Watercare pipelining: he emphasized that Council and the public could not alter Watercare's operational powers, as these were set by the Auckland City Act. The only way that NAG and other groups could get any possible change would be to provide full details of other options costed out and submit these to RLB and Greg to put to the Mayor. There was no guarantee that it would be successful. There is very strong opposition to the Queen Street route and WALG is putting an alternative option to the Council to be submitted to Watercare. It is amazing that there is no full cost-benefit analysis required as with RMA applications/Plan changes – there should be an analysis of the costs to the community against the implementation cost.

Sealing Programme: Whilst the funds have been allocated there is no programme set yet. The LB can choose the type of seal with targeted rate funding but not with AT funded projects. Still issue of getting funds from a bigger budget or a targeted rate.

Water Tables: Drainage is not up to standards and yet there is no proper quality control. No Clerk of Works as in old times, which Greg is pushing for. Many examples of poor workmanship and failures.

WINS in Rodney: RLB greater increase in RLTB programme, but timing is under AT control, so need to push for "front loading" with greater funds over next 3 years. Greater funding has been provided to RLB for community facilities and services. Hill Street has \$19.7 m allocated but no timing yet sorted. It is the highest roading project on the list. NAG has pushed for Local Government Body review re (a) representation and (b) subdivision boundaries. This will be out for consultation 8 July – 8 August. Need for all to submit.

Rodney is being given priority.

Greg's thoughts were very well received and his hard work for the Rodney communities was gratefully acknowledged.

There was a vote of thanks to both Chris Penk and Greg Sayers for all their great work on behalf of the Rodney communities. A strong round of applause. There was also a vote of thanks to Bill Foster from many people, with a rousing reception.

##### **Michelle Carmichael (RLB) and Tim Holgate (RLB)**

She focused on the need for the greater transparency in RLB, and for a more socially conscious group and not party politics. It has changed from the previous Board (Rodney First no longer has dominant influence), with a change in direction. Open workshops have been happening for a while, continuing after the end of the trial. Recording of business meetings is currently being trialled for 6 months to enable access to RLB discussion and

decisions at a time convenient to public, as we understand it is difficult to get to meetings during the day when it suits council staff to attend. They have also set up informal Warkworth Community Group meetings every 2 months (first one was successful). She indicated that being an RLB member was a full time job and should be recognised as such. She was also thanked for her great work for the community and with her involvement with Fight the Tip. **Tim** echoed these points indicating that the RLB is much more of a positive entity now, able to achieve projects of meaning.

#### **Peter Sinton (WALG/NAG)**

Peter is a NAG Committee member, joining as he wanted to get involved in producing a better planned Rodney. He became the Chair of WALG (the combined Business and Professional group set up to share information and coordinate activity for a better Warkworth area). He wants to expand its role to provide a platform for all aspects of the community to be able to take formal action on behalf of ratepayers to support a better planned District area (Warkworth town and rural areas served by it). He set out the framework of a new entity (name yet to be determined) designed to include all groups – residents associations, professionals, businesses, farmers, landowners, and environmental groups. A steering group of professionals (planner, engineers, environmentalists, businesses) will be set up to set out the direction the Society should go. It will be necessary to create an Incorporated Society (for protection and power to go the Environment Court if necessary). The goal is to manage change in the Rodney District, coming from the community, letting Council know what the community wants. Warkworth has character and identity of its own and not just a commuter suburb of Auckland.

It will take a few months to get the organization underway but it will be necessary to develop an integrated planning strategy before the review of the Auckland Unitary Plan is advertised in 2025. NAG is fully supportive of it, with some of its professional members being drivers of this new direction.

#### **Sue Crockett (Fight the Tip)**

Sue's opening was "it is not over yet"! There are appeals to the High Court coming up in July from Ngati Whatua to get the same manawhenua status instead of Ngati Manuhuri. This is supported by FTT as an interested party, enabling it to put up lawyers and expert witnesses if needed. There is no final decision yet, as the High Court could override the Environment Court's interim decision. The Waste Management Plan has no legal status but should be taken into account (more) in any final decision, particularly as it states that the city does not need any new landfill!!! Sue (and Michelle) were thanked for their magnificent work in this fight – with very strong applause.

