

**TE HIKU COMMUNITY BOARD SUBMISSION TO THE FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL LONG TERM
PLAN 2021/2031**

At its meeting of 6 October 2020, the Board adopted its strategic plan along with costed concept plans for Allen Bell Park, Awanui Playground, Korora Park Ahipara and Unahi Wharf in the expectation that it would inform the council of community aspirations via the Long Term Plan, therefore supports these plans being included.

Maritime development at Mangonui including associated vehicle and boat trailer parking is not reflected in the LTP. The Board requests that these projects are included, as well as shared footpaths/walkways at **Ahipara-Kaitaia-Awanui** and **Pukenui (Appendix 1)**. As a means of funding towards these projects the Board suggests that the rates dollar for roading increases from 17c to 19c in the dollar (\$1,940,000.00 on a rate take of \$97 million), the footpath allocation of 1c (\$970,000.00) is reinstated and the recreation allocation is raised to 7c from 5c (\$1,940,000.00). This is in line with the allocations for 2018/2019 when future planning was allocated 8c; a still high but more palatable figure than the 12c allocated in 2020/21 and set to continue in 2021-2031.

Customer Services – Information Services: The Mangonui Information Centre provides invaluable services to the community and visitors in the Te Hiku ward. Graphs of visitor numbers in **Appendix 2** clearly demonstrate that Doubtless Bay, a destination in itself, services as many and sometimes more customers than the Kaitaia i-site does with no associated staff, computer and rent costs. Although the Mangonui Information Centre prefers to retain its voluntary status, it requests that its contribution to the economy of the district is acknowledged by way of an annual grant. Due to its main fundraiser, the Waterfront Festival, being cancelled by Covid this year, an operating grant of **\$15,000** is requested, with grants of **\$10,000** per annum made in the following two years. The information centre's position means it is able to refer customers to attractions further north including the museum at Te Ahu, beaches etc. Letters of support are attached (**Appendices 2a and 2b**) While the Board is aware that an i-site policy is to be developed, this has been in the pipeline for quite some time without gaining any traction.

Customer Services – Community Buildings: The Board strongly requests the council to approve an annual grant of **\$50,000** to Te Ahu Charitable Trust for the following reasons: the facility exists for the community, offering venues for hire, caretakers and cleaners and free use of the facility (meeting rooms, community hall) by the council. When the facility was built, proceeds from the sale of the old i-site, council service centre and the library which no longer met national standards were to have contributed to the cost of Te Ahu. This did not occur. It is noted that more than \$9,000,000 has been allocated towards a civic hub in Kaikohe.

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa has 3 service centres, one i-site and 4 libraries. Kaikohe-Hokianga has 2 service centres, 2 libraries and 1 i-site. Te Hiku, with the second largest area and one of the fastest areas of development (Houhora and Doubtless Bay) has 1 service centre, 1 library and 1 i-site. The i-site is based in Te Ahu. In terms of equity the efforts of both Mangonui i-site and Te Ahu both complement the services that the council provides in the other wards. The Board strongly recommends therefore that both of these organisations are financially supported.

District Facilities – Rangitoto Recreation Reserve: Rangitoto Reserve requires a management plan. Please see **Appendix 3** and allocate funding in the Long Term Plan to enable this project to go ahead

Arts & Culture Policy: The Board understands that the council is considering an arts & culture policy and supports the council working with Creative Northland to develop this.

Security Cameras: The Board requests the council to consider funding towards security camera infrastructure in the Te Hiku ward.

