

VISION RODNEY REVISITED
Monitoring progress on the Community Outcomes

Final Report



FOR RODNEY DISTRICT COUNCIL

BY NEXUS PLANNING AND RESEARCH

APRIL 2008

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Introduction

Vision Rodney was published in July 2003 and contained 6 Community Intents which were later adopted by the Rodney District Council for their Long Term Plan in 2006.

1. We will keep our country look and feel
2. We will not let our towns and villages sprawl
3. We will maintain our lifestyle and look after the environment
4. We will take care of ourselves while working with others
5. We will be able to make our living in Rodney
6. We will determine the future of our district

The “intents” constitute the Community Outcomes for the Rodney District under the terms of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). The LGA requires the Council to monitor progress on the outcomes and report progress to the community every 3 years. The 3 years dates from the publication of the Long Term Plan rather than Vision Rodney itself.


This report is the first monitoring report prepared by Rodney District and outlines progress to date. The measures used in the report were assembled from research into what has worked elsewhere, what data is available and consultation with internal and external reference groups. The internal reference group was made up of council officers working in the specialist areas covered by the outcomes and the external group comprised representatives from central government departments and the ARC. In addition, 3 focus groups were held with residents from different parts of the District. Our thanks to those who assisted in this way.


Data is taken from a number of different sources so the progress on different indicators is measured for different time periods, according to what data is available. Longer term, there will be better potential to measure progress over the 3 year intervals between reports consistently.


There are a total of 29 indicators (1 of which is not yet available) which are divided between the outcomes that they primarily refer to. There is a strong overlap between the outcomes however and several indicators could be taken to refer to more than one outcome.

Summary:















The following table summarises the results of the monitoring of community outcomes detailed in Vision Rodney:




















A good result is shown as  which may result from an improvement in the indicators, a good baseline result where there is no trend data available or no change but a good result anyway.









A bad result is shown  which may result from deterioration in performance, a poor baseline measure where there is no trend data available or no change from a poor result.

Indicators where we cannot say good or bad are shown  which may indicate no change from an average performance or a baseline measure that is average.

Symbols appear under more than one outcome where the indicator contributes to the evaluation of different outcomes.

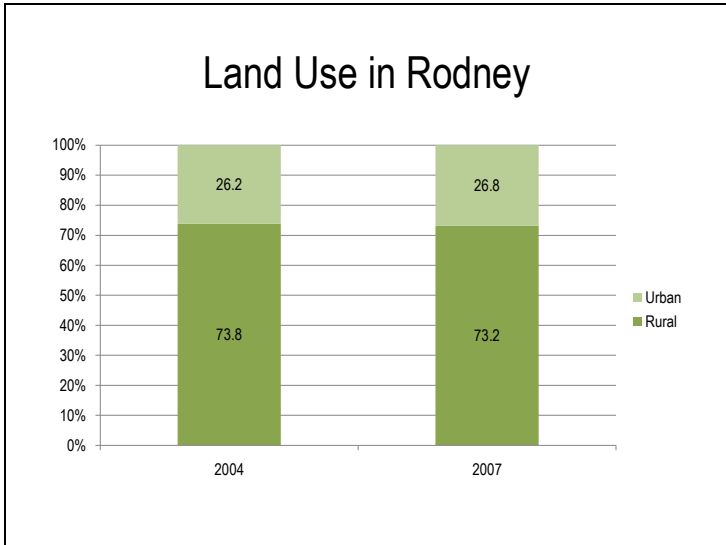
Community outcomes	1. We will keep our country look and feel	2. Not let our towns and villages sprawl	3. Maintain our lifestyle and look after the environment	4. Take care of ourselves while working with others	5. Able to make our living in Rodney	6. We will determine the future of our district
Indicators						
Proportion of total land area that is rural						
Residents satisfaction with the rural look and feel						
Sense of community score						
Contact with neighbours						
Volunteerism						
Pride in local area's look and feel						

Community outcomes	1. We will keep our country look and feel	2. Not let our towns and villages sprawl	3. Maintain our lifestyle and look after the environment	4. Take care of ourselves while working with others	5. Able to make our living in Rodney	6. We will determine the future of our district
Preservation of unique character of towns and villages						
Satisfaction with range of services and facilities in nearest town or village						
Rodney as a place to live						
Access to the coastline and beaches						
Perception of water pollution problems						
Rivers and stream water quality						
Estuary sedimentation						
Protection of natural habitats.						
Perceptions of safety in the home and neighbourhood						
Crime statistics						
Road safety: crash statistics						
Self reported rating of own health						
Accessibility of family doctors (GPs)						
Local employment opportunities						

Community outcomes	1. We will keep our country look and feel	2. Not let our towns and villages sprawl	3. Maintain our lifestyle and look after the environment	4. Take care of ourselves while working with others	5. Able to make our living in Rodney	6. We will determine the future of our district
Live and work in Rodney District						
New businesses						
Low achievement of school leavers						
High achievement of school leavers						
Industry training (rate)						
Success in other community outcomes						
Public influence on council decision making						
Confidence in Council decision making						
Review of key strategic partnerships						Not available yet

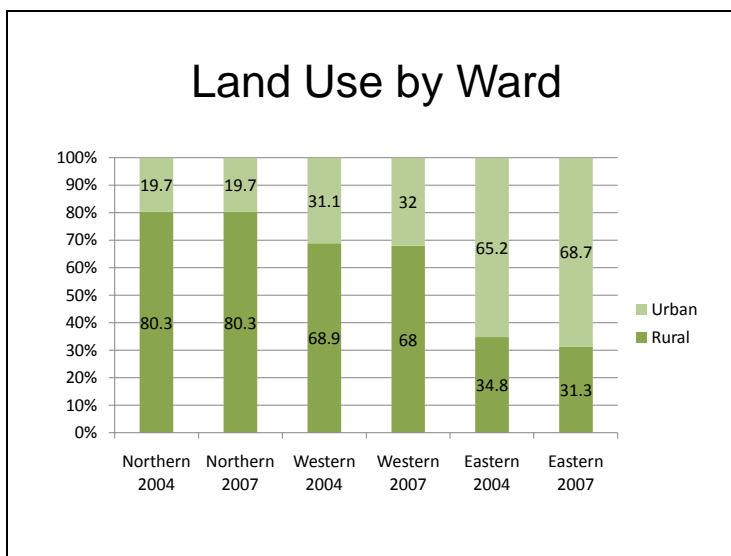
Community Outcome 1 - We will keep our country look and feel

Measures: Monitoring of the rural look and feel is based on the visual appearance and rural values. Both are considered relevant to the outcome and recent focus groups suggested that the rural values may even be more important than the physical appearance.

<p>Visual Appearance</p>	<p>A number of measures were used to assess the changing use and appearance of Rodney's land. Two types of data were sourced from Quotable Value using the following classifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land Use – actual current usage of the land, • Category – highest and best use of the land, <p>These classifications have been considered in our analysis to determine whether the amount of Rodney land that is rural is changing.</p> <p>The area of land covered by Quotable Value data was 227,000 ha in 2004 and 229,000 ha in 2007. These figures compare with an estimate of 247,500 ha for the whole district which includes roads, inland water and foreshores.</p>									
<p>Proportion of total land area that is rural Source: Quotable Value</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>No change in actual use of land between 2004 and 2007</p> </div>	<p>Land Use – Actual Use</p> <p>Land use represents the actual use of the land. Here Rural is defined as primary industry, active outdoor and passive outdoor; the remainder is urban. The Urban land will include large areas of land which are zoned rural but which are considered by Quotable Value to be better described as residential than primary industry.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <caption>Land Use in Rodney</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Rural (%)</th> <th>Urban (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>73.8</td> <td>26.2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>73.2</td> <td>26.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p>The proportion of total land area that is rural remains similar to the level it was in 2004 (73.8%, 73.2% in 2007).</p>	Year	Rural (%)	Urban (%)	2004	73.8	26.2	2007	73.2	26.8
Year	Rural (%)	Urban (%)								
2004	73.8	26.2								
2007	73.2	26.8								

Land Use by Ward

Slight increase in urban land evident in Eastern Ward



The Northern ward has the highest proportion of rural land use, followed the Western Ward. The Eastern Ward is clearly highly urbanised relative to the rest of Rodney.

There has been a 3.5% decrease in the percentage of land use being rural in the Eastern Ward, a loss of around 280 hectares of rural land (34.8% 2004, 31.3% 2007). The Northern and Western Wards show little change their Urban/Rural land use.

