



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

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**AGM**  
**27th June 2022**



**“A Better Rodney”**



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



# AGENDA:

- WELCOME
- APOLOGIES
- MINUTES - of the previous AGM meeting on the 19 July 2021.
- MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
- CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- TREASURERS' REPORT
- ELECTION OF OFFICIERS AND COMMITTEE
- ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION
- GUEST SPEAKER(S):
  - Topic: "A Better Rodney" – Ideas for ways forward...
    - Greg Sayers: Ward Councilor
    - Chris Penk: Kaipara ki Mahurangi MP
    - Statement from Marja Lubeck, List MP
- Comments and General Discussion
- GENERAL BUSINESS

The background is a dark blue gradient. On the left, there is a vertical bar of a slightly lighter blue. On the right side, there are large, faint, overlapping circular and semi-circular shapes in various shades of blue, creating a modern, abstract design.

# Chairman's Report

## **Northern Action Group Inc.**

### **Chairman's report to 27 June 2022 AGM**

I want to start this year by giving a special thanks to those who have donated during the past year!!

Donations are what pays for our basics to keep operating. We don't have an annual membership fee - any donor from the area can be a member – so we depend on our donors – You know who you are and we thank you again!

The Treasurer's Report shows we have a little in the bank - as we have been slow on replacing our Billboards.

Looking back over the year, the situation for Rodney has got a little better in some areas, and generally got a lot worse.

Covid has continued to dominate, and with the lockdowns and masks keeping people safe we are now dealing with a higher level of flu cases than normal. I repeat my hope you are all getting your jabs or have already had them, or are one of the fortunate few who seem to be immune to it all!

As for last year, apart from being a media boon for the Government, that constant focus on the virus has made getting traction on improving the governance in our area so much harder.

Worse the disruption and emergency response is now playing out though supply shortages, inflation (which hits us all - firms and consumers) a likely recession, and additional costs at the same time being levied on ratepayers, farmers and business to respond to shrinking Council revenues and Local and National Government iconic schemes and aspirations.

The cries of “emergency” and “safety” to trigger ordinary folks fears have provided a smokescreen for the implementation of policies of Auckland Council which continue to disadvantage our communities relative to inner city interests. Cycleways, tactical urbanism, urban greening, beautifying the waterfront, subsidizing urban-centric public transport, electric buses, and funding ageing infrastructure replacement come to mind.

I said last year, and repeat, that:

“Despite the best efforts of our communities, our Councillor, local MPs and our Local Board, an Auckland Council faced with significant revenue losses, and wanting to continue its iconic urban-centric projects, and to continue Council services and employment (argued to help stimulate the local economy in the downturn) has been able to get away with turning off our investment and financing tap and opening up the rates tap for Rodney ratepayers, to help make up the shortfall.”

This burden is not just for today but into the future, as AC has also increased its borrowing, without identifying where the cash flows to service or repay it will come from.

NAG’s position generally is that Rodney is not:

- A remote area of the environmental commons to be plundered by AC (like colonials) for its rates and resources;
- a costless beach and regional park holiday destination with facilities for AC urbanistas and tourists to use (but not pay for), or
- a nearby but “out of sight-out of mind” place where urban waste may be conveniently discarded at low cost.”

## Work over the Year

As my newsletters have reported, this year we have progressed:

- Our on-going Billboard campaign (to create awareness of us and for local issues) [ Thanks to Maury Purdy and Grant McLachlan here];
- Opposition to 3 waters (NAG is a founding member of the Water Users Group);
- Our presentation to the RLB (delayed from 2021 because of Covid);
- A Submission to AC on ringfencing Rodney roading funding (as part of the Annual Plan review and in support of our presentation to the RLB):
- Continuing to expose the RFT rort – supporting Councillor Greg Sayers;
- Supporting the Landfill Decision Appeal (applause for Michelle Carmichael and the FTT group here!); and
- Arranging a key mayoral candidates presentation in WW for 18 August this year (working with OneMahurangi);

Also on our Agenda but not forgotten we still have:

- Our submission on Recall elections (still alive and comes up when longer office terms are discussed);
- The Northern Initiative project raised by Greg last year (a work in progress).
- Our RLB subdivision review and submission – still valid for next representation review

All of our submissions and Newsletters you can see on our website (thanks to Jane Harris!)