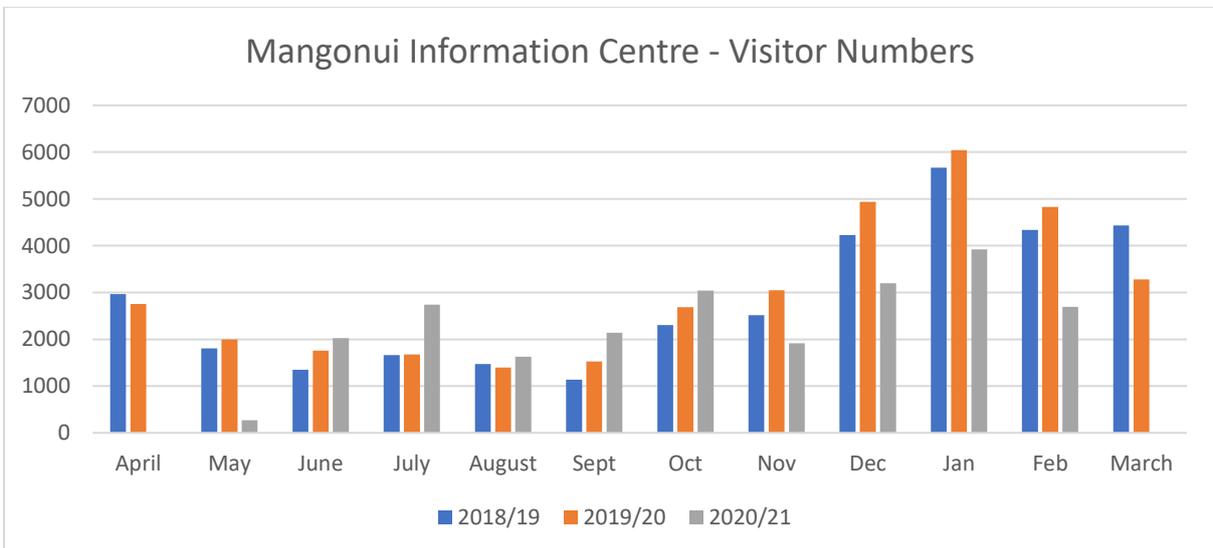
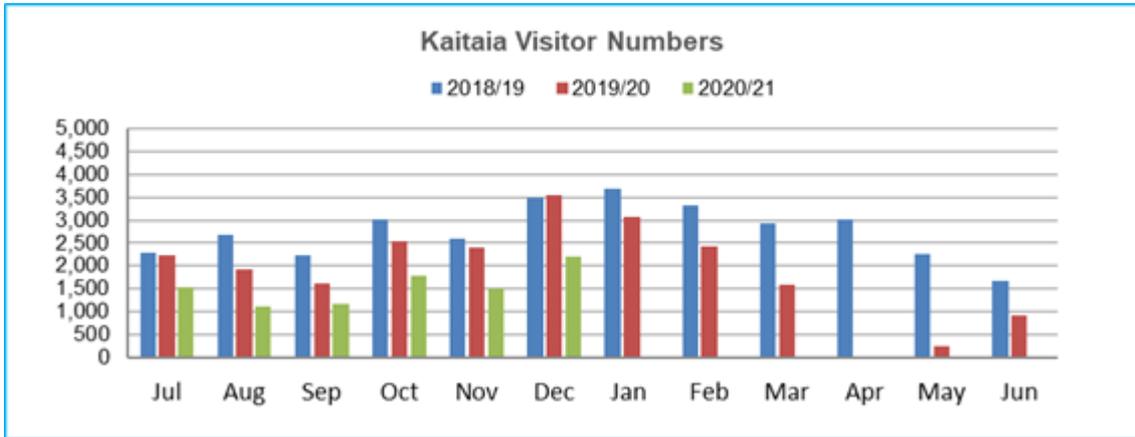
Housing for the Elderly: The Board supports option 3 – forming a partnership with another party. It suggests that Far North Holdings Ltd would be an appropriate partner, as there are concerns other providers may not provide adequate security for the elderly in the long term. Far North Holdings Ltd also have experience in development. The Board is concerned at statements about some units being not fit for purpose and asks how this situation has occurred. It does not agree with housing for the vulnerable elderly being made available for social housing as this is not always a good mix and there are other social housing providers.

Sustainable Economic Development: The Board was unable to reach a consensus on this matter. However community feedback has been received indicating that visitors would stay longer if there were more dump stations available. The Board requests that this is investigated.

Change to Rating Methodology: - The Board does not support capital value rating. It supports the status quo. There are so many uncertainties in the current economic climate that a change at this time is not appropriate.