Average Rural Property Size

Growth in number of rating units under 2ha evident

Change in Unit Size – Rural Land

Rural Land – Unit size	Number of Units		Percentage Change
	2004	2007	
Up to 2 ha	537	682	+5.7
Over 2 ha to 10 ha	511	517	+0.2
Over 10 ha to 30 ha	206	234	+1.1
Over 30 ha to 100 ha	906	908	+0.1
Over 100 ha to 400 ha	372	366	-0.2
Over 400 ha	32	32	
Total	2564	2739	+6.8

Source: Quotable value (Land Use)

The table above shows rural land broken down by unit size. This shows an increase of nearly 6% in the number of units up to and including 2ha. There has been relatively little change in the numbers of rural properties over 2ha.

Some of this difference will be the result of increases in QV coverage between the 2 years.

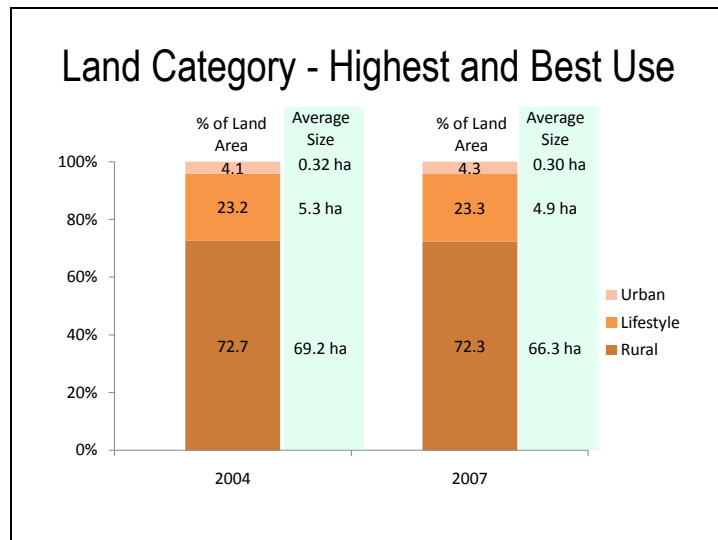
Highest and Best Use Categories.

Source: Quotable Value

Evidence of subdivision from decreasing average unit sizes in rural and lifestyle properties

The following charts look at the classification of land using the Category classification which indicates the 'highest and best use' of the land. This differs from the actual use and reflects the highest value "potential" use which would determine the value of the land at sale.. This allows us to look at properties classified as "lifestyle" properties as these are identified as a 'Category' in the Quotable Value database.

Here Rural has been defined as arable, dairying, pastoral, specialist livestock, horticulture, mining, forestry and passive reserves. Lifestyle is defined by QV as land which is "non-economic in the traditional farming sense and the land is valued higher than comparable farmland". Urban is the rest (which is residential, commercial, industrial, other)



The chart above shows the percentage of land classified as Rural, Lifestyle and Urban in 2004 and 2007. Also shown is the average unit size by land category.

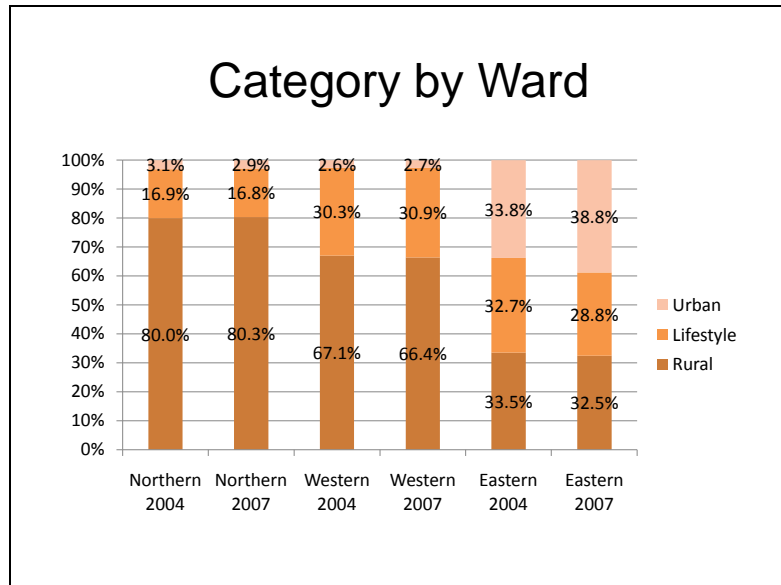
Overall, there has been relatively little change in the percentage of land categorized as Urban, Lifestyle and Rural since 2007. However, all land categories show that on average, property sizes have become smaller in 2007 relative to 2004. In 2004, the average size of rural property was 69.2 ha versus 66.3 ha in 2007 (a decline of nearly 3 ha). This represents a decline of 4.2% in the average size of rural properties. There have also been declines in the average unit sizes of Lifestyle and Urban properties (see below).

Rural	- 4.2%
Lifestyle	- 7.7%
Urban	- 7.7%

Highest and Best Use Categories by Ward

Evidence of conversion from lifestyle to urban uses in Eastern Ward

The chart below shows the changes in Land Category by ward. The Northern and Western wards show little change in the Category classification. However, the Eastern Ward shows considerable increase in urban classification which primarily has come from the Lifestyle classification.

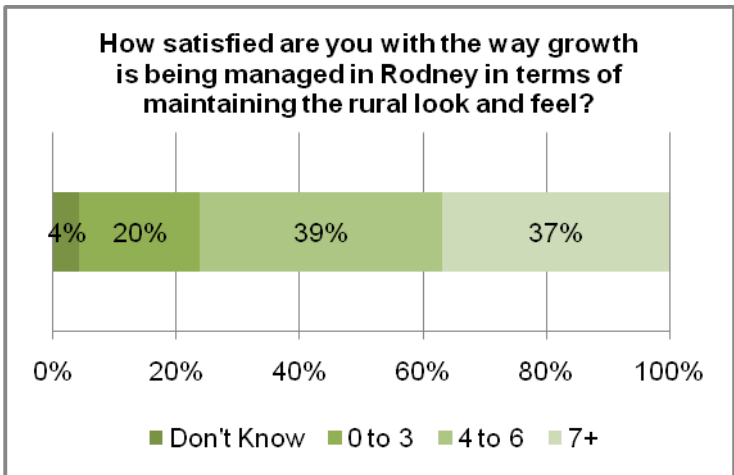


Residents perceptions of the rural look and feel

% rating satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10

Source: 2008 NPR Community Outcomes Survey

Only about a third of Rodney residents are satisfied with management of the rural look and feel



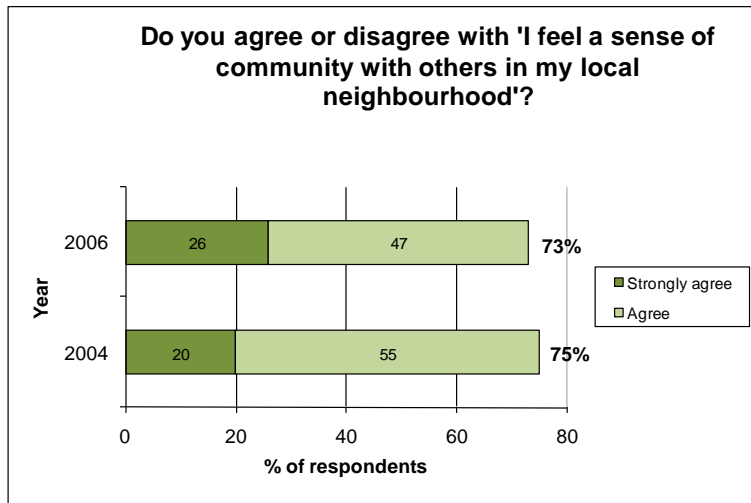
- 37% of Rodney residents are satisfied (7+ out of 10) that Rodney maintains its rural look and feel.
- Older people, lower income groups and people who have lived in Rodney for 10+ years are less likely to be satisfied.

Rural Values

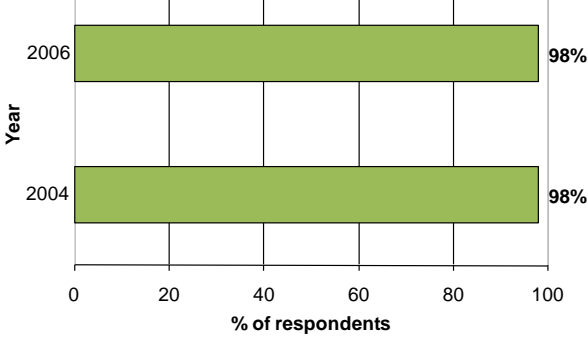
Sense of Community Score

Source: 2006, 2004 Quality of Life Survey

Residents agree there is a strong sense of community. No change since 2004



- Rodney Residents are more likely to agree (73% either strongly agree or agree) than total New Zealand (59%) that there is a sense of community in their local neighbourhood.
- The percentage of respondents agreeing (either strongly agree or agree) is similar to 2004 (75%).