## **11. GENERAL DISCUSSION**

There was no other discussion, as it had been a very full and comprehensive debated session.

On that note, **Bill** declared the meeting closed at 9.13pm with an invitation to share tea/coffee and finger food. Social further discussions took place until after 9.40pm.

Hugh Briggs  
Secretary

Signed by:  
Chairman Bill Foster..... Date .....

# Chairman's Report



# Chairman’s report to 31 March 2025

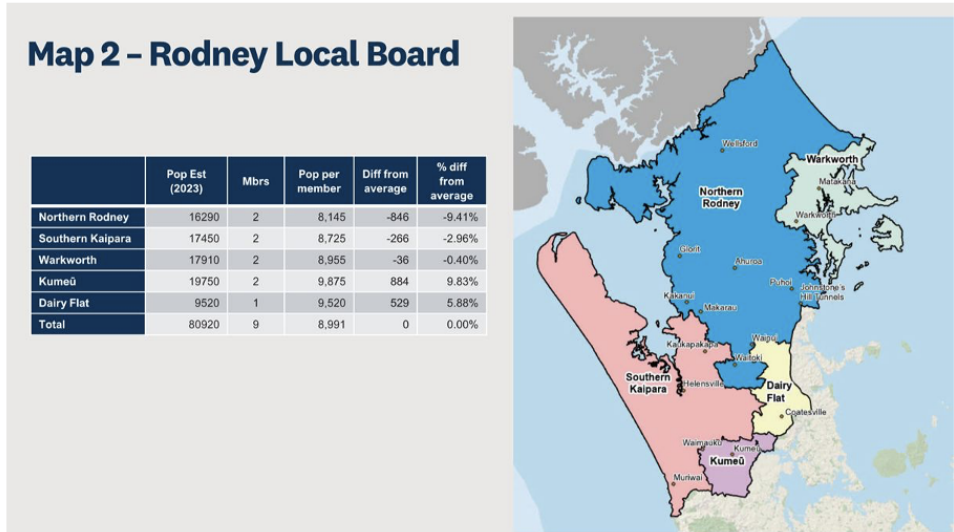
The years roll into each other and progress is slow, but continuous!

As always, I want to first thank my colleagues on the Committee; everyone in our communities working for a better Rodney; and most importantly you, our supporters.

This year NAG, with local community groups RCV and LCA, the RLB, One Mahurangi, our Councillor, supported and enabled by the Mayor and new Government, have all combined to make some real progress for Rodney!

## Representation review:

Fair and Balanced representation across Rodney’s subdivisions (which we have been working on since 2020) has finally been recognized for this year’s elections. The challenge to all ratepayers is to deliver on this change by coming forward as independent candidates to represent all of Rodney’s communities. (The party system doesn’t work in Local Government – especially large and rural areas like Rodney - as it biases support for special policies or interests and does not give all communities fair and balanced representation.)



## Roading

Our Mayor has recognized the need to fix Rodney’s roads and with our Councillor’s support has convinced the GB to allocate more money for the improvement works!

Remediation work on the storm damage has also seen considerable improvements to damaged areas of Rodney’s road network.

We continue to represent the interests of all Rodney Ratepayer in a liaison group Councillor Sayers has arranged between AT staff and local roading experts, seeking to reduce costly and wasteful treatment choices and improve the performance of AT and Downers working on our road corridors.

## Other

- Rates rises being contained – helped by Govt lifting Watercare borrowing restraints on AC.
- RFT cancellation – more user pays charging to follow to improve fairness
- Better liaison and transparency with the Local Board and with community groups
- An adjustment (small) to Local Board discretionary funding formula which helps Rodney

## Submissions made

### Electoral Reform:

LGNZ has a Working Group on Electoral Reform, Chaired by Nick Smith. We have written twice submitting that the Group is failing to address important structural concerns such as getting more accountability for elected representatives, and failing to promote the use of technology to make engaging the public easier (viz. electronic on-line voting and referenda though apps).

