

Name: John Vujcich


Ward: Far North District Council

Date: 04/10/2024

Meetings Attended

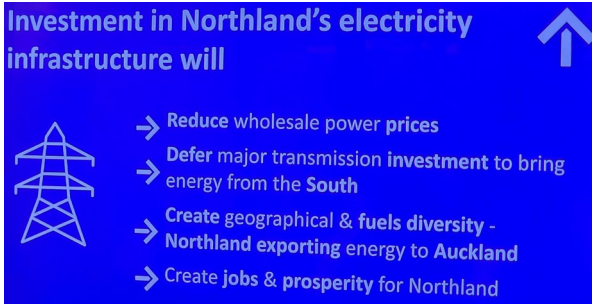
Date	Meeting Topic	Comment
04/10/24	Elected Member catch-ups with Northland Inc	Final of three meetings for elected members to meet with Northland Inc, at Te Mahinga. See portfolio comments for details.
03/10/24	Kaikohe Placemaking Project Steering Group	Teams Meeting
03/10/24	Executive Review Committee	Teams Meeting
03/10/24	Business Call	Teams Meeting
01/10/24	Elected Member catch ups with Northland Inc	Kaitia Digital Hub. Second of three meetings for elected members to meet with Northland Inc. See portfolio comments for details.
27/09/24	JREDC Formal Meeting	WDC Council Chambers. Whangarei became a full member of the JREDC committee and the meeting was held in the WR office for the first time. A big thank you to WDC for joining the committee. All four Councils are now members of the JREDC, which means Northland is better placed to present a single consistent voice to Wellington.
26/09/24	Elected Member catch ups with Northland Inc	Biz Space Kerikeri First of three meetings for elected members to meet with the Northland Inc CE for an update and time for questions. See portfolio comments for details.
25/09/24	Business Call	Teams Meeting
25/09/24	Kaikohe Business Association AGM	Te Kona. Kaikohe Business Assn AGM. Babe Kapa gave an overview with Tracy Dalton of the Coast to Coast Cycleway, showing the return to the local economy. There was an overview of the Kaikohe Placemaking Project.
25/09/24	Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting	Council Chambers
24/09/24	LGNZ roundtable zoom #4 – NZSIS threat report	Teams Meeting

24/09/24	Transport and Infrastructure Committee Workshop	Council Chambers
24/09/24	Extraordinary Council Meeting	Council Chambers
24/09/24	Transport and Infrastructure Committee	Council Chambers
20/09/24	Kaikohe Hokianga Community Board	Council Chambers
19/09/24	JREDC Agenda Preview	Teams Meeting
19/09/24	Business Call	Teams Meeting
18/09/24	Tainui Harris Stryder Eco Village	Elected Members Lounge. Great initiative of Otua locals addressing housing and social issues.
18/09/24	Lion Academy Training Opening	Te Mahinga. Dealing with trauma, anger, violence and stress
17/09/24	CEO and Pioneer Village Manager meeting	Pioneer Village
16/09/24	Comms Portfolio Meeting	Teams meeting
14/09/24	Des Mahoney Funeral Ngakahu Whenua	Kaitaia
12/09/24	Regional Growth Hui	Te Mahinga Innovation Park. Hon Shane Joes and key speakers gave an update of RIF projects
12/09/24	Kaikohe Place Making Project	Teams
12/09/24	Council Meeting	Council Chambers
10/09/24	Mayor and Councillor Catchup	Elected Members Lounge
10/09/24	Catchup potential local RIF project	Kerikeri
10/09/24	PHTTCCT Executive Monthly Meeting	Pioneer Village
06/09/24	Executive Review Committee	Te Mahinga Innovation Park
06/09/24	Extraordinary Council Meeting	Te Mahinga Innovation Park
06/09/24	Kaikohe Business Association Breakfast	Te Kona. Joe Dodd, Kaikohe New World, main speaker.
05/09/24	Pioneer Village Meeting	Pioneer Village

05/09/24	Catchup Paul and Wendy	Teams Meeting
05/09/24	Business Call	Teams Meeting
04/09/24	Te Miromiro - Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee Meeting	Council Chambers
04/09/24	Kaikohe Placemaking	Council Chambers
03/09/24	Te Puawaitanga Workshop	Council Chambers
02/09/24	Resident Opinion Survey Work Shop	Council Chambers
30/08/24	NZ Building People Awards Evening	<p>Papa Hawaiki Building Project Consultant, Trevor Griffiths, of Scope, won a highly commended award in the consultants category. It was great to see Papa Hawaiki featuring in a national awards night in Auckland.</p> 

Community Matters

This section should be completed for matters arising within the community, which Council need to be aware of. It could be related to ongoing projects, requests, feedback etc.