The Board wishes to be heard in support of its submission. Member Bill Subritzky will speak on behalf of the Board.

APPENDIX 2



**The Case for Commissioning a Management Plan for the
Rangitoto Recreation Reserve**

1. Developing a Management Plan (MP) for the Rangitoto Recreation Reserve (RRR) that incorporates the Rangitoto Pa site will ensure necessary input is obtained from all relevant stakeholders before major intervention is undertaken.

Key stakeholders being:

- a. Iwi,
- b. Heritage NZ (HNZ),
- c. The adjoining landowners.

Other relevant stakeholders include NRC, DoC, Community Conservation groups such as Friends of Rangikapiti and Whakaangi Land Care Trust (that currently trap pest animals on the RRR).

2. A major intervention prior to establishing the long-term objectives for the site is 'putting the cart before horse', and could result in regretted missteps, poor prioritisation of resourcing and offended stake-holders.
3. Given the FNDC's resource constraints and historic disinclination to fund work on a reserve such as RRR which has limited public accessibility, it will be important to be able to seek funding for ongoing vegetation management/replanting from other Government and charitable sources. Applying for such funding is only possible if it can be evidenced that the proposed activity is supported by an approved MP that has buy-in from all key stake-holders – particularly Iwi given the cultural and historical significance of the Rangitoto Pa site.
4. Part of the scope for the preparation of a MP will be to survey the site and map what vegetation (desirable and undesirable) exists on what topographies. This is essential for determining the most appropriate interventions and for quantifying the resources that will be required. Both LiDAR and high-resolution multispectral imagery (from LINZ's 2021 Hihi UAV Pilot Study) exists over the site which would facilitate the use of specialist imaging technology to help cost effectively achieve such mapping.
5. A MP prepared by someone with the requisite expertise and experience has the greatest chance of coming up with the best approach to vegetation management, balancing all stakeholders concerns and accounting for the site's particular characteristics, including its cultural and archaeological sensitivities and its access issues.
6. A MP will establish the long-term goal as to what the RRR should end up looking like and how it should be managed sustainably to achieve the goal. Certain areas may be best left in grass and periodically mowed, while for other areas native vegetation might be encouraged by removal of weeds and/or new native planting, while it might be appropriate to have stock graze some areas that have previously been in pasture

but are too steep to mow, at least as an interim approach until funding is available to replant in natives.

7. A one-off intervention by FNDC to mulch wattle trees on the most accessible parts of the Pa site may be a positive step but won't be sufficient as such trees will quickly regrow and there are plenty of other invasive vegetation species in a variety of settings including some weed infested slopes that will be too steep for heavy machinery.
8. Advice given to the FNDC by Heritage NZ (Nov 6th 2020 email from James Robinson to Rob Stewart) is that the FNDC's suggested plan for a one off campaign to fell and mulch in situ the wattle trees on the Pa site should not proceed without an Archaeological Authority issued by HNZ. HNZ suggests that the authorising process will require significant HNZ-FNDC discussions and will take 2 months. Presumably the same will be a prerequisite anytime the FNDC proposes a significant intervention on the RRR. This could be avoided if a MP was in place that had the buy-in of all stakeholders including HNZ.
9. S. 41 of the Reserves Act 1977 requiring that the FNDC has a MP in place for the RRR is not discretionary. FNDC has an ongoing legal exposure until they come into compliance with this law, particularly if they undertake major interventions or authorise activities on the RRR by others. Also, arguably, their legal rights to police activity on the RRR by others is compromised while there is no MP defining what is and isn't appropriate and permitted.
10. It is acknowledged that the FNDC is investigating divesting the RRR back to the Crown. The degradation of the site has occurred largely during the 58 years that Council has had responsibility for caring for it, and has accelerated in recent years (after stock were excluded which allowed invasive vegetation to gain a foothold). It would therefore not be socially responsible to allow the prospect of divestment to become an excuse not to progress a MP without delay.

Ian Palmer
(Adjoining landowner to
the RRR) Mar 2021



The 1985 photo clearly shows the pa terraces which as seen in the 2017 photo have now become overgrown with weeds including wattle trees.