<p>Contact with neighbours Source: 2006, 2004 Quality of Life Survey</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Positive contact with a neighbour remains high. No change since 2004</p> </div>	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>In the last 12 months have you had some positive contact with people in your neighbourhood such as a nod or saying hello?</p>  <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% of respondents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>98%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>98%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rodney residents (98%) are slightly more likely to say they have had some positive contact (such as a nod or saying hello) with a neighbour than total New Zealand (95%). • The level of positive contact with neighbours remains the same as it was in 2004 (98%). 	Year	% of respondents	2006	98%	2004	98%
Year	% of respondents						
2006	98%						
2004	98%						
<p>Volunteerism Source: 2006 Quality of Life Survey</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31% of Rodney residents are a member of a community or voluntary group, compared to a quarter (25%) of total New Zealand. • This question was not asked in 2004. 						

Commentary

There was little sign of change in the overall balance between rural and urban land in Rodney between 2004 and 2007. Although over 94% of land is zoned for rural uses, a large proportion (nearly 20%) is classified as “lifestyle” land. Quotable Value NZ (QV) define lifestyle land as “uneconomic in the traditional farming sense” and “has land value that exceeds the value of comparable land”. Most of this land is classified by QV as residential and therefore ‘urban’ in its existing use. However, some may see this still as part of the rural landscape.

What change has taken place is most noticeable in the heavily populated Eastern Ward where 44% of the population live in just 3.5% of the land area. Here there are signs of lifestyle properties becoming more intensively developed for residential uses over the last 3 years.

The low levels of satisfaction with growth management “preserving the rural look and feel of the district” most likely relates to the physical developments on the land or perhaps the subdivision activity rather than the underlying classification of land. As more subdivision takes place more land will become “uneconomic” and become classified as lifestyle instead of rural. Close analysis of the survey results show it is older, lower income (possibly retired) people who have lived in the district for over 10 years who are more likely to be dissatisfied with growth management in the

District. There is no particular difference between wards in satisfaction however suggesting it is a general concern about growth management across the whole of the District.

Rural Values in Rodney are measured by the sense of community spirit, positive interaction with neighbours and volunteering. There is little change in these measures since 2004 and the measures remain above the NZ averages.

Actions being taken by Rodney District Council to preserve the rural look and feel include:

- Plans for preparation and promotion of urban and rural design guides
- The development of a greenbelt policy and monitoring strategy
- Completion of a rural strategy for the District
- Getting the 2000 proposed District Plan operative.

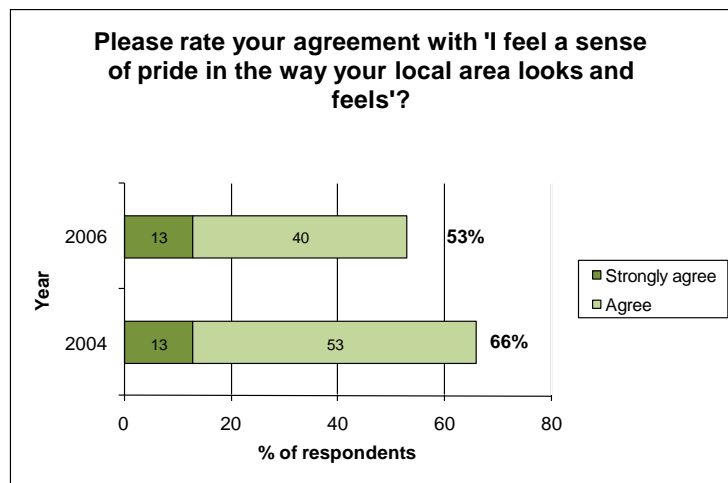
Community Outcome 2 - Not let our towns and villages sprawl

Measures: There are 3 categories of measures for this outcome; perceptions (about preservation of the unique character of the towns and villages and pride in the local area), Community Spirit measures (same criteria as for rural values) and satisfaction with the availability of facilities in the settlements.

Pride in Local Area's Look and Feel

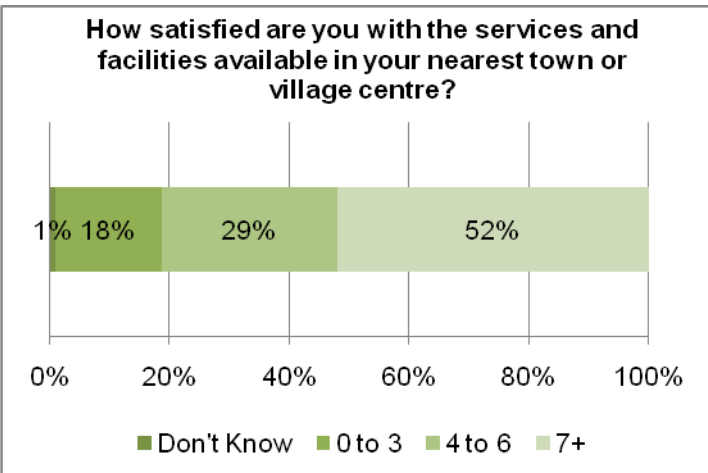
Source: 2006, 2004 Quality of Life Survey

Pride in the local areas look and feel is decreasing and is also lower than total NZ



- Rodney residents (53% strongly agree or agree) are less likely to say they have a sense of pride in the way their local area looks and feels than total New Zealand (61%).
- Rodney residents are also less likely to agree (strongly agree or agree) they have a sense of pride in the way their local area looks and feels than in 2004 (66%).

<p>Preservation of unique character of towns and villages</p> <p><i>% rating satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10</i></p> <p>Source: 2008 NPR Community Outcomes Survey</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Satisfaction with preserving the unique character of towns and villages could be higher</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">How satisfied are you with the way growth is being managed in Rodney in terms of preserving the unique character of the towns and villages?</p> <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px; width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Satisfaction Level</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Don't Know</td> <td>4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0 to 3</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 to 6</td> <td>42%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7+</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just over a third of Rodney residents (35%) rate satisfaction with the preservation of unique character of Rodney's towns and villages as 7 out of 10 or better. • Similar groups of people are dissatisfied with this measure as were dissatisfied with the management of the rural look and feel. Older, longer term residents and people on lower incomes. 	Satisfaction Level	Percentage	Don't Know	4%	0 to 3	19%	4 to 6	42%	7+	35%
Satisfaction Level	Percentage										
Don't Know	4%										
0 to 3	19%										
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7+	35%										
<p>Community Spirit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures used for Community Spirit are the same as those used in rural values. 										

<p>Facilities</p> <p>Satisfaction with range of services and facilities in your nearest town or village</p> <p><i>% rating satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10</i></p> <p>Source: 2008 NPR Community Outcomes Survey</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>About half of residents are satisfied with the range of services and facilities</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">How satisfied are you with the services and facilities available in your nearest town or village centre?</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-top: 10px;"> <caption>Satisfaction Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Satisfaction Rating</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Don't Know</td> <td>1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0 to 3</td> <td>18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4 to 6</td> <td>29%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7+</td> <td>52%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over half of Rodney residents (52%) rate their satisfaction with the range of services and facilities in their nearest town or village as 7 out of 10 or better. • There are indications of a wide variation in levels of satisfaction across the District. Although sample sizes are too small to be significant, satisfaction ranges from a high of 88% at Manly to a low of 29% in Wellsford. • The types of facilities wanted in the towns and villages were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public transport ○ Better range of shops ○ Infrastructure services: water, roads, electricity and toll free calling ○ Inorganic rubbish collections ○ Better/cleaner public toilets ○ Facilities for young people 	Satisfaction Rating	Percentage	Don't Know	1%	0 to 3	18%	4 to 6	29%	7+	52%
Satisfaction Rating	Percentage										
Don't Know	1%										
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Commentary