Topic	Comment
<p>Regional Growth Hui at Mahinga</p>	<p>I attended the Regional Growth Hui at Mahinga Innovation Centre where Shane Jones gave an update on the Regional Infrastructure Fund, RIF. At the meeting Northland's two power companies gave an overview of a proposal where a relatively small investment from central government, focused on Transpower transmission and distribution lines from Northland, could unlock an estimated one billion dollar investment in Northland's power industry. This would enable potentially 600MW of renewable power generation from Northland to be added to NZ's power grid.</p> <p>The current transmission line south does not have the capacity to push south the renewable power capable of being generated in the North.</p> <p>For Northland businesses to be competitive and grow, power is fundamental as everything we produce and export depends on energy, so creating a stable sustainable energy supply has to be a fundamental priority for government investment.</p> <p>Increasing the Geothermal base load and the renewable energy options would mean Northland would see lower wholesale energy costs, and opportunities for creating additional jobs and wealth for people in Northland.</p> <div data-bbox="774 506 1369 808">  <p>Investment in Northland's electricity infrastructure will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Reduce wholesale power prices → Defer major transmission investment to bring energy from the South → Create geographical & fuels diversity - Northland exporting energy to Auckland → Create jobs & prosperity for Northland </div>

Portfolio Update - Joint Regional Economic Development Committee

Elected members were invited to one, or more, of three meetings held in the far north by the CEO of Northland Inc, Paul Linton. The meetings were held in Kerikeri, Kaitia, and Kaikohe in that order. The purpose of the meetings was to provide elected members the opportunity to gain a greater understanding of the purpose of Northland Inc and what they have achieved. It also gave elected members the opportunity to ask questions and raise any concerns they may have.

Central government is increasingly asking Northland Councils to have an overall vision for the region and a single point of contact for regional development projects. Northland Inc as our Economic Development Agency was asked to coordinate the Regional Infrastructure Fund applications from Councils in the far north and this they did.

These generally have been big projects that have a regional impact and are driven by central government's desired outcomes. But what about the smaller rural communities spread right throughout the Far North. If all of our many communities can thrive then surely we have created positive economic development for the whole of the Far North. This is something Northland Inc was challenged to consider in the meetings held in the Far North. A good starting point is the respective community plans and how these can better be delivered at scale.

Northland Inc Quarterly Highlights September 2024

Please also read the Northland Inc Quarterly Highlights for September.

NORTHLAND INC QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2024

BUSINESS, INNOVATION & GROWTH TEAM



Each month, the Northland Inc Business, Innovation & Growth Team are out across the Northland region, meeting with businesses and assisting them on their growth journey through the administration of the Regional Business Partner Network.

Upcoming BIG Team Visits Around the Region:

9th October - The Seed, Dargaville

29th October - Biz Space, Kerikeri

13th November - Kaitaia Digital Hub, Kaitaia

18th November - Ngawha Innovation & Enterprise Park, Kaikohe

20th November - Kindred Co-working Space, Mangawhai

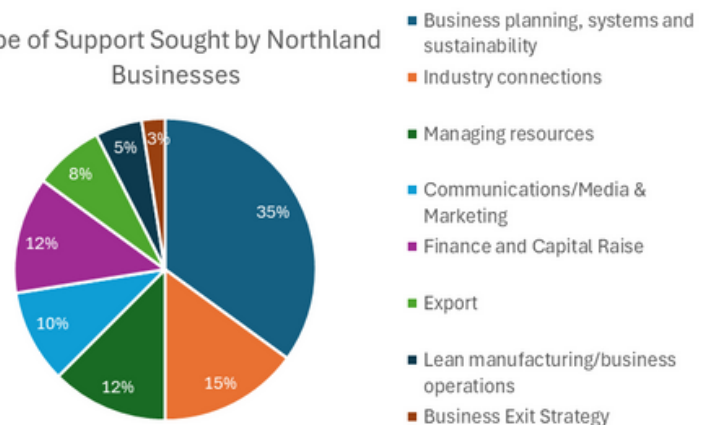
Based out of The Orchard in Whangārei, businesses are also able to [book a chat or online call with a Growth Advisor](#), free of charge, to help them navigate business growth and the support available across the region.