## Legislation to address the problem

I mentioned last year that NAG has not given up on the idea that North Rodney residents and ratepayers should be given the opportunity to vote in a binding referendum.

AC have become an enormous source of power over central government with constant demands for more and more financial support for “iconic” or “strategic” projects that would otherwise never get started, or be locally funded through rates etc. The CRL and Airport Light rail are blindingly obvious examples but there are many others.

I hope Chris can say a little more about this, but we will continue to work with our local MPs on the idea of an appropriate private members’ bill that will at least draw attention to, if not have enough support to pass, what needs to be done to improve governance through:

- 1) fair representation; and
- 2) fair resource allocation and decision making for the Rodney Ward and Local Board Area.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues on the Committee and most importantly you, our supporters.           Thank You All!     Yours Sincerely

Bill Foster

# Treasurer's Report



# Northern Action Group

## Financial Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### Cash In

Donations x 6	Total	\$465.00
ASB transfer from 001 acct,		\$0.67
GST refunds		\$5.74
Sub Total		\$471.41

### Cash Out

Billboards		\$310.50
Bank fees		\$5.00
Sub Total		\$315.50

Bank Balance at 31st March 2021	\$290.71
Plus deposits	\$471.41
Less expenses	\$315.50
Bank Balance at 1st April 2022	\$446.62

## Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2022

ASSETS		2022	2021
Total Assets	(Bank Balance)	446.62	290.71
GST Owing		17.15	0.00
		463.77	351.77
LIABILITIES			
Total Liabilities		0.00	0.00
Net Assets (Liabilities)		463.77	290.71

## 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	Maury Purdy

# 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.



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## **AGM CONCLUDED**



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



# Speakers and Discussion

**“A BETTER RODNEY”**

# Rodney's 6 R's: - results from being forced into AC

**R**ates (real increases, more targeting, more urban redesignation, subsidizing urban AC)

**R**oads (underfunded, promises not kept, RFT roat, poor quality)

**R**esources (exploited – land, water, sand)

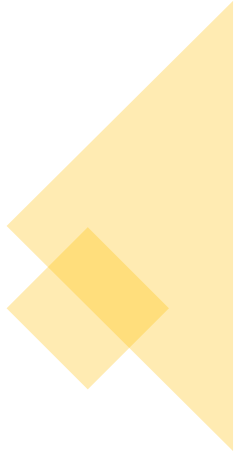
**R**egional Parks (insufficient care and facilities)

**R**ed Tape (poor planning, communications, attention and enforcement, centralised, top-down, functional and silo management structure)

**R**ubbish! (THE TIP! – say no more...)

# How does NAG see its role?

- 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.

## What we went to the Rodney Local Board with....

Active Issues: RLB should:

Push	Push for fair RFT Use – for Rodney’s roads:
Oppose	Oppose the budget’s Climate Action Targeted Rate proposal:
Oppose	Oppose the budget’s changing “PAYT” domestic waste collection to rates funding:
Support	Support the Mayor’s opposition to the Government’s 3 Waters proposal
Coordinate	Coordinate Rodney’s Community Groups
Support	Support a Private members Bill

# What Happens when our community is politically under- represented?

- Why we need to work together...

AC Promises to Rodney LGC for Rodney [2018]	Current Status (4 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	Still looking..... Nothing committed...
A major increase in road sealing budget for Rodney	Where's the promised \$121m? – proffered and withdrawn
A review of service level variability across the Auckland Region to determine how to address funding distribution issues across local board areas	“Review” shows asset and facility unfairness, but GB won't change allocations. Minor change to formula for ABS and LDI funding slightly benefits Rodney
Triennial reviews of local board allocations and delegations to coincide with the long-term plan process as an ongoing commitment to localism and devolution	No progress. More “reviews” – Governing Body political resistance to reallocations and delegation.
Targeted communication improvements in areas of Auckland with strong local identities or unique challenges – such as Waiheke and Rodney – to build the public's trust and confidence.	“Our Rodney” propaganda for AC introduced - to tell us what AC is doing for us. More “Have your Say” promotions so submissions can be “considered”. CIM survey still shows low trust in AC.