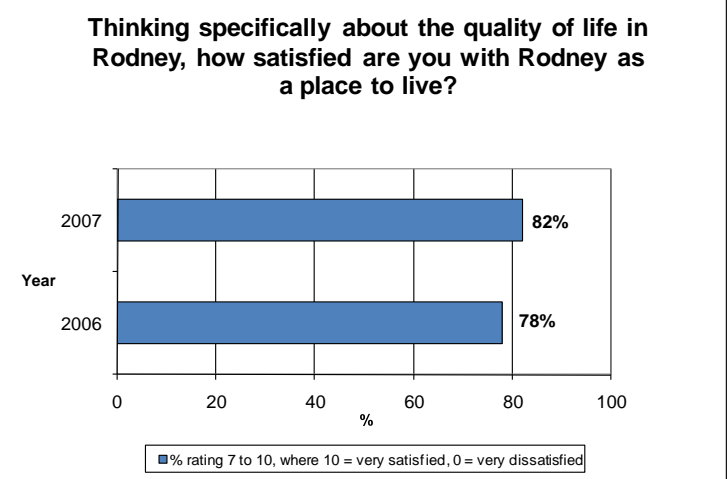
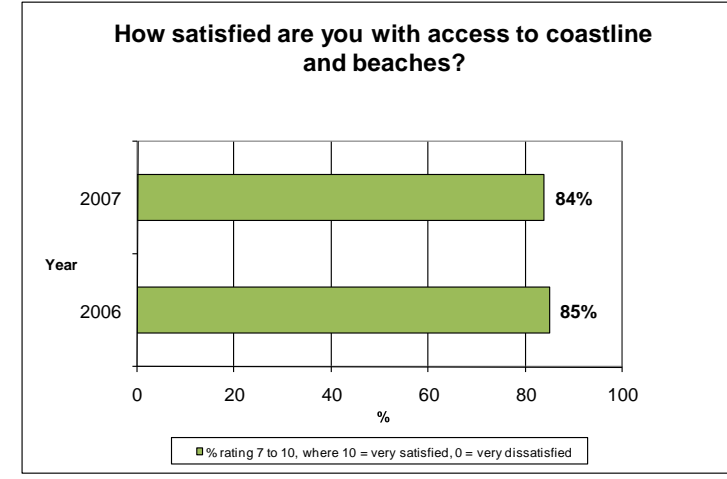
The fall in sense of pride in how the area looks and feels, is a concern and may reflect the low satisfaction with management of the rural look and feel. There is a correspondingly low satisfaction with the preservation of unique character of towns and villages in the district which further indicates a concern with the form of development occurring. Satisfaction with facilities is much higher, although widely varying across the District.

Community spirit is still high however, which is encouraging.

There are a number of initiatives underway at Rodney District Council that will contribute to this outcome. These include the design guides (already mentioned), the Sustainable Development Plans being prepared for different settlements and the community participation in the plan development process. Council is also supporting various community arts groups and environmental improvement groups such as tree planting and Wai Care which will strengthen local community identity.

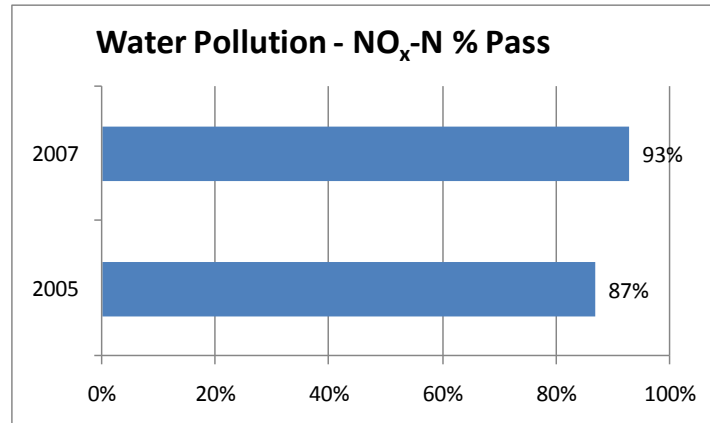
Community Outcome 3 – Maintain our lifestyle and look after the environment

Measures: There are 2 categories of measures for this outcome; those relating to the lifestyle (satisfaction with Rodney as a place to live and access to coastline and beaches) and environmental data (sedimentation of Mahurangi Harbour and water quality in rivers and streams).

<p>Lifestyle</p> <p>Rodney as place to live</p> <p>Source: Annual Residents Survey 2007</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Rodney improves as a place to live</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Thinking specifically about the quality of life in Rodney, how satisfied are you with Rodney as a place to live?</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% rating 7 to 10</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>82%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rodney is perceived to be improving as a place to live, from 78% in 2006 to 82% in 2007 (rating 7 out of 10 or better). 	Year	% rating 7 to 10	2007	82%	2006	78%
Year	% rating 7 to 10						
2007	82%						
2006	78%						
<p>Access to the coastline and beaches</p> <p>Source: Annual Residents Survey 2007</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Satisfaction with access to coastline and beaches remains high</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">How satisfied are you with access to coastline and beaches?</p>  <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% rating 7 to 10</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>84%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>85%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of users who rated satisfaction with access to the coastline and beaches 7 of 10 or better remains on par with the previous year (85% 2006, 84% 2007). 	Year	% rating 7 to 10	2007	84%	2006	85%
Year	% rating 7 to 10						
2007	84%						
2006	85%						

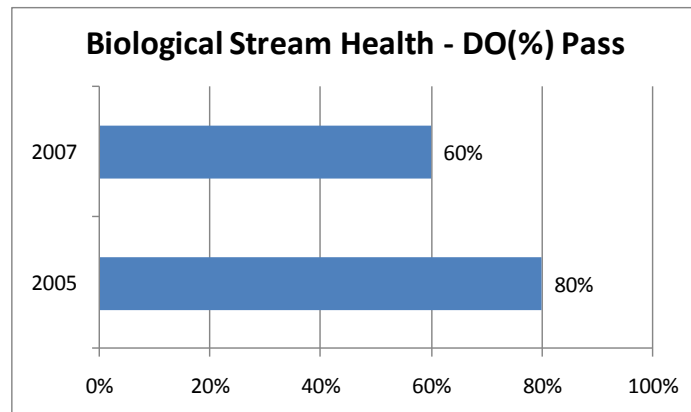
<p>Environment</p> <p>Perception of rivers and stream water quality</p> <p>Source: 2006, 2004 Quality of Life Survey</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Increasing concerns about water pollution</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Has water pollution including pollution in streams, rivers, lakes and in the sea been a problem in your local area over the last 12 months?</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% of respondents saying yes</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>29%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an increase in the perception of water pollution being a problem in the local area since 2004 (29%, 35% 2006). 	Year	% of respondents saying yes	2006	35%	2004	29%
Year	% of respondents saying yes						
2006	35%						
2004	29%						
<p>Rivers and stream water quality</p> <p>Source: 2007 Golder Associates <i>State of the environment of rivers and streams in the Rodney District Council</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 stream sites have been chosen as representative of the streams and rivers of the Rodney District that are under the greatest stress. • Three measures of river and stream water quality have been used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Water pollution (measures include oxidised nitrogen (NO_x-N) and dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP)) ○ Biological stream health (measures include dissolved oxygen DO (g/m³) and temperature) ○ Pollution and toxicity (measure is Ammoniacal-N) • Results show the percentage of measures meeting minimum required standards for each year and for each measure. 						
	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Water Pollution - DRP % Pass</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% Pass</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>47%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>67%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The level of water pollution has worsened since 2005 (47% of the sites pass compared to 67% pass in 2005). 	Year	% Pass	2007	47%	2005	67%
Year	% Pass						
2007	47%						
2005	67%						

Eight out of the 15 sites failed in 2007 compared to only 5 out of the 15 sites in 2005. Increases in DRP were greater at 10 of the 15 survey sites in 2007 than in 2005. These 10 sites were located in primarily pastoral/horticultural catchments.



- Results for Nitrates (NO_xN) are good with all but one site meeting guidelines in 2007, compared to 13 in 2005. Eleven of the sites show decreasing levels of nitrates which is a move in the right direction, and only four have increased.

- Biological stream health rated well on temperature, but not so for dissolved oxygen (DO%) levels.
- Median temperatures recorded at the 15 sites in 2007 ranged between 15.4 and 18.9°C. All temperatures were well below the limit of 22°C in both 2005 and 2007.



- Only 9 out of 15 sites met the required standard in 2007 compared to 12 in 2005. Five of the 15 sites increased DO saturation from 2005 to 2007, while 10 decreased.

