

Name: John Vujcich

Ward: Far North District Council

Date: 28/02/2025

Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting Topic	Wellington
28/02/25	LGNZ Rural & Provincial Sector meeting	Wellington Will provide detail in the next members report
27/02/25	LGNZ All-Of-Local-Government Meeting	Wellington Will provide detail in the next members report
26/02/25	Elected Members	Teams Meeting
26/02/25	Te Pātukurea Draft Spatial Plan Review	Council Chambers
25/02/25	Regional Deals Finalisation	Online
25/02/25	Te Koukou - Transport and Infrastructure Committee Meeting	Council Chambers
25/02/25	Te Koukou - Transport and Infrastructure Committee Workshop	Council Chambers
21/02/25	Northland Regional Deal oral briefing	Teams Meeting
21/02/25	Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Meeting - Regional Deals	NRC Council Chambers Whangarei See general update below.
20/02/25	Business Call Meeting	Teams Meeting
19/02/25	Te Miromiro Assurance. Risk and Finance Committee	Council Chambers
18/02/25	ARF Dinner Catchup Chairman	Kerikeri
18/02/25	Pou Herenga Tai Cycle Trail Trust Meeting	Pioneer Village Kaikohe
18/02/25	PVK Working Group	Pioneer Village Kaikohe
18/02/25	Comms & Engagement Portfolio	Teams Meeting

16/02/25	Social Catchup Pioneer Village volunteers	Pioneer Village
13/02/25	Council Meeting	Council Chambers
12/02/25	Mangungu Treaty Celebrations	Celebrations of the largest signing of the Treaty at Mangungu. See comments below
11/02/25	Local Water Done Well Workshop	Teams Meeting
11/02/25	Te Huia - Executive Review Committee	Elected Member Lounge
11/02/25	Cycle Trail Executive	Pioneer Village
10/02/25	Annual Plan 2025/26 Summary Workshop	Council Chambers
04/02/25	Pioneer Village Kaikohe Working Group	Pioneer Village
03/02/25	Meeting with MP Andy Foster in Whangarei. Far North Development priorities	Mayoral Chambers Whangarei.
31/01/25	Joint Regional Economic Development Committee - Workshop	Whangarei
31/01/25	Joint Regional Economic Development Committee session with Northland Corporate Group	Whangarei
30/01/25	Extraordinary Northland Forward Together Strategic Workshop– Fluoridation presentation	Whangarei Chambers
28/01/25	Te Pātukurea Spatial Plan 2:00 PM – Future of Rāwene Domain	Council Chambers

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	Comments
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Regional Deals Update

There has been interest in the Government regional deal application that various regions have submitted to the Government.

FNDC submitted a “light touch” response to central government on the 28th of February and this has been received.

We are one of a number of Councils who have submitted; the government has stated a commitment to choosing one regional deal this year.

We want to provide clarity around this process, its intent, and what it means for Northland.

1. This is not a new set of priorities

The regional deal application is simply a compilation of existing economic priorities that have been widely consulted on over recent years. These priorities align with:

- The Regional Destination Management Plan
- Te Rerenga – The Economic Wellbeing Pathway
- Purunga o Te Raki – The Regional Skills and Workforce Strategy

These strategies already represent a broad cross-section of regional economic needs, aspirations, and opportunities that have been shaped through extensive regional input. The submission of these priorities does not introduce anything new but rather seeks to advance existing strategic priorities in a structured way.

2. No agreement with the Government has been made yet

This is simply the first step in the process – an initial expression of interest to signal that Northland is open to engaging with the Government on a regional deal. At this stage:

- No agreement has been made with the Government
- The Government has not yet agreed to engage with Northland
- The submission is to seek engagement, not to negotiate terms

3. A time-sensitive process with confidentiality requirements

The Government has set a very short timeframe for this initial stage, requiring a submission within weeks. Additionally, they have stipulated that the contents of any potential deal remain confidential at this point.

4. Focus on long-term regional infrastructure and economic growth

Should the Government agree to engage, any potential deal would primarily be led through local government and focus on regional infrastructure needs and future economic growth opportunities. This would not be about short-term funding but rather about securing long-term investment and support for Northland's economic development.

5. Inclusion of Māori economic priorities

Te Kahu o Taonui has identified several key priorities, which have been incorporated into the initial document. These include a strong focus on:

- Growing the Māori economy
- Enhancing the productivity of whenua Māori
- Supporting Māori businesses (pakihi Māori) to thrive

These align with the broader economic vision for Northland and ensure that any potential regional deal recognises and supports Māori economic aspirations.

6. Future opportunities for wider engagement

If the Government agrees to engage with Northland on a regional deal, there will be opportunities for wider stakeholder engagement around different aspects of the deal. However, at this initial stage, the focus is on securing a conversation with the Government.

We appreciate the passion and commitment of our regional leaders, iwi, hapū, business sector, and local government in advocating for Northland's growth. This process is the first step toward ensuring that Northland has a seat at the table in shaping its future.

Mangungu Treaty Celebration

The Mangungu celebration, site of the largest signing of the Treaty, was a family-friendly celebration with many local people, young and old, in attendance. It was great to see youth from the local Kura participating; I didn't see a protest flag anywhere, nor controversial debates. The mayor gave an entertaining talk and there was laughter and smiles all around. There was a great sense of unity and peace, while many remarked on the beautiful view over the tranquil harbour.

The Twin Coast Cycle Trail and Heritage NZ are helping keep the mission station at Mangungu open on weekends for visitors, especially those cycling the Coast to Coast Trail. Much more can be done to make the area a premium visitor destination based around the Mangungu celebration of the Treaty, and the big attractor, Waitangi Day.

If you think about it there's a diverse range of small tourist attraction in the area which collectively are significant. There's the Treaty celebration event, the historic mission house to visit, local history and culture, Great Rides cycle trail, Ranui on Hokianga, and Wairere boulders. Places to stay - the 5 star accommodation at Riverhead Villa; Horeke Boutique Hotel, one of oldest pubs in NZ; Okaihau Rail Stay. Nearby the historic town of Kohukohu with its oldest stone bridge,



FNDC Mayor speaking at Mangungu in the big tent

arts and craft. Historic Rawene, with places to eat, stay, arts and crafts, its puzzle shop and Clendon House. Further west there's Manea, Waipoua forest and the Kauri Museum. Centrally there's Ngawha's famous geothermal springs, St Michael's church, a historic battle site, and Kaikohe's Pioneer Village. Eastward we have the famous Bay of Islands, great beaches, great fishing and diving spots, Russell, The Duke, Waitangi Museum, Kawiti caves, and Kawakawa's steam train. We have great vineyards, famous golf courses, galleries, live entertainment, and many parks.

The point is we have a lot to offer, but as individual attractions by themselves they generally cannot attract the visitor numbers to grow. When they are part of a tourism cluster, marketing is shared and more impactful. The visitor experience is much broader, more attractive, and the supporting services can be shared, enabling the smaller operators to concentrate on what they do best. A cluster also creates a vitality and synergy of ideas, generating excitement and innovation. The whole community will benefit, jobs will be created, and new businesses will be established.

We have an ideal opportunity to build a tourism cluster that would enable and encourage many tourist-related businesses to grow and thrive.