For a better deal, we need to Unify  
Rodney Communities

# “A Better Rodney”

## Ideas for Ways forward...??

- How do we unify the Rodney communities to amplify and focus our “voice”
  - to get better governance and a better deal for the residents and ratepayers of Rodney.
- We want positive ideas that NAG can support and champion in common and along with other community groups, Iwi, the RLB, our Councillor and MPs.



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## **“A Better Rodney”**

### **Guest speakers and General discussion**



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

### **Apology and comment from Marja Lubeck to Northern Action Group AGM**

My apologies for not being able to attend the AGM of NAG this Monday. I will be in Europe leading a cross Party delegation to European Parliaments from 25 June.

I note that the AGM will consider ways and means of getting the communities' voices heard at the Auckland Council table as well as to Auckland Transport.

I sympathise with everyone with the constant need for maintenance of our rural roads. I have expressed my personal frustrations about the roads as I drive down including the one I live on, after heavy rain has washed out the road and heavy trucks have added to the pot holes along it.

My office has lobbied Auckland Transport on a regular basis whenever I'm alerted to issues regarding the maintenance or safety on our rural roads. I must say that we have had great co-operation from AT in addressing the immediate issues of road maintenance my office has alerted them to.



I must also acknowledge the ready assistance of the Rodney Local Board when issues that affect the region have been passed to them through my office. Phelan, Beth and Colin have been forth coming with advice and action when complaints and requests for Auckland Council assistance has been needed.

Aside from roading, the ongoing campaign to Save the Dome Stop the Tip is one that I have supported from the start. As you'll be aware, the team lead by Michelle Carmichael are currently fighting the resource consent through the Environmental Court, and I acknowledge and thank NAG for its support of the campaign opposing the landfill.

I wish the Northern Action Group well for the coming year and look forward to working positively and co-operatively with the incoming Committee.

Marja

## MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE NORTHERN ACTION GROUP JULY 2021

Held at Totara Park Hall, 5 Melwood Drive, Warkworth on Monday 19th July, 2021 commencing at 7.30. p.m.

### 1. WELCOME

The Chair, Bill Foster, welcomed all attendees (31 including the Committee and guest speakers) to the AGM. It was an excellent turnout. Bill identified the speakers: Chris Penk (National MP for this electorate), Greg Sayers (Auckland Councillor for Rodney), Sue Crockett (Fight the Tip) and welcomed them to the meeting.

### 2. APOLOGIES

The Secretary (Hugh Briggs) read out the apologies and received more from the floor: - Julie Cotton, Colin Smith, Elizabeth Foster, Carol Greenwood, Brian Mason, and Angela HughBuckton. The apologies of both Marja Lubeck (Labour List MP) and Phelan Pirrie (Chair Local Board) were also accepted. The apologies were moved and accepted.

### 3. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous AGM meeting on the 20 July 2020 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 Mona Townson, seconded Bill Foster. Approved.

### 5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chair, Bill Foster, then read his report supported by Powerpoint slides. A copy is attached to these minutes.

The key points made were:

1. The need to unify the communities/groups/organisations in the Rodney region to ensure that Rodney residents (and businesses) can make decisions to meet the needs of their own community though better governance at a local level. We need a fully coordinated approach to achieve the common goals.
2. In doing so, we need to persuade Auckland Council (and the Government) that Rodney is not a resource that should be taken advantage of without recognizing that it has its own issues that need to be resolved.
3. The present local government structure is not working for the benefit of the local community. Rodney has limited ability to resolve major issues in its region or to determine how these can be funded and attended to.

4. There needs to be a more equitable sharing of funds, using a more balanced approach that will enable Rodney to undertake much needed projects within its own community.
5. This will require a change of legislation to ensure that this will happen. We need to support both our MP's in their attempt to present a Private Member's Bill.

Bill then identified the significant work that NAG had done over the year, making submissions on a variety of matters – on better representation to the Local Government Commission; on better subdivision of the local area; on the Landfill application; on the Council's 10 Year Plan. Some of these produced limited results but NAG has to continue to promote and fight for much needed change. One successful achievement has been the billboard campaign which NAG will continue with, as it clearly gets the message across.

