

AGENDA

Ordinary Council Meeting

Membership:

Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania - Chairperson

Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

Cr Ann Court

Cr Felicity Foy

Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira

Cr Babe Kapa

Cr Penetaui Kleskovic

Cr Steve McNally

Cr Mate Radich

Cr Tāmati Rākena

Cr John Vujcich



**Te Kaunihera
o Te Hiku o te Ika**
Far North District Council

Thursday, 8 May 2025

Time: 10:00am

**Location: Council Chambers,
Memorial Ave, Kaikohe**

**Far North District Council
Ordinary Council Meeting**
will be held in the Council Chamber, Memorial Ave, Kaikohe on:
Thursday 8 May 2025 at 10:00 AM

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1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER

Ka tuku mātou kia kaha mai ngā māngai kua whiriwhirihia mō Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika ki te mahi me te ngākau auaha me te whakamahi i ngā pūkenga me te mātauranga i roto i ngā wānanga me ngā whakataunga kia whakatūria ai tētahi Hapori e matatika ana, e tū kotahi ana ka mutu ka whakapiki anō i te oranga o tō tātou rohe, ka whakatau anō i ngā take o te rohe i runga i te tika me te pono.

We ask that through Council discussions and decisions the representatives we have elected may govern the Far North District with imagination, skill and wisdom to achieve a fairer and more united Community that enhances the wellbeing of our district and solves the District's problems efficiently and effectively.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA ME NGĀ PĀNGA MEMA / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members need to stand aside from decision-making when a conflict arises between their role as a Member of the Council and any private or other external interest they might have. This note is provided as a reminder to Members to review the matters on the agenda and assess and identify where they may have a pecuniary or other conflict of interest, or where there may be a perception of a conflict of interest.

If a Member feels they do have a conflict of interest, they should publicly declare that at the start of the meeting or of the relevant item of business and refrain from participating in the discussion or voting on that item. If a Member thinks they may have a conflict of interest, they can seek advice from the Chief Executive Officer or the Manager - Democracy Services (preferably before the meeting).

It is noted that while members can seek advice the final decision as to whether a conflict exists rests with the member.

[Elected Member - Register of Interests](#)

3 NGĀ TONO KŌRERO / DEPUTATIONS

No requests for deputations were received at the time of the Agenda going to print.

4 NGĀ KŌRERO A TE KAHIKA / MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

5 HE PĀNUI WHAKAMŌTINI / NOTICE OF MOTION**5.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - SWEETWATER AQUIFER****File Number: A5173866**

I, Councillor Mate Radich, give notice that at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 8 May 2025, I intend to move the following motion:

MŌTINI / MOTION

That Council request that an independent judicial review be done immediately on the Sweetwater Aquifer.

TAKE / RATIONALE

The motion was verbally mentioned at Te Koukou-Transport and Infrastructure Committee meeting on Wednesday 23 April. I, Councillor Radich will speak to the rationale of the motion at the ordinary Council meeting to be held 8 May 2025.

I commend this Notice of Motion to Council.

ĀPITI HANGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Notice of Motion - Sweetwater Aquifer - A5173863**  

Notice of Motion: Council Meeting, Thursday 8th April 2025

From: Cr Mate Radich

Date: 22/04/2025

Subject: Request for an immediate judicial review of the Sweetwater Aquifer.

Motion:

That Council request that an independent judicial review be done immediately on the Sweetwater Aquifer.

6 TE WHAKAAETANGA O NGĀ MENETI O MUA / CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

File Number: A5056470

Author: Marysa Maheno, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The minutes are attached to allow Council to confirm that the minutes are a true and correct record of previous meetings.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Council confirm the minutes of the Council meeting held 10 April 2025 are a true and correct record.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Local Government Act 2002 Schedule 7 Section 28 states that a local authority must keep minutes of its proceedings. The minutes of these proceedings duly entered and authenticated as prescribed by a local authority are prima facie evidence of those meetings.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

The minutes of the meetings are attached.

Far North District Council Standing Orders Section 27.3 states that no discussion shall arise on the substance of the minutes in any succeeding meeting, except as to their correctness.

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

The reason for the recommendation is to confirm the minutes are a true and correct record of the previous meetings.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications or the need for budgetary provision as a result of this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025-04-10 Council Minutes - A5153798 [↓](#) 

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	This is a matter of low significance.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	This report complies with the Local Government Act 2002 Schedule 7 Section 28.
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	It is the responsibility of each meeting to confirm their minutes therefore the views of another meeting are not relevant.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	There are no implications for Māori in confirming minutes from previous meeting. Any implications on Māori arising from matters included in meeting minutes should be considered as part of the relevant report.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	This report is asking for minutes to be confirmed as true and correct record, any interests that affect other people should be considered as part of the individual reports.
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	There are no financial implications or the need for budgetary provision arising from this report
Chief Financial Officer review.	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report.

**MINUTES OF FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL AVE, KAIKOHE
ON THURSDAY, 10 APRIL 2025 AT 10:05 AM**

- PRESENT:** Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania, Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford, Cr Ann Court, Cr Felicity Foy, Cr Babe Kapa, Cr Penetaui Kleskovic (online), Cr Steve McNally, Cr Mate Radich (online), Cr John Vujcich.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board Chair Belinda Ward, Te Hiku Community Board Deputy Chair John Stewart, Kawiti Waetford (Kaiwhakawhiti Reo – Language Interpreter)(online).
- STAFF PRESENT:** Guy Holroyd (Chief Executive Officer), Jacine Warmington (Group Manager – Strategic Relationships), Tanya Proctor (Head of Infrastructure), Emma Healy (Chief of Staff), Roger Ackers (Group Manager – Planning and Policy), Nicola Smith (Acting Group Manager – Community and Engagement), Charlie Billington (Group Manager – Corporate Services), Ed Varley (Manager – Transportation), Ken Lewis (Manager – Communications and Engagement), Michelle Rockell (Team Leader – Property Management), Rebecca Rowsell (Senior Solicitor), Aisha Huriwai (Manager – Democracy Services), Marysa Maheno (Democracy Advisor), Penelope Kavanagh (Executive Assistant to Group Manager – Strategic Relationships), Ruben Garcia (Acting