	<div> <table border="1"> <caption>Pollution and Toxicity Ammoniacal-N % Pass</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>% Pass</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>60%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2005</td> <td>53%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of sites meeting the standards has increased from 8 sites meeting guidelines in 2005 to 9 sites in 2007. Three of the 15 sites increased from 2005 to 2007, 6 decreased and 6 remained the same. 	Year	% Pass	2007	60%	2005	53%				
Year	% Pass										
2007	60%										
2005	53%										
<p>Estuary sedimentation</p> <p>Trends in <i>macrofauna</i> in Mahurangi harbour (at 8 inter-tidal monitoring sites).</p> <p>Source: June 2007 Mahurangi Estuary Ecological Monitoring (ARC Technical Publication 335)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mahurangi Harbour is used as an example of sedimentation problems because the problems are most severe and good monitoring data has been available since 1994. The increased sedimentation is smothering marine life and causing decline in diversity. • The monitoring shows growth and decline in abundance for different “macrofauna” (animals longer than 1 cm, but shorter than an earthworm). • From 33 intertidal monitoring sites an even number recorded increasing and decreasing trends in 2007. <div> <table border="1"> <caption>"Macrofaunal Taxa" Trends in abundance</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number of macrofaunal taxa</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2001</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2002</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2003</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007</td> <td>17</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The continued growth in the number of species recording increases in abundance is noticeable and welcome. However the continued high number of species recording declines in abundance is an ongoing concern. • The Mahurangi Action Plan (a joint venture between ARC and Rodney District Council) is engaged in the following environmental management programs; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fencing and riparian planting ○ Managing projects with landowners 	Year	Number of macrofaunal taxa	2001	5	2002	10	2003	14	2007	17
Year	Number of macrofaunal taxa										
2001	5										
2002	10										
2003	14										
2007	17										

- Compliance monitoring
 - Earthworks and forestry
 - Environmental monitoring
 - Research into sources of sedimentation
 - Environmental education in schools and throughout the community

Sediment Source Mapping in Mahurangi Harbour (June 2006)

Source: Sediment source mapping in Mahurangi harbour (ARC TP 321)

	% catchment	River Delta % of sediment	Harbour % of sediment
Pastoral Farms	70%	15-55%	10-30%
Native forests	20%	<30%	<10%
Forestry	8%	45-80%	14%

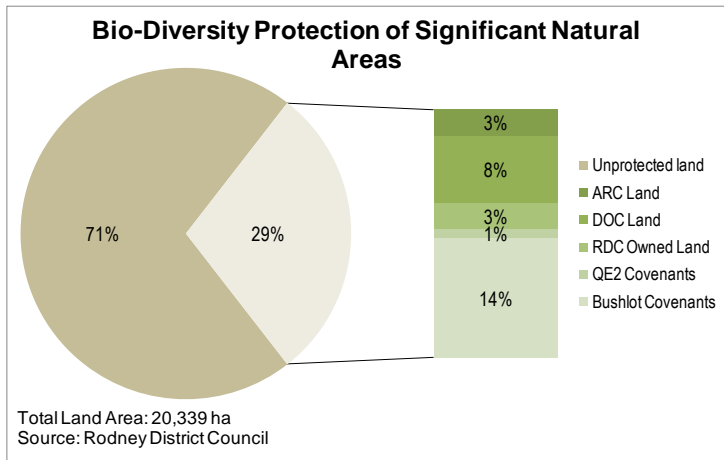
- Although pastoral farms are a significant source of sediment, forestry is a particular concern relative to its low percentage of land cover in catchment.
- Most sediment is delivered in a small number of storm events each year.

Bio-diversity

Protection of Significant Natural Areas

Source: Rodney District Council

Of 20,339 ha of Significant Natural Areas in Rodney, approximately 6000ha (29%) are protected by either covenant or by beneficial ownership



- The Council has undertaken a survey of vegetation and wildlife habitats to identify those that are of high ecological value.
- 29% of Significant Natural Areas are protected by either covenant or by beneficial ownership.
- Rodney District Council has a policy of encouraging bush lot covenants (preventing them from ever being developed) in return for development rights elsewhere in the District.
- The remaining “unprotected” land is still protected by the provisions of the District Plan

Commentary

Rodney residents are very satisfied with Rodney as a place to live which is interesting given the poor ratings for growth management in relation to the rural look and feel and the sense of pride in how the area looks and feels.

Access to the coastline and beaches has a high level of satisfaction and may be a key driver of overall satisfaction.

Nearly 29% of SNA land is protected either by covenant or by beneficial ownership. There are some concerns about water pollution. Scientific survey results show that these concerns are well founded.

A study of sedimentation in Mahurangi shows mixed results. While there are an increasing number of sedimentation species increasing in abundance there are continuing declines also.

Issues like water pollution and estuary sedimentation are long term issues. There are suggestions that the Mahurangi harbour is only now showing the adverse effects of siltation in the mid-1990s. Solutions must also be given time to become effective.

Council is involved with many projects that will contribute to this outcome. Indeed, the role of local government is defined in the Local Government Act as “promotion of the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future”. In this context, everything the Council does will contribute to the lifestyle and the environment issues relevant to this outcome.

Examples include the recreation and open space strategies, maintenance of parks and reserves, increasing the number of boat ramps and maintaining the condition of existing ones, tree planting and environmental education, contributions to the Mahurangi Action Group and the Kaipara Harbour Management Group. The council is also updating the State of the Environment report required by the Resource Management Act (Window on Rodney 1999). Management of subdivisions through the District Plan also helps to protect the natural environment.

Community Outcome 4 – Take care of ourselves while working with others

Measures: These are the health and safety measures for the District. Safety is measured by perceptions of safety plus reported crime and road crashes. Health by self-assessment and satisfaction with the availability of GPs. We have also included Community Spirit in here for the third time as a measure of community self-sufficiency and resilience.

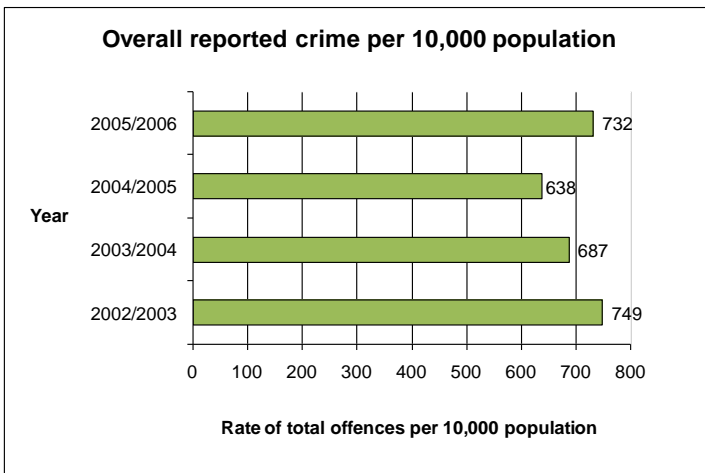
<p>Community Spirit</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measures used for Community Spirit and volunteerism are the same as those used in rural values. 															
<p>Safety</p> <p>Perceptions of safety in the home and neighbourhood</p> <p>Source: 2006, 2004 Quality of Life Survey</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>Perceptions of safety in the home and neighbourhood improves since 2004</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Thinking about issues of crime and safety, please tell me how safe or unsafe you would feel ... 'In your home after dark' ... 'In your neighbourhood after dark'?</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Location</th> <th>% of respondents who felt fairly safe or very safe</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>Safe in neighbourhood after dark</td> <td>87%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>Safe in neighbourhood after dark</td> <td>79%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>Safe in home after dark</td> <td>94%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>Safe in home after dark</td> <td>90%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rodney Residents are more likely to feel safe (fairly safe or very safe) than total New Zealand in their neighbourhood after dark (87% vs 78% total NZ), and in their home after dark (94% vs 91% total NZ). Rodney residents are more likely to feel safe, both in their home after dark (94% 2006 and 90% 2004) and in their neighbourhood after dark than in 2004 (87% 2006 and 79% 2004). 	Year	Location	% of respondents who felt fairly safe or very safe	2006	Safe in neighbourhood after dark	87%	2004	Safe in neighbourhood after dark	79%	2006	Safe in home after dark	94%	2004	Safe in home after dark	90%
Year	Location	% of respondents who felt fairly safe or very safe														
2006	Safe in neighbourhood after dark	87%														
2004	Safe in neighbourhood after dark	79%														
2006	Safe in home after dark	94%														
2004	Safe in home after dark	90%														

Crime statistics

Reported crime per 10,000 population

Source: 2006-2002 Quality of Life Survey

Overall reported crime is up but so is total NZ

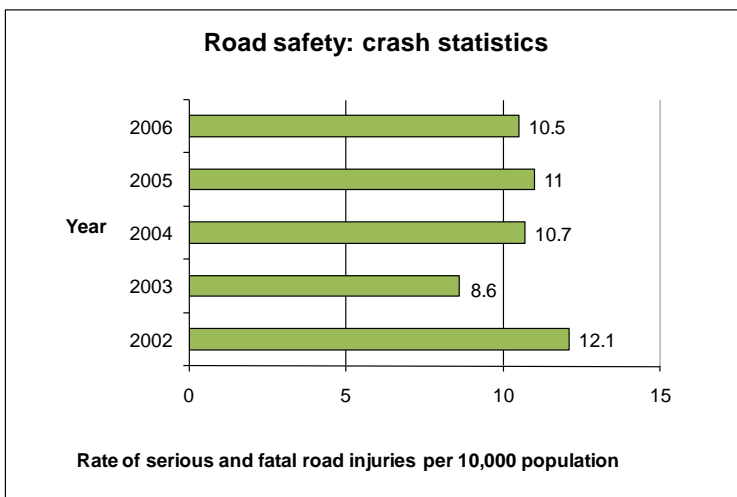


- The rate of overall reported crime per 10,000 population in Rodney (732) is lower than that for total New Zealand (1036).
- The trend for Rodney to decrease from 2002/2003 and then increase again in 2005/2006 follows the same pattern as for total New Zealand.