He ended his presentation with thanks to all the supporters for their generous donations, without which NAG could not continue its fight on behalf of the Rodney communities.

A motion to accept the report was moved (Hugh), seconded(Maurice) and approved.

### 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 these minutes. The Society relied upon generous donations from supporters, as it had not sought grants or funding from any appropriate agencies. The bank balance plus income less outgoings was \$290.71, a slight increase from that in 2020. The main expenditure was on materials and the printing of the signs and billboards.

Being an Incorporated Society, NAG was liable for GST payments. However, after the changeover last year, the GST payment was late and a penalty had to be paid. This raised the question as to whether NAG should continue to be GST registered. A question from the floor suggested it would be beneficial to continue. Given the small amount of transactions, it was considered appropriate to continue as such.

It was then moved (Hugh Briggs) seconded (Peter Buckton) that the accounts be accepted as a true and accurate record, as attached and signed off by the Chairperson. The motion was carried.

### 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Bill then moved that the nominations as shown on the Chair's slides for the three officer positions could be accepted, unless there were more coming from the floor. 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. Bill was unanimously voted as Chair. He thus resumed in his role as Chair to complete the selection process. The nominations for Secretary (Hugh Briggs) and Treasurer (Maurice Purdy) were moved and accepted, as there were no others presented. Lance was re-elected onto the Committee, and Peter Buckton offered himself to the Committee and was duly elected.

#### 8. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

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

#### 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 referred to the main points in his presentation:

- Rodney had 46% of Auckland region's area but only 4% of the population
- North Rodney's rate rise was 24% - but what was spent in the district?
- North Rodney could support itself from its own rates – in same degree as rate rise – projects in Rodney would be paid for from these
- Council imposed targeted rates to pay for local projects not being paid from overall Council funds
- There was no real planning for urban growth in rural areas of Rodney which required significant expenditure on infrastructure (roads, services, facilities, schools etc).
- Lack of funding for these and management of natural resources
- Too much bureaucracy
- Rodney being taken advantage of – Dome Valley Tip as prime example
- Advantages of amalgamation overemphasized – empty promises
- Lack of local funding allocation to Board – need a more balanced funding model as recommended by staff
- Lack of services/facilities for growing population

He concluded by saying that there is a need to bring communities together to resolve these issues. NAG's role to coordinate this with urgent action.

Before giving the opportunity for the floor to have its say, he invited the 3 speakers to comment on these issues.

#### 10. GUEST SPEAKERS

All speakers spoke to the topic: "Solutions for Rodney Going Forward"  
**Greg Sayers: Ward Councillor**

His main points were suggestions for NAG (and others) actions to get a fairer deal for Rodney. They would have to pass a 3 way test that Council uses in being a mandated solution, one with significant value for the ratepayers; and one with low risk!

Some of his suggestions included:

1. Getting greater financial transparency – need to see how money is actually spent
2. Focus on what Council's core business should be – need for it to be more specific
3. Seek binding public consultation – Council do not listen to public concerns
4. Get a People's Panel that actually can resolve issues and disputes between Council and the public
5. Get Council to act on recommendations and promises to make changes
6. Get Boards to have greater power and financial capability
7. Establish a Northern Initiative by brining many groups together, including iwi

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

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

He reiterated that MP's can (and should) be involved in local issues. His main points were:

1. A review of Auckland Council is essential – there has to be a broad term of reference which will lead to real action and change.
2. Rates calculations need to be changed as Rodney (and other rural areas) is disadvantaged.
3. Ring Fencing of funds has to occur to ensure locally raised funds are spent locally
4. Need to develop better relationships between all parties – Council (staff and Councillors) including Watercare and Auckland Transport with Local Boards and community organisations.
5. Need localization – local decisions to be made by the locals. This is to be the theme of his Private Members Bill
6. In developing the Northern Initiative, reach out to the others (particularly the South).

Again, his thoughts were gratefully received and acknowledged.

