

**Landowners & Contractors
Association**
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LCA NEWSLETTER FOR WINTER 2024

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

LCA continues its involvement with a range of issues affecting the rural and contracting communities. Looking back over the years that the LCA has been advocating on behalf of farmers and contractors, there are unfortunately common and repeating themes. Auckland Council features foremost in an ever widening disconnect between rural and urban communities. Bureaucracy rules!!! Roading, regulations and compliance, water allocation, rates, drainage, rural subdivision, fair representation and farmer welfare are some of those recurring themes.

To achieve fairer **rural Rodney representation** at Local Board level, LCA has been involved with the Northern Action Group and Rodney Community Voices in promoting changes to electorate boundaries. Rodney is 95% rural by land area and both rural and urban ratepayers deserve representation that reflects communities which have common interests.

We are fortunate to have a **Rural Support Trust** representative on our LCA committee. LCA fully supports the work of the Trust. The Trust has hosted a number of events with the welfare of farmers and rural folk at heart. The website link is <http://www.rural-support.org.nz/Regions/North-Island/Northland>

Follow up from the **Dairy Farm Inspections** public meeting, we jointly hosted with Auckland Council is ongoing. One outcome is that Council has decided to form a dedicated dairy farm compliance/inspection team. LCA has suggested that some on-farm experience would benefit those team members. If you have time or an inclination to host a member of Council's team then please contact Brian Mason (ph 027 287 5057 or <mailto:waikauri1@xtra.co.nz>)

Roading is an ongoing concern. LCA has hosted AT engineers and Colin Smith representing Wellsford on the Rodney Local Board is a tireless voice for better roads and improved allocation of resources. LCA did submit on the Auckland Regional Land Transport Plan 2024-2034 (RLTP). The submission fully supported the \$124.6 million of funding allocated in the RLTP for the Unsealed Road Improvement Program. Roading that is fit for purpose and properly maintained is vital for all communities. LCA's submission can be found on our website.

It was a pleasure to host **Northland MP Grant McCallum** in May 2024. He talked our language, being a fellow farmer. A very worthwhile discussion was had, and some issues brought to his attention that he was perhaps not fully conversant with. We intend to host Grant and other MPS in the future.

Brian Mason is our representative on the **Auckland Council Rural Advisory Panel**. The Panel consists of some 24 members who represent sectors of Auckland's rural community. Brian is one of the few actual farmers on the panel and with skin in the game brings a realistic perspective to issues that arise. The most recent RAP meeting was held on the 2 August 2024, which Brian attended.

The allocation and management of our water resource by Auckland Council is an ongoing issue. A Council program to monitor water reserves in the Tomarata catchment results from LCA advocacy on this very important matter.

The latest regulations to control **farm dams** and **on-site wastewater systems** are also attracting LCA's attention. Some common sense is required rather than blanket controls.

At our recent AGM the existing committee was re-elected. LCA is a voluntary organisation and depends solely on **subscriptions** for its income. All members are reminded that subs are due for the 2024 - 2025 year. Payment details are as below.

LCA Inc

Account: 12-3094-0204808-00

Particulars: Surname and initial

Reference: Membership

Thankyou to those members who have paid already.

LCA meets monthly on the last Thursday of the month in Wellsford RSA at 7pm. You are welcome to attend and if you have an issue or concern that LCA can help with please bring it to our attention. At our next meeting to be held on the 29 August 2024 we will be hosting a 'Firearms Licensing Discussion' to cover off on gun registration and new firearms rules.

Regards,

Brian Mason

Chairman LCA