Road safety: crash statistics.

Source: 2006-2002 Quality of Life Survey

Although there has been a drop in crash statistics, Rodney is still higher than any other major NZ city



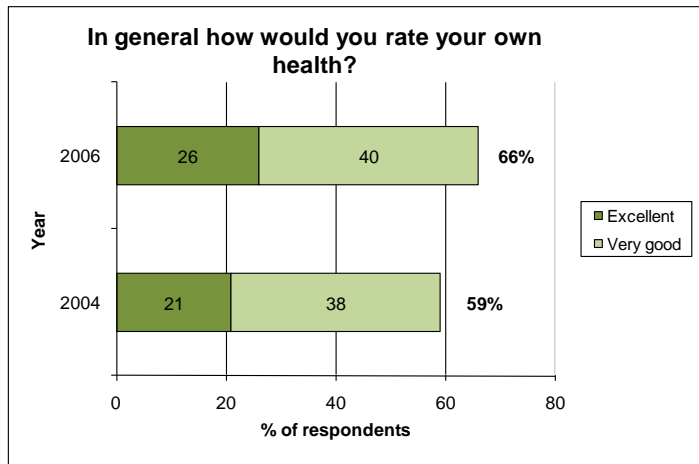
- The number of serious and fatal road injuries per 10,000 population for Rodney (10.5) is higher than for total New Zealand (7.0) and than any of the other 12 major cities in New Zealand.
- The rate of serious and fatal road injuries has dropped since 2005 (11).

Health

Self-reported rating of own health

Source: 2006, 2004 Quality of Life Survey

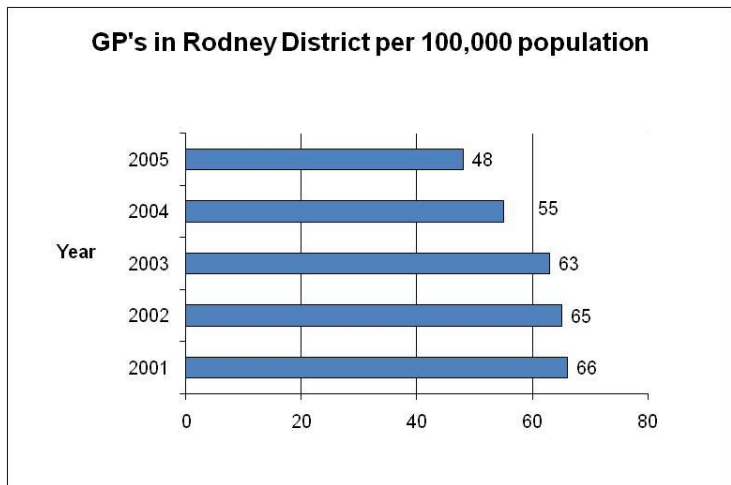
Increase in those seeing themselves as healthy



- Rodney Residents (66%) are slightly more likely to rate their own health as excellent or very good than total New Zealand (63%).
- Self-reported ratings of own health have increased (59% 2004, 66% 2006 rating as excellent or very good).

GP's per capita

Source: 2001-2006 Quality of Life Survey



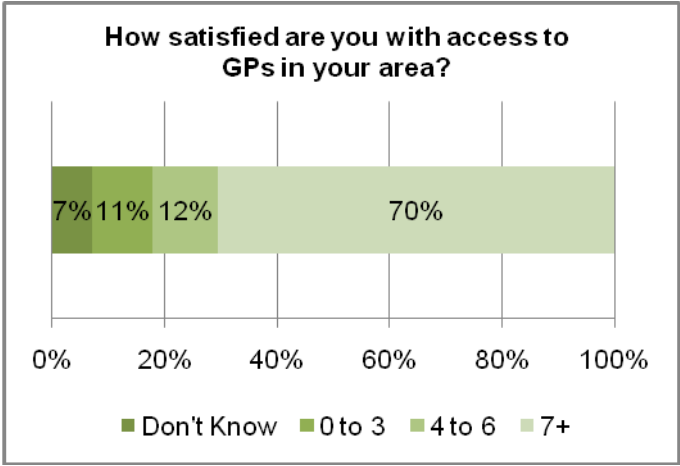
- The number of GP's per 100,000 population in Rodney District has been decreasing since 2001 and is well below the average number for total New Zealand (71).

Accessibility of family Doctors (GPs)

% rating satisfaction as 7 or more out of 10

Source: 2008 NPR Community Outcomes Survey

Satisfaction with access to GPs fairly high



- Most of Rodney residents (70%) are rating satisfaction with access to GPs as 7+ out of 10. Rodney residents that live in rural settlements are most satisfied and those in the country are least satisfied.

Commentary

Safety is sometimes regarded as a further characteristic or “value” of rural areas. Rural areas are perceived to be safer than urban areas. Data shows Rodney residents regard the district as safe and this is supported by relatively low official crime statistics.

Road safety however is a concern and reflects the lengths of state highways in the district as well as unsealed rural roads.

The population overall feels as healthy as the rest of New Zealand with 66% rating their own health as “very good” or “excellent”.

Statistics from the Quality of Life Survey show a low ratio of GP’s per capita compared with the rest of New Zealand, although 72% of the population aged 18+ are well satisfied with access to GP’s. Satisfaction, however, is lower for country residents (64%). The evidence supports the view that Rodney is a safe and healthy place to live, which may be further reasons why it is rated so highly as a place to live.

Rodney District Council is very active in the area of Social Welfare with a Social Welfare Advisory Group (SWAG) involving the Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand Police, Waitemata District Health Board, Ngati Whatu Nga Rima O Aotearoa and others. This group is working on a Social Welfare Strategy for Rodney which includes issues of safety and health.

The Council also works closely with NZ Police and Transit on road safety issues.

The area of health and safety is where many central government and voluntary organisations have strong influences and the Council sees working in partnership with other organisations as particularly important.

Community Outcome 5 – Able to make our living in Rodney

Measures: Issues for monitoring under this heading include growth in jobs, businesses and training. We also look at commuting patterns and school leaver qualifications.

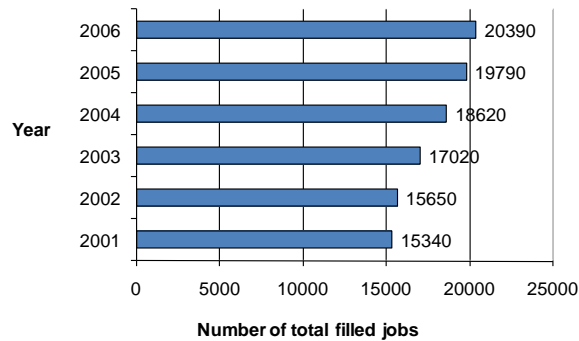
Employment

Local employment opportunities

Source: 2001-2006 Quality of Life Survey

Number of filled jobs continues to increase. Target of 5000 new jobs between 2002 and 2010 within reach.

Increase in number of filled jobs

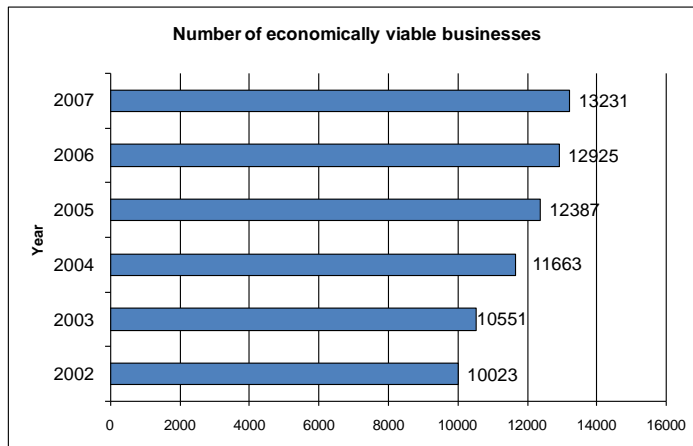


- In 2002 “A living vision for Rodney’s Economy” stated a target of 5,000 new jobs by 2010. This has almost been achieved already with an increase of 4740 filled jobs since 2002. If the increases continue at the same rate this target will easily be reached by 2010.
- Since 2003 the number of filled jobs (includes part-time workers as one filled job and may include working proprietors who pay themselves a taxable salary or wage) in Rodney has increased by 3370 (20%).