Business Engagement

In the year to date (mid September), Northland Inc's Business Innovation and Growth Team have engaged with 86 businesses across Northland through the Regional Business Partner Programme that they deliver. 34% of these businesses self-identify as being pakihi Māori.

As shown in the graph to the right, the businesses that the team have been engaging with have been seeking support predominantly in the areas of business planning, business systems and sustainability, developing industry connections and understanding how they better manage their resources (including human).

Type of Support Sought by Northland Businesses



Across the region businesses in the manufacturing industry are the ones our growth advisors are most commonly engaging with and are statistically prominent across all districts. In the Whangārei District, this is also coupled with construction and administrative/support service industries. In the Kaipara District, the retail trade industry is the next most common industry our growth advisors engage with and in the Far North District, engagement with businesses (other manufacturing industry) seems to be more diluted across a range of service based industries including accommodation and food, personal care, professional, scientific and technical, etc.

Callaghan Innovation:

[Callaghan Innovation Customer Navigator](#), Andrea Primrose-Netzler, works alongside the RBP team to support regional businesses who are interested in pursuing research and development and making use of innovative technology and systems within their businesses. **In late October, Callaghan Innovation will host an innovation event at Ngawha I&E Park**, focusing on regional businesses engaged in research and innovation. We will share further details as these become available.

Monthly Newsletters

Our BIG Team sends out monthly newsletters to the businesses they engage with and a wider set of stakeholders, which includes information about cool things that are happening and relevant events that are coming up for the business community. If you are interested in receiving them, click [HERE](#) to subscribe.

WHĀRIKI TE TAI TOKERAU

In April 2023 Northland Inc and Whāriki signed a Waka Hourua Agreement to solidify their collective commitment to advancing Māori business in Te Tai Tokerau.

Working alongside one another for the holistic well-being of pakihi owners, their staff, whanau, hapū and iwi, Whāriki have become an active and effective presence in the Northland business support landscape.

In September, **fifteen Māori businesses participated in the 'Chat AI' wānanga at Te Mahinga, Ngāwhā**, where they gained insights into leveraging AI in their sectors with a focus on customer service, marketing, and productivity.



In partnership with BNZ Whangārei, the team hosted the **'Pūtea Pū kōrero'** event, providing a valuable opportunity for Māori businesses to connect and seek expert advice on topics such as insurance, tax, GST, and business banking.

The latest information and events from Whāriki Te Tai Tokerau can be found at:

facebook.com/taitokeraumaoribusinessnetwork

TAI TOKERAU BUSINESS RESILIENCE PROJECT

The Business Resilience Project has now come to an end. Throughout the project we had over 1,900 business participants across the region take up training and connection opportunities, with over 70 workshops, one-to-one coaching, webinar series, mentorship programmes, and connection events, across everything from sales to finance to wellbeing. From a participation perspective across districts, roughly 38% of participants were based in the Far North, 36% in Whangarei and 26% in Kaipara.

August & September Training and Events Delivered:

- AI Pod (Online)
- Business Warrant of Fitness workshop (Whangārei)
- Site Supervisor Training (Te Hiku)
- Financial series for Māori businesses (Online)
- Sales 201 Series (Online)
- Succession & Progression Workshops (Dargaville, Whangārei)
- SME Management (Dargaville)
- Whangarei Business Women's Resilience Dinner (Whangarei)
- Finance 1:1 Training (Paihia)
- Wellbeing workshops (Whangārei)

We have had some great feedback from our businesses about how they're using new tools to strengthen and grow their businesses.

"Business Growth Stratagem with Courtney Pearce and his team have been transformational. My growth, in learning strategies that will enhance all areas of my strategic plan, has been empowering. I have new skills, with the knowledge of how to navigate areas I would never have considered. The clarity has given me more confidence to grow myself and my business." Georgina - Ninety Mile Ice

"The HR Essentials Pack was exactly what our small business needed! The coaching session with Kimberley really helped clarify everything to get our new systems in place". Dylan and Hollie – Northland Mobile Windscreens

Thank you to our delivery and steering group partners, NorthChamber, Whariki Tai Tokerau, the Kaitia Business Boosters alongside the Te Hiku Iwi Development Trust, Te Puni Kōkiri, and various Business Associations, as well as the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Northland Regional Council for enabling the success of the project. Thanks also to the service providers we have worked with to deliver such a wide range of training opportunities.



