



The Northern Action Group Incorporated

MARCH FOR FAIRNESS!

Dear NAG Members and Supporters,

It seems like we've been around forever beating the drums about improving the governance of Rodney and North Rodney in particular and getting our fair share of resources from the urban-centric Auckland Council. As long as the current structure remains this situation is perpetuated and we have to continually remind the Auckland city majority that:

- the structure of Auckland was never fit for purpose from the beginning;
- that Rodney should never have been in the “super” city;
- that we continue to pay as ratepayers for the pleasures of Auckland city dwellers; and
- that Rodney is just another resource for the expansion and pleasure of city Aucklanders – but one which WE are expected to pay for.

This month in March we have three things to draw to your attention.

While the new coalition government is settling in with an approach and policies we hope will further the kinds of devolution and localism that can benefit Rodney's communities, existing processes still need attention.

So please spend a little of your time to help benefit Rodney and add your voice or comments. We live in an environment which increasingly expects people to speak up in numbers in order to have their views considered. Sadly these days numbers and opinions count more than prosaic values like good responsible, accountable, effective governance, competent management, efficiency, productivity and fairness.

1. Seal Rodney's Rural roads

Add your voice to Councillor Greg Sayer's poll!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/72MT8M5>

Comment:

The reality of politics is that those in power promise you things in the future whilst denying you things in the present. The promise is that everything will get better and when it does you'll be able to have something that you would like.

Well we all understand about delaying gratification but the way this has worked for Rodney's roads has gone on too long and too far. As the disastrous weather events recently

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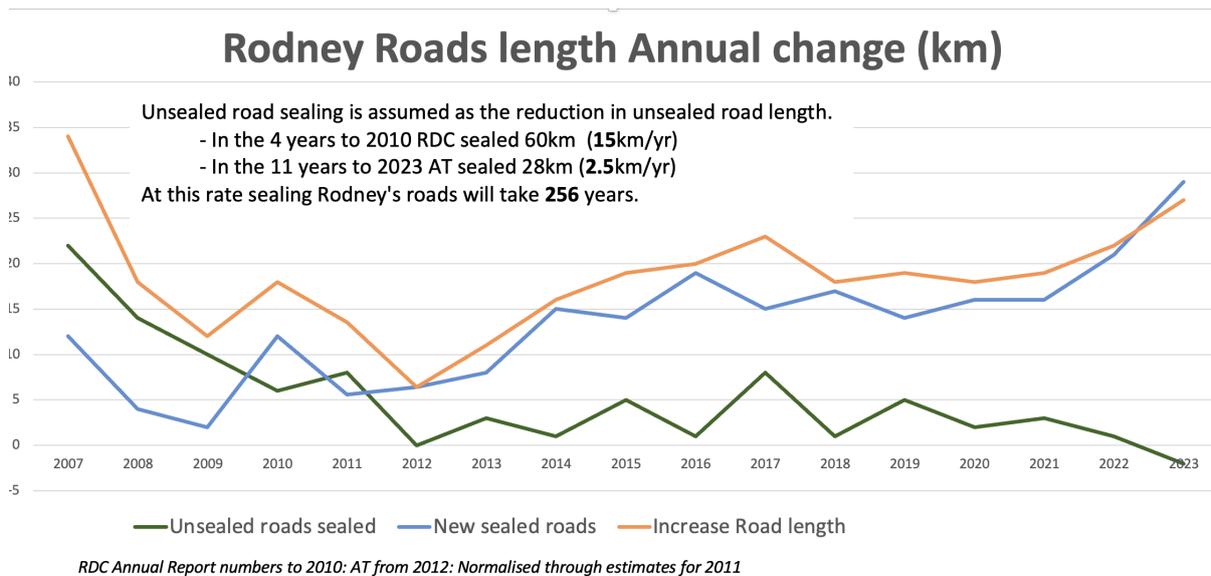
“Campaigning to get Democracy for the people of North Rodney”



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showed our roads have been allowed to run down (bleeding the assets) in order to subsidise the transport services that need them to run on and to spend elsewhere.