### AC’s complaints process:

We have submitted complaints with outcomes that demonstrate the need to reform AC’s complaints process (and that of other Councils). We await the Ombudsman’s review of our complaints and comments. AC has made some improvement to the transparency of its process, but deficiencies remain.

### Council plans and budgets:

We continue to submit that AC can do more to reduce its costs and stick to the basics. Mayor Brown has made some progress but is hampered by the populist desire of many Councillors to increase rates and spend more on politically attractive and performative subsidies, icons, shows and trinkets, and wellbeing activities that central Government should fund, if required.

Still work in progress:

- The disconnect between planning and providing for growth (the AGM’s focus);
- The Maintenance shortfall (assets being bled);
- Unfair transport (roading) priorities and waste in implementation;
- The Wayby Landfill proposal (never needed) - and we support extending the capacity of existing landfills as the immediate solution); and
- The “3 waters” cancellation – replaced with “local water done well” (and recognition of the need for water management planning). We continue to support the Water Users Group in monitoring the legislation to support this.

Where to from here:

As the AGM discussion should bring out, it’s time for Rodney’s communities to have a say in what they want and how to do it! AC’s top-down and one-size-fits-all urban model has never worked well in Rodney and just produces inefficiencies and frustrations we live with every day.

It’s time for a change to recognize the role communities can play in deciding how to grow our area and how our Councils can work with us to best support that – not the other way around.

Promises, Promises.

Each year now I remind us of AC’s promises to Rodney back in 2018:

AC Promises to LGC for Rodney [2018]	Current Status [2025] (7 Years on)
A potential extension of aspects of the Waiheke pilot project, empowering the local board, to Rodney	✗ No extension to Rodney- some additional governance staffing support
A planned move of the Rodney Local Board office to the Rodney area, including the potential for a second meeting space in Kumeu	✓ It took years but <u>Warkworth</u> and Kumeu offices now opened. No public access or toilets.
A major increase in road sealing budget for Rodney	✓ Finally the promised \$125m. Will we ever see it . Mayor Brown and Councillor Sayers making good on the promise.
A review of service level variability across the Auckland region to determine how to address funding distribution issues across local board areas	✗ ? Review completed several years ago showed asset and facility unfairness. GB slow to change allocation. Minor formula change for ABS and LDI funding slightly benefits Rodney
Triennial reviews of local board allocations and delegations to coincide with the long term process as an ongoing commitment to localism and devolution	✗ No progress. The governing body shows political resistance to reallocations and any real delegation.
Targeted communication improvements in areas of Auckland with strong local identities or unique challenges - such as Waiheke and Rodney - to build the public trust and confidence	✗ “Our Rodney” propaganda for AC introduced- to tell us what AC is doing for us. “Have your say” promotions patronise ratepayers. CIM surveys still show low trust in A/C

Thank You All!

Yours Sincerely  
Bill Foster

# Treasurer's Report

Northern Action Group

Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 2025

Cash In

Donations	\$180.00
GST refunds	\$0.00
Sub Total	\$180.00

Cash Out

Reimburse M Purdy*	\$174.84
Totara Park Hall Hire	\$30.00
Mahurangi Matters	\$128.52
Bank fees	\$15.00
Jane Harris Web site	\$114.84
IRD GST penalty, late filing	\$250.00
Sub Total	\$713.20

Bank Balance at 31st March 2024	\$620.97
Plus deposits	\$180.00
Less expenses	\$713.20
Bank Balance at 31st March 2025	\$87.77

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2025

ASSETS

	2025	2024
	\$	\$
Bank Balance	87.77	620.97
GST Owing	0.00	0.00
Total Assets	87.77	620.97

LIABILITIES

Total Liabilities*	0.00	174.84
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Net Assets (Liabilities)	87.77	446.13
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Reviewed By:

M Purdy  
Treasurer  
April 2025



Bill Foster  
Chairman.



