

Rodney First Environmental Policy



'Improving the Environment'

Key Objectives

- Improvement the quality of our main harbours and waterways.
- Create a grants program that assists in the improvement of waterways.
- Encourage community based solutions to environmental degradation.
- Work with the farming industry to make improvement to water quality.

Overview

Rodney is home to three large harbours, the Kaipara, Mahurangi and Whangateau. By councils own 'report card' system all the harbours suffer from ongoing environmental degradation.

The harbours play an important economic and recreational part in Auckland's economy from shellfish farming to recreational and commercial fishing it is vital we do everything possible to ensure the ecological health of the harbours is improved over the long term.

There are many community groups and businesses doing their bit to try and improve the situation, these groups rely on a range of grants and public or private money to sustain their activities.

Agriculture plays an important part in ensuring the water catchments are healthy, fencing of waterways and the associated ecological benefits of this activity when combined with riparian planting.

Specific Areas of Focus 2016 – 2019

The Local Board's current grant policy goes a small way towards helping groups who wish to improvement our harbours and waterways but much more could be done.

Rodney First proposes to focus on waterway and riparian improvements by setting up a larger grant fund. We would seek to work with industry groups and businesses to put together a \$500,000 annual grants fund to assist businesses and groups wishing to undertake activities that improve the catchment and waterways that feed into our harbours.

Rodney First will work to achieve the following;

1. Provide \$200,000 per annum to a new environmental grants fund.
2. Approach agricultural businesses and related institutions to provide additional funding into the grants fund with the aim of creating a \$500,000 annual fund by 2018.
3. Provide assistance for groups and businesses in the form of departmental support from within Council.
4. Undertake annual survey work to monitor the progress of work being done.

Rodney First will also be prioritizing advocacy to government, council, business and other agencies to achieve;

1. A million dollar environmental fund by 2020.
2. An excellent working relationship with the agricultural industry.
3. A high quality service and level of assistance for community groups.