New businesses

Source: 2006-2002 Quality of Life Survey

Strong growth in economically viable businesses 32% growth between 2002 and 2006

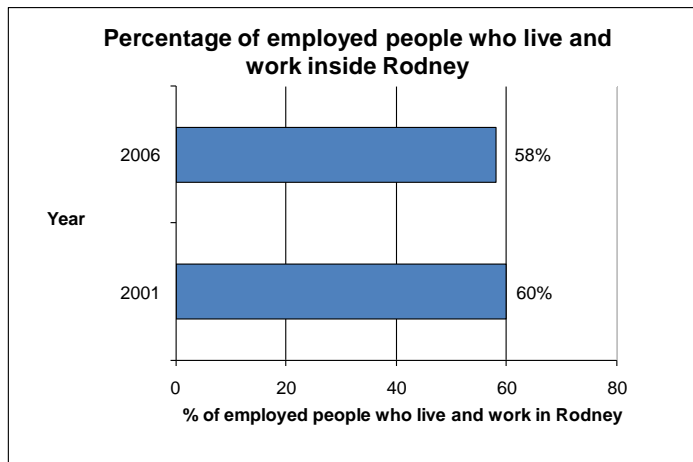


- The overall growth rate of businesses in Rodney from 2002 (10023 businesses) to 2006 (13231 businesses) was a vigorous 32%. This is higher than total New Zealand (22%).
- These figures look at the number of 'economically significant geographic units' that were in existence in February of each year, defined as GST registered with a turnover of \$30,000 per year or more.

Live and work in Rodney District

Source: Census of populations and dwellings 2001, 2006

Around half of employed people work inside Rodney



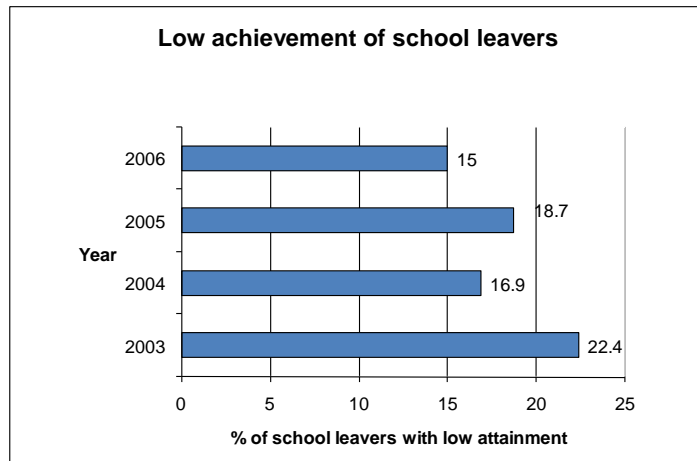
- In 2006 58% of employed people work inside Rodney, a slight decrease from 2001 (60%). Note these figures are based on those aged 15 year or over, either part-time or full-time.
- In 2006 figures are also available on those aged 15 years and over, and in full-time employment only. On this basis, the percentage of people working inside Rodney is 48%.

Education & Training

Low achievement of school leavers

Source: 2003-2006 Quality of Life Survey

Decline in % of school leavers with low attainment

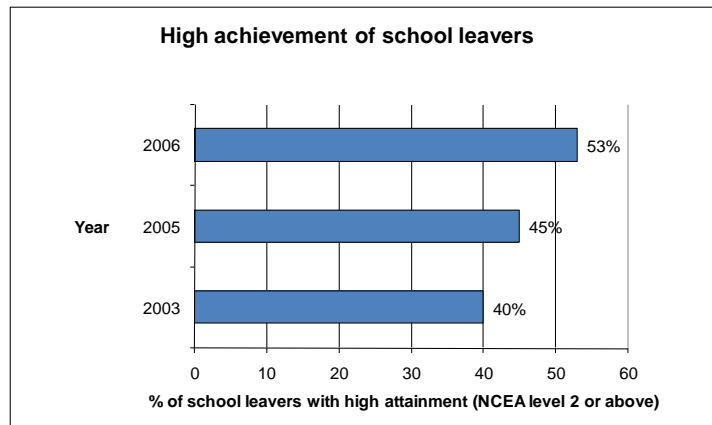


- 73% of secondary students resident in Rodney also study in the Rodney District
- There has been a decline in the percentage of school leavers with little or no formal attainment in Rodney since 2003 (22.4% to 15% in 2006).
- Rodney still has a higher percentage of school leavers with little or no formal attainment than total NZ (11.1%).

High achievement of school leavers

Source: 2006, 2005, 2003 Education Counts, Ministry of Education

Increase in percentage of school leavers with high achievement

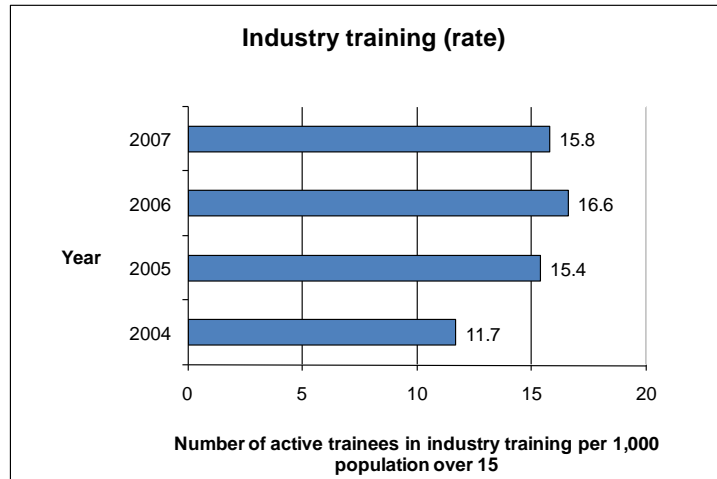


- There has been an increase in the percentage of school leavers with high attainment (NCEA level 2 or above) since 2003 (40% to 53% in 2006).

Industry Training Rate

Source: ITO Statistics

Industry training rates have increased substantially since 2004 and are holding steady at around 16 places per 1000 population aged 15+.



- The number of active trainees in industry training per 1000 population aged over 15 years in Rodney increased from 2004 (11.7) to 2006 (16.6), but then dropped in 2007 (15.8)¹.

Commentary

These are good results for the economic wellbeing outcome. There is growth in both the supply of jobs and the training and education outcomes. The growth in jobs is nearly double the growth rate for population but the proportion of people commuting outside the district for work remains around 40%. There are clear indications that some people from outside the district are commuting into Rodney for work. This is to be expected with such a high population concentrations in Waitakere and on the North Shore.

The performance of the school leavers in Rodney is particularly pleasing and may ultimately result in more local secondary students choosing to study closer to home. Data from the Ministry of Education shows that 27% of secondary school students currently go elsewhere for their education.

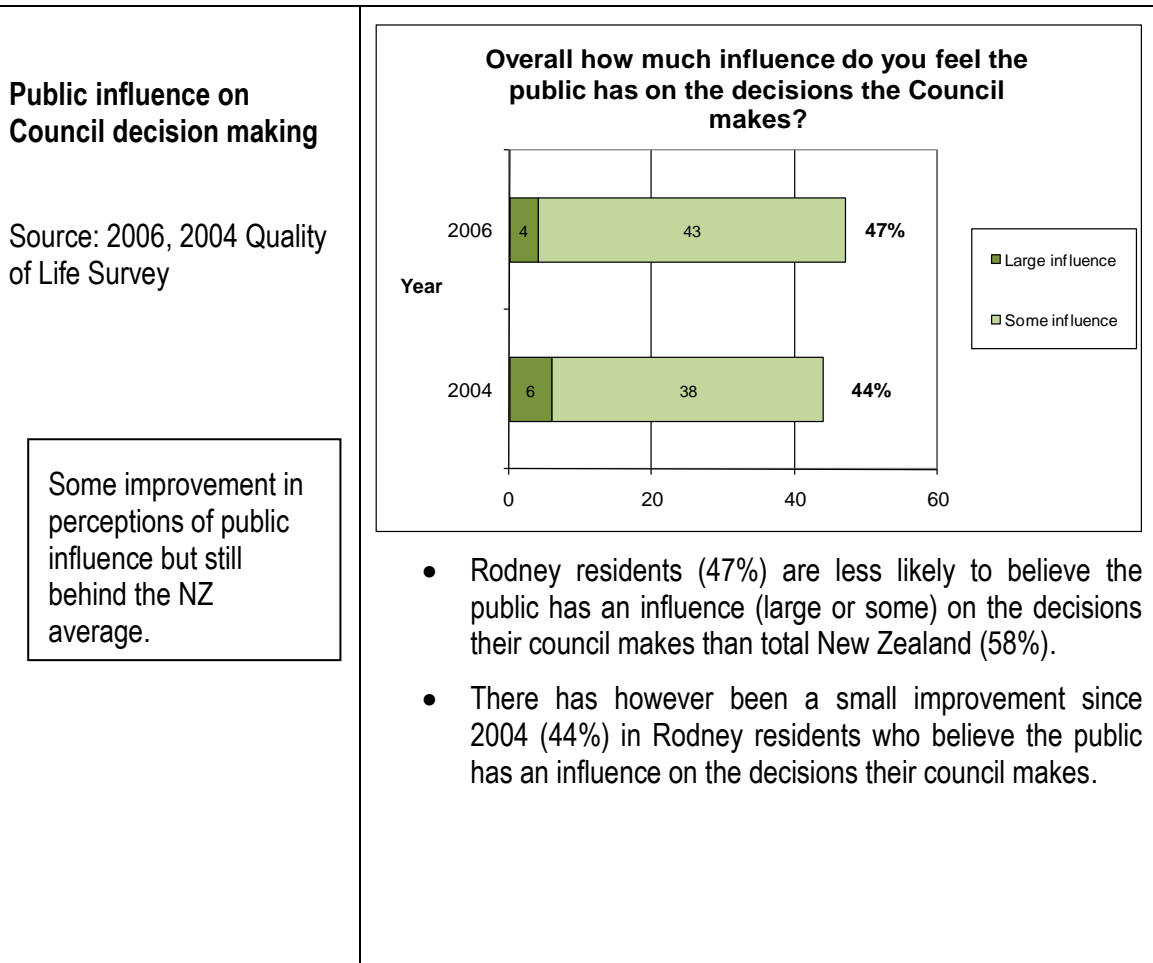
Rodney District Council is working on a number of initiatives to maintain and increase the economic development of the District. For this the Council works in partnership with the Rodney Economic Development Trust. The Council is also working with central government and telecommunications companies to promote the development of broadband, with Northtech to further develop local training opportunities and with a range of business investors looking to establish businesses in the area.