#### **Sue Crockett (Executive Member Fight the Tip campaign)**

Sue outlined the tremendous task that was the Fight the Tip (FTT) campaign. The history was long and complex. She identified the tremendous impact that the protests, billboards and social media had on getting people engaged. They created a membership of between 1500-2000 members. They also got the local MP's (Matt King and Marja Lubeck) involved to submit the petition to Parliament. A petition of 15,000 signatures. The task was to keep the community focused in the key issues. It gained more support because it was not just a local issue but a national one – wastes minimisation and disposal!!? FTT was very disappointed with the decision on the Resource Consent but took support from the Chairperson's minority disagreement. There are 9

appeals on the RC decision and all parties are working together to fight it at the Environment Court. There are some very strong arguments relating not just to the Dome location but to the whole concept of waste disposal through better waste minimization.

From this whole process (to date) there are important lessons to be learned:

1. Need to have a national (and hence regional) waste minimization strategy which tackles waste reduction as well as recycling
2. Needs legislative change that requires alternative technologies to be assessed and used

Sue was given very real support for an excellent presentation.

**Written Statements** were submitted by both Marja Lubeck, List MP and area advocate; and Phelan Pirrie, Local Board Chairperson.

**Marja Lubeck: Labour List MP Kaipara ki Mahurangi**

As the very local MP, she is very aware of the local issues and has been fighting for many causes - the Landfill, the Mahurangi River restoration, and getting local contractors involved in the major projects. As a local rural dweller (on an unsealed road) she has been pushing Council for more funds. She has brought Ministers up here to see the issues for themselves. She supported the need for the governance review and suggested NAG and other groups to make submissions the Local Government Review. She wished us well in our deliberations.

**Phelan Pirrie: Chairperson of the Rodney Local Board**

Phelan provided NAG with a copy of his Board Chair's report of the activities of the Board over the year. He was disappointed in Rodney's inability to provide the level of service and facilities that it deserved - mainly because of the Covid reduced Council budget overall. He indicated some success with the River Restoration, the Transport subsidies, some Warkworth town centre improvements. He indicated that Council's next year's budget has been set with few opportunities for realm improvements. He reassured the community that the Board did oppose the Landfill proposal.

The written contributions from Marja and Phelan were received with appreciation.

## 11. GENERAL DISCUSSION

**Bill** opened up the discussion for the floor to participate.

**Maurice Purdy** requested we all thank Sue, Michelle and the Fight the Tip team for wonderful work in getting to the present position. There was strong applause.

**Bill F** asked whether Facebook produces results. **Sue C** stated it was very successful in getting information out and keeping all involved with comments and information.

**Glen Ashton** (who started the Facebook page Rodney Community Voices with Julie Cotton) wanted all groups to join up, as suggested by Bill. They now had over 1300 followers (up from 200), which showed the power of social media! It

will support all group initiatives and will pass on information. There is a need to engage people and to allow freedom of speech (regardless of their viewpoints). He indicated there is strong discontent throughout Rodney. We need to get one area of governance for the rural area.

**Greg Sayers** asked why there was no involvement from either Greenpeace or the Green Party in the key Rodney issues (eg Water allocation and the Landfill).

**Sue Crockett** replied that she had a chat with Chloe Swarbrick with no positive response forthcoming!

**Bill** asked Greg about the other Initiatives (South and West) as to how they were formed and managed. They were apparently a combination of Council, Local Boards

and local organizations and were funded by Council (\$3m was available!). Greg recommended NAG to seek to form and coordinate such a Northern Initiative.

**James Addis (Mahurangi Matters)** asked Sue whether she had taken up Watercare's invitation to visit Redvale landfill. She replied had been there 3 times for various reasons, but was still not satisfied that the technology being used was adequate to protect the natural environment. Sue could not reconcile the difference between the two landfill's environments. The Dome was in a natural setting.

A person from the floor said that our democracy was not working and no one in government was listening to the communities.

**Bill** summed up by saying that is why we need to change the legislative framework to enable things to change in Rodney. The Local Government Act is not being operated as it was meant to be – set up for smaller Councils, not the mega cities which did not cater for the local communities. It needs to be reviewed.

**Lance Taylor** said that the only way that we can achieve any change is by working together. On that note, **Bill** declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm with an invitation to share tea/coffee and finger food.

Hugh Briggs (Secretary)