Leading Lights Women's Event (Whangārei)



Farmer Succession Event (Dargaville)

The Tourism Export Council of New Zealand's next annual conference will be held on 6th & 7th August 2025 in the Bay of Islands at the Copthorne Hotel & Resort near Waitangi and Paihia.

Through Northland Inc's ongoing relationship with TECNZ, Northland were offered the opportunity to pitch to hold the 2025 event, and were successful in securing it in partnership with Copthorne Hotel & Resort. The conference is hosted in a New Zealand region each year and offers 300 international tourism delegates the opportunity to hear the latest industry insights from compelling speakers and network.



Trade Manager Sarah Archer speaks at TRENZ 2024

The first round of funding allocations from central government's Regional Events Promotion Fund were announced on 1 August, with **support for six Northland events through the fund.**

Northland Inc worked alongside industry to submit the applications, with successful events being:

- Bay of Islands Music Festival (Bay of Islands)
- Bay of Islands Walking Weekend (Bay of Islands)
- Fritter Festival (Whangārei)
- Mangawhai Lions Food and Wine Festival (Kaipara)
- OKTOBERFEST (Kerikeri)
- The Great New Zealand BBQ (Waitangi)

The MBIE Northland Events Fund, administered by Northland Inc, has reopened for the **final round of funding, with applications open until Monday 4 November.**

Upcoming events supported through the fund include:

- Savour Northland (Region-wide, October)
- Kauri Coast Legends (Dargaville, October)
- Kerikeri Street Party (Kerikeri, November)
- Whangārei Fringe Festival (Whangārei, September/October)
- Whangārei Maritime Festival (Whangārei, October)
- Bay of Islands Show (Bay of Islands, November)

Further information on the final round of funding can be found on the [Northland Inc website](#).

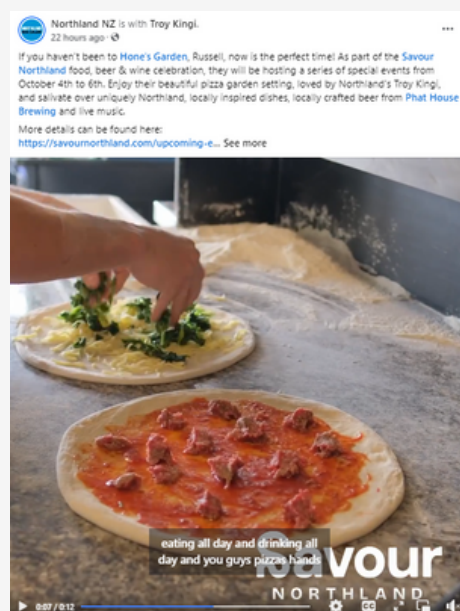
SAVOUR NORTHLAND

Momentum is building around the upcoming [Savour Northland event](#), Northland's very own celebration of our fantastic food and beverage industry. There are now **121 confirmed events happening across the region between 04 - 28 October**, with a range of enticing unique experiences, workshops, foodie tours, markets and trip to sip events luring visitors and locals alike. Alongside these events, **the [Savour Northland Challenge](#) will see restaurants, cafes, bars and food trucks can take up the challenge to showcase regional produce with culinary and liquid delights**, providing another incentive for visitors to head North during the event.