AC/AT's promises for more road sealing in Rodney have never eventuated:



Promises of improved Road sealing have followed the political hockey-stick route of a little now but more to come later ever since the formation of Auckland council.

AT's Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) 10 Year \$121 Million Budget for Seal Extensions as at 2018 (Back End Loaded) was:

Year	Amount (\$millions)
2018/19	4.7
2019/20	5.0
2020/21	6.3
2021/22	8.6
2022/23	9.1
2023/24	14.9
2024/25	18.2
2025/26	18.2
2026/27	18.2
2027/28	18.2
Total	121.4

The 2023/24 number of \$14.9 m should be over \$19m in today's prices.



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Greg Sayers extracted the promise of \$121m to seal Rodney roads six years ago and because AC/AT wanted the money for other things, this is still to be delivered.

Auckland Transport is currently planning a derisory \$6m a year for the first two years of the Unsealed Road Improvement Programme (URIP) with increases after that.

But we all know that the only year that matters is the next budget year because future councils will always be able to find reasons to cut spending on our roads and give the money to other more politically attractive uses.

So we are all (Councillor, Local Board, community groups and individual ratepayers) pushing to get AT/AC to “front load” the funding to get much more done in the first two years (before we get a new council and start all over again!).

Please sign the petition to get gravel unsealed roads sealed, better maintained and made safer.

Here is the link explaining more about the petition. It takes approximately 3 minutes to complete.

Please click this link to read more: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/72MT8M5>

2. Subdivision Boundaries: Make Your Vote Count

Show you care by completing our survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HH65GJF>

Comment:

The subdivision boundaries in the Rodney local board area are up for review again this year. Auckland Council is shortly to resolve a proposal which will go out for consultation including proposed new boundaries for the Rodney local board area.

NAG, together with community groups Rodney Community Voices (RCV) and the Wellsford Landowners and Contractors Association (LCA) has been campaigning for recognition of the rural nature of Rodney in the drawing of those boundaries. This matters because, e.g., the allocation of the targeted transport rate we all pay is done on the basis of population in each of the subdivisions. Representation which formally recognises rural communities and

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Rodney is important because they are half the population, pay half the rates and yet only benefit directly from the limited Council services of roading and drainage.

You can see the background including our submission to the governing body in 2020 - which was deferred for consideration to the current year. In making its decision Council wants to know what Rodney ratepayers think, so please if you have not done so complete the survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HH65GJF>

3. Auckland: Broke? Broken? Or both!

Have your say on the 10-year Plan –

https://aucklandcouncil.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8qMJwKWqBpQMOrA

Comment:

Have your say on the 10-year Plan! (Remember its the first year that counts! because AC sets its new budget every year and politicians change things. 😊)

The 10-year plan is based on many assumptions and the reality is that AC just does not know what the new coalition government will decide in respect of Auckland, including what will be in place to replace the Regional Fuel Tax which had become a structurally important part of funding Auckland's Regional Transport Plan. So anything beyond the first year is really up for grabs in terms of spending priorities.

As usual NAG will be putting in a submission telling Auckland council how it can balance the books, get more value for money, and act more fairly in relation to local board areas like Rodney.

See what we said on last year's budget here:

<https://nag.org.nz/NAG%20response%20to%20AC%20Budget%20proposal%202023.pdf>

If you have thoughts or concerns that you think we should develop in our submission please feel free to e-mail me at northernactiongroup@gmail.com

But the main thing is that you should tell Auckland Council what YOU think. You don't have to confine yourself to just answering their patsy questions. Have your say at:

https://aucklandcouncil.syd1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8qMJwKWqBpQMOrA

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Donations

An ongoing reminder that 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.

I know times are tight but if you can contribute anything, it will be spent to continue our push for localism and ideally Rodney or North Rodney independence!!

Please Donate now:

Donations to NAGs Bank Account ASB WW **12 3095 0233547 00**
Comments to northernactiongroup@gmail.com

Want to help? Join NAG, <https://mailchi.mp/a06a70fcda9a/registration-page> and encourage others to put themselves on our mailing list.

Yours sincerely

Bill Foster
Chairman
Northern Action Group Inc.