# Election of Officers and Committee – Nominations received

OFFICE	PERSON	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Chairman	Bill Foster	Maury Purdy	Hugh Briggs
Secretary	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster	Lance Taylor
Treasurer	Maury Purdy	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster
Committee:	Lance Taylor	Hugh Briggs	Maury Purdy
	Peter Buckton	Lance Taylor	Hugh Briggs
	Malcolm Black	Lance Taylor	Maury Purdy
	Peter Sinton	Hugh Briggs	Bill Foster



# Annual Subscription

To reconfirm the past decision that a (any) donation is the membership fee.

Members are any persons who are residents or property owners in North Rodney, complete our membership form and pay the membership fee.

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. 😊 So if you think we are doing something worthwhile, keep supporting us please!

# Adoption of a New Constitution

# New Constitution

- The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (Act) requires us to update our Constitution before April 2026.
- Copies of the old Constitution <https://nag.org.nz/NAG%20Constitution%20Sep2014.pdf> and our new Constitution <https://nag.org.nz/NAG%20revised%20Constitution%202025.pdf> have been made available on the website for members to inspect.
- Advice of the proposed change was given with the Notice of meeting to members.
- The proposed new Constitution adds requirements that are necessary to comply with the Act.
- The definition of North Rodney (for membership) has been extended to include areas around Kaipara Harbour in Rodney that were earlier omitted.
- Other provisions have been retained.
- Approval of the new Constitution requires support of 75% of members present and entitled to vote.
- I move that the new Constitution be adopted.

# General Business



# ***The Northern Action Group***

## ***Incorporated***

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# **AGM CONCLUDED**



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



# Speakers and Discussion

“Managing Growth”

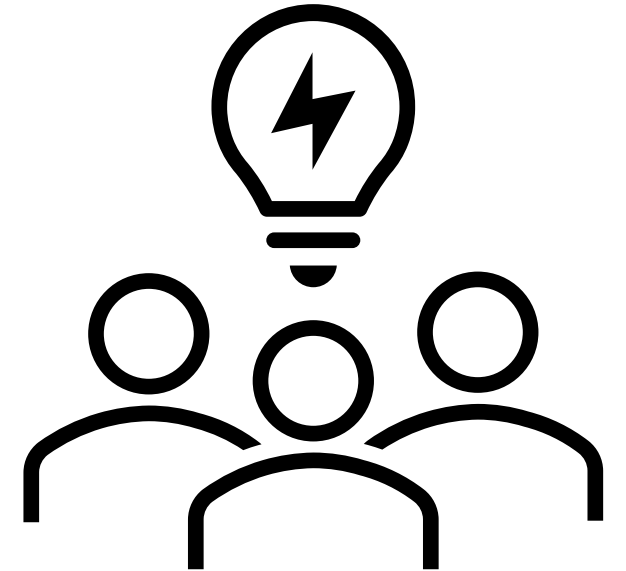
## “MANAGING GROWTH”

Speakers – following Introduction from the Chair...

Hon Chris Penk: Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP  
(Will provide comments if he can't attend)

- Greg Sayers: Ward Councillor
- Mike Howard: Kaipara Councillor
- Peter Sinton (WALG)
- **Mayor Wayne Brown**

**Discussion and responses from speakers:**  
including Local Board members comments.



# Managing Growth

- Growth is coming! How do we manage it?
- More resources are welcome (roads, Board spending etc) but don't fix the problem.
- How to avoid the **unsightly growth** mix of mess, chaos and unhappiness that is marching north towards us?
- Rodney has **special character** - rural space, streams, lakes, parks, reserves, communities, coastal treasures - that AC city's urban concrete lacks.
- Who pays for the needed infrastructure to maintain and grow that? Is "**Growth pays for growth**" real yet?
- How can we fix the current **disconnect** on the ground between Local and Central Government Planning and policy, development being approved, Infrastructure provision, and the timing of everything?
- How to get **local democracy, engaged communities**, and shape AC's top down dictatorship to make it "fit for purpose".
- Local Communities see the **problems**, know what **works** and what needs to be **done**. AC bureaucrats don't know, see or think - local.
- Kaipara has **commonalities** with Rodney. How do we get our communities to **work together to improve outcomes**?

# Just a word on Development Contributions (DC)

- The average DC across AC is **~\$30,000-\$45,000**
- AC gave us estimates of NR assets in **2015 of \$1.3B**, for a population of **~22,000**.
- For another 20,000 population and allowing 25% for inflation since then, we need **\$180,000 per new Housing Unit (HU)** (at 2.7 people per HU) to maintain the quality of District assets.
- This equates to an **Annual Rate of \$8,700** per HU (on top of AC rates)  
..and this **excludes** water (paid for by users) and Government funded schools, healthcare, welfare facilities.
- **N.B.** AT recently estimated **\$120,000 roading costs per HU** for 7,500 HUs in the Structure Plan, and Roads are about half our asset value. So DCs of **\$240,000** are not unreasonable given cost increases.

## **NAG AGM 2025**

**Chris Penk (MP, Kaipara ki Mahurangi)**

**Message requested to be read / provided to attendees:**

Thank you so much to NAG for its thoughtful invitation. I continue to appreciate the communication with Bill Foster in particular and your advocacy for the area.

My apologies for being unable to attend, as I have in previous years, as my diary simply didn't allow it this year. Greetings to Mayor Wayne Brown and others in local government representing the area (including from Kaipara).

I will be interested to hear what's concluded by this gathering about ways that Rodney and Kaipara can learn from each other's approaches to growth management concerns.



**On transport:** clearly the largest single investment will be the Northern Expressway, ultimately to connect Whangarei with Auckland's 4-lane motorway network. The most immediate elements will be:

- “Warkworth to Te Hana” (continuing the Puhoi to Warkworth section now completed), scheduled to start next year; and
- an emerging preferred route through the Brynderwyns (replacing SH1 over the slip-prone Brynderwyn Hills, now to be built just east of the existing highway, not well to the west as originally planned).

**On education infrastructure:** new schools and school classrooms will continue to be needed in areas of population growth such as north Auckland. The best new enablers of these will be:

- a more generous and quicker way of acquiring land under an amended Public Works Act (which I lead wearing a different hat: Minister of Land Information) from early next year onwards; and
- reducing the cost of classroom builds through standardisation, so that the education property budget can go further (already taking place).

**Health and other social facilities:** ongoing investment by central and local government will be needed. On health specifically, moving towards greater investment in primary and local health will mean lessening the tyranny of distance for those in Rodney living far from North Shore, Waitakere and other Auckland hospitals. Examples will include Telehealth services, more investment in GP clinics in regions, training more Kiwis as doctors and enabling more of those recruited from overseas to practise as GPs in NZ.

Finally, on the subject of **development / planning** more generally:

- **growth will pay for growth**, eg tolling new roads where existing free alternative remains; local perspective: need nuanced way to avoid double-tolls where already exist, eg in tunnels adjacent to Orewa for north Auckland (NB: technology already exists, eg licence plate recognition)
- **resource management reform 2025-2026**: replacing RMA with something more straightforward and based on property rights as a starting-point
- **fewer zones with less complexity** about what activities are discretionary, prohibited etc
- **development contributions** will need to more clearly reflect actual cost involved; in general, effect may be to weight towards intensification of existing areas (eg CBD and suburbs already served well with infrastructure), rather than remote green field sites in rural areas where infrastructure costs otherwise can currently fall on general ratepayer base or result in an infrastructure deficit.

Best wishes to everyone in attendance and thanks again to NAG for its principled advocacy for the Rodney District over many years.

Cheers, Chris Penk