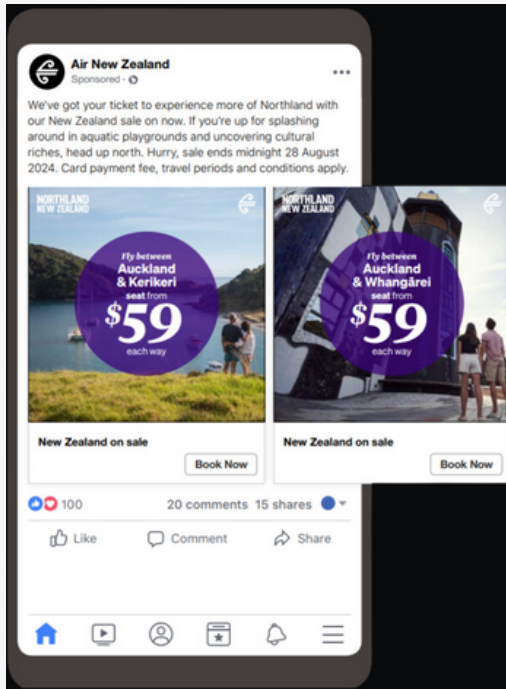
The intention to develop Northland's food and beverage offering began as a specific action within the [Taitokerau Northland Destination Management Plan \(page 21\)](#). This was evolved into the [Food & Beverage Action Plan](#), where content and itineraries were developed alongside [a campaign to promote the region's food and beverage offering in Spring 2022](#).

Many hours of industry collaboration, hui, planning and discussion later,, Savour Northland will launch in October with the support of the regional food and beverage industry, alongside fantastic sponsors including Air New Zealand, NZME, Cuisine Magazine, Northland Winegrowers Association and many more.

A marketing campaign has launched to support the event, with activity running across Cuisine Magazine, Newstalk ZB, Coast FM, The Hits, the Northern Advocate, NZ Herald online and social media activity.



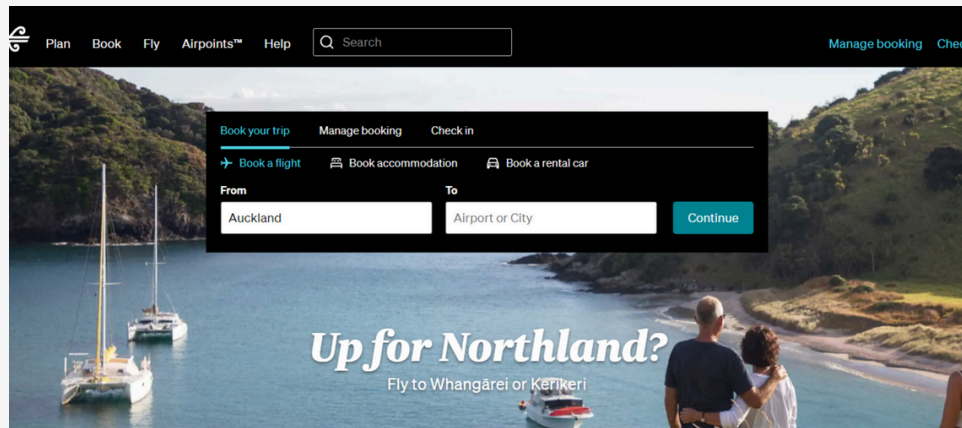
AIR NEW ZEALAND PARTNERSHIP



The Regional Tourism Organisation lead a partnership with Air New Zealand in August, targeting travel in Spring onwards. The campaign included video content running across YouTube & TVNZ, social media content across META, digital display activity and Kia Ora Magazine content to maximise reach with potential visitors.

It also included a retail campaign featuring Whangārei and Bay of Islands flights and highlighting Air New Zealand's Trip Starter tool showcasing 65 of the incredible experiences Northland has to offer around the entire region.

We were able to secure maximum exposure for the region through a home page takeover, and the flight sale was extended to include both direct flights from Auckland and indirect flights from Wellington and Christchurch starting at just \$59.



VENTURE TARANAKI MOU

Northland Inc have recently signed an MOU with Venture Taranaki, which will see both regions working more collaboratively together as they pursue opportunities for optimal land use and primary sector-based value chain diversification within their respective regions. By aligning efforts, the partnership strengthens both region's ability to support farmers, landowners, growers, and businesses in making the transition to more sustainable practices, while opening doors to new industries and export markets.

The MOU looks to extract greater value out of the existing initiatives that both regions have- Branching Out in Taranaki and Tuputupu – Grow Northland in Northland. These initiatives are dedicated to exploring high-value, optimal land use alternatives, commercialisation of new opportunities, and the development of value-add products and manufacturing opportunities and the MOU will help them to transfer and share the various information, like trial designs, trial data, lab tests results, market insights, etc. generated through the initiatives for the benefit of both regions.

Further involvement from other Regional Development Agencies across New Zealand is encouraged and this will be top of mind when the Northland Inc Tuputupu team visit Southland in mid-October to explore some of their leading projects in the primary sector space.

EDNZ AWARD NOMINATIONS

As part of Economic Development New Zealand's annual conference, which will take place in Dunedin near the end of October, they have an awards segment dedicated to celebrating best practice.

This year Northland Inc has nominated three of their work programmes/projects for a range of awards. These include:

- The development of Te Rerenga in the "Integrated Strategy" category. This category celebrates those who have gone beyond siloed planning to foster a truly interconnected and synergistic approach to achieving broader outcomes/goals
- Northland Peanut Trials in the "Innovation" category, recognising initiatives that have showcased excellence and inspire others to adopt similar innovative practices that drive positive change and economic impact
- Regional Economic Development Agencies Primary Sector Collaboration Initiative in the "Collaboration" category, as it showcases the power of strategic alliances in driving economic growth and prosperity.

FOUNDATION FOR ARABLE RESEARCH (FAR) TRIALS

The Northland Peanut Trials project has come to an end, after a variety of trial activity occurring across both of the Far North and Kaipara Districts over the last three growing seasons. In the final season of the trial about 5ha of peanuts were planted across six sites located in Houhora, Awanui, Pouto, Kai Iwi Lakes and two in Te Kopuru.

The project demonstrated that commercial peanut production is feasible in Northland, with yields comparable to established growing regions in favourable conditions. High-quality peanut butter was produced from Northland grown nuts. With continued development, peanuts have potential to become a valuable new crop for Northland, providing economic opportunities for growers and a locally sourced product for manufacturers. However, there are some challenges that would need to be overcome for an industry to successfully develop, particularly in terms of the scale of peanuts required and the large up front capital investment that would be required in processing infrastructure. Further research to better understand/refine agronomic practices (e.g. weed and pest management, irrigation, etc.) is also recommended to ensure more consistent and higher yielding outcomes.

As part of pursuing this latter point, Northland Inc have leveraged their involvement in the project to partner with FAR to undertake another season of peanut trials, as well as other crops. These trials will involve planting multiple crops across three 1-hectare plots to provide ongoing insights into the best growing practices, crop rotation strategies, and yield optimisation.

The trials are being undertaken in partnership with three growers/farmers located in Te Kopuru and the proposed crops are currently soya, sunflowers, peanuts and maize. It is the first time that FAR are looking to do in grounds trials on something other than maize in Northland.



HOSTING MPI

Northland hosted a small delegation of senior staff from MPI in region this month, with a particular focus on opportunities to increase exports from the primary sector (the delegation included MPI's Chief Transformation Officer). As part of their visit into the region, we spent the morning in Whangarei and then got them out on the road, taking them to the Otawere Reservoir, Ngawha Innovation & Enterprise Park and the Plant & Food Research Site in Kerikeri. They had spent the previous day in the Kaipara visiting NARF and viewing other primary sector related activity in the district.

The visit helped to build their understanding of the primary and associated manufacturing sectors in Northland and provided them with an insight into how strategic investment from Central Government into infrastructure, research and development and key projects, can help enable Northland to realise its export potential in this space. Some good connections were made and a range of follow up activity is underway.

SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

The Social Impact Assessment of Northland's pipeline of major infrastructure projects was developed to understand the impacts which may arise as a result of proposed works across the region. Produced by Quigley & Watts Ltd, and funded by Northland Inc, Te Whatu Ora, Ministry of Social Development, and Kāinga Ora, the report and a summary of findings are now available on the [Northland Inc website](#).

By understanding the major infrastructure development pipeline for Taitokerau Northland, the report aims to lay the foundation for a pathway to support the region in successfully developing these projects, including ways to maximise opportunities and reduce potential risks. **The areas of focus are the towns, cities, and surrounding areas of Whangārei, Kaitiaki, and Dargaville, along with a wider regional assessment.**

There has been over \$10b worth of infrastructure projects identified in the next 10 years across the region, with potential impacts on the construction and infrastructure sectors, Māori, Pasifika, and low income communities, and small and medium businesses and their workforces.

The report, its recommendations and implications will be discussed regionally through the RLG (NIF) Group and through conversations with NorthChamber, Business Associations, Councils and others. Read the report here: <https://www.northlandnz.com/major-infrastructure-projects/>