Council is also promoting car-pooling schemes and have developed business information services available from the libraries.

¹ Numbers include modern apprentice schemes. Figures based on the assumption that 78% of the population are aged 15+

Community Outcome 6 - We will determine the future of our district

Measures: This outcome emphasises the importance placed by Rodney residents on their ability to have a say in shaping the future of the District. We have taken as indicators; the achievements on other indicators as a measure of efficacy, perceptions about the ability to have an influence over Council decisions, trust in the Council's intent to act in the best interests of the district and a review of the success of strategic partnerships.



<p>Quality of Decisions</p> <p>Confidence in Council Decision making</p> <p>Source: 2006, 2004 Quality of Life Survey</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 20px;"> <p>Confidence in Council decision making drops</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Do you agree or disagree with 'Overall I have confidence that the council makes decisions that are in the best interests of my city or district'?</p> <table border="1" style="margin: 10px auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Strongly agree</th> <th>Agree</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2006</td> <td>5</td> <td>19</td> <td>24%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004</td> <td>2</td> <td>34</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less than a quarter of Rodney residents (24% either agree or strongly agree) have confidence that their council makes decisions in the best interests of their district. Confidence is much lower than total New Zealand (45%). Confidence in council decision making has also dropped since 2004 (36%). 	Year	Strongly agree	Agree	Total	2006	5	19	24%	2004	2	34	36%
Year	Strongly agree	Agree	Total										
2006	5	19	24%										
2004	2	34	36%										
<p>Review of key strategic partnerships</p>	<p>This measure is yet to be developed. It will be based on feedback from strategic partners who will be asked to take part in review of the relationship.</p> <p>The final list is yet to be determined but will most likely include the following organisations who have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accident Compensation Corporation 2. Department of Conservation 3. Manuhiri Omaha Kaitiakitanga Ora (MOKO) Trust Board 4. Massey University 5. Ministry of Education 6. Ministry of Social Development 7. Ngati Whatua Nga Rima o Kaipara 8. NZ Police 9. Te Uri oHau Settlement Trust 10. Transit New Zealand 11. Waitemata District Health Board 12. WFH Properties 												

<p>Success in other Community Outcomes</p>	<p>The following indicators have improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfaction with Rodney as a place to live (78% 2006 to 82% 2007). • Safety in the home after dark as fairly or very safe (90% 2004 to 94% 2006) and safety in the neighbourhood after dark as fairly or very safe (79% 2004 to 87% 2006). • Serious and fatal injuries per 10,000 population has decreased from 11 in 2005 to 10.5 in 2006. • The percentage self reporting their own health as excellent or very good has increased from 59% in 2004 to 66% in 2006. • The number of filled jobs has increased by 3370 (17020 jobs in 2003, 20390 jobs in 2006). • The overall growth rate of businesses increased by 32% from 2002 to 2006. • The percentage of school leavers with little or no formal attainment has dropped (22.4% in 2003, to 15% in 2006). • The percentage of school leavers with level 2 NCEA or higher has increased from 40% to 53% between 2003 and 2006. • The number of industry training places has increased since 2004 from 12 per 1000 population to 16. This has been consistent over the last 3 years. • There has been a small improvement in the percentage of residents who believe the public has a large or some influence on the decisions their council makes (44% 2004, 47% 2006). <p>There are a further 6 measures that are either measured for the first time or show no change and have good scores.</p> <p>In total therefore 16 out of 29 measures have shown good results.</p>
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Commentary

Overall the results for this outcome should be good news for the community with 17 out of 28 measures (available so far) delivering good results and a further 5 neutral. Included in the good results is a perception that the public's ability to influence Council decision-making has improved (although this is still low by NZ averages).

Of most concern, however, is the public's declining confidence in Council's ability to take decisions in the best interests of the district. Further investigation of concerns is warranted.

Council has consulted the community on a wide range of issues over the last 4 years and established a range of partnerships with organisations that can assist with the achievement of Vision Rodney outcomes. Council is shortly planning to review Vision Rodney and create a new round of opportunities for the Community to have their say.

Conclusions

Overall this report contains more good news than bad. The encouraging economic indicators and the health and safety issues stand out. There are signs that the traditional values of a rural community are holding up and overall Rodney is becoming an even more desirable place to live. Politically, residents feel they have slightly more say in decision-making than in the past, although this doesn't translate into confidence that Council decisions are made in the best interests of the district.

On the one hand, there is more consultation (Vision Rodney being a part of this) but on the other there are clear concerns about how growth is being managed in the District. A marked decline in the pride that people feel for the look and feel of their area is of concern as is the low level of satisfaction with the maintenance of the rural look and feel. There are also some concerns about the impact of development on the environment, both in terms of perceptions and scientific monitoring.

The district remains overwhelmingly rural (outside the Eastern Ward) with around 70%-90% being classified as rural. The 20% difference between the 2 estimates reflects the different ways that lifestyle blocks are interpreted. There are signs of continued subdivision of this land which may be the cause of some concern. There is also evidence in the Eastern Ward of conversion from lifestyle to more urban uses which may also be the cause of some concerns. There is no evidence however, that the residents of the Eastern Ward are any more dissatisfied with the 'preservation of the rural look and feel' than other areas. It could be that the results indicate a geographically dispersed group characterised by opposition to the subdivision and development activity that is taking place, perhaps fearful of its **potential** impact on lifestyle rather than its current impact.

It is notable that those most concerned tend to be older age groups, those that have lived in the district for a long time (6+years) and those on lower incomes (possibly retired).

The overall high (and increasing) levels of satisfaction with Rodney as a place to live suggest this has not yet become a big enough problem to deter migration into the area. However, the forecast population growth to 280,000 by 2050 (currently 94,000) suggest this management of growth is a major issue for the district. The requirements of the new migrants may differ from those of established residents. Balancing the needs of these different groups will be a significant challenge.

The environmental issues are not conclusive. There is a need to define a more comprehensive set of measures for the environment which may take place in conjunction with the ARC's Auckland Sustainability Framework. Evidence to date is of well founded and growing concerns about water pollution but a good start in protection of natural habitats by negotiation of Bush lot covenants in return for development rights elsewhere. Problems of siltation in Mahurangi Harbour point to the need for vigilance on the potential impacts of storms events on surface run off particularly from pastoral farming and exotic forestry.

Appendix – Details of Sources

Quotable Value

NPR Community Outcomes Survey 2008

Telephone survey of 400 Rodney District residents aged at least 18 years old.

Quality of Life Report 2007

The data for this report is drawn from two main sources; the Quality of life surveys, conducted biennially, and from secondary data sources (e.g. government agencies and non-governmental organisations).

International Research Consultants, Rodney District Council Annual Residents Survey 2007 Report

Telephone survey of 483 Rodney District residents aged at least 18 years old.

ITO (Industry Training Organisation) statistics

Tertiary Education Commission

Golder Associates 2007 State of the Environment of rivers and streams in the Rodney District Council

Sediment Source Mapping the Mahurangi Harbour (ARC TP 321)

Mahurangi Estuary Ecological Monitoring, June 2007 (ARC TP 335)

Rodney District Council

Statistics New Zealand 2001, 2006, Census of populations and dwellings

Education counts, 2006, 2005, 2003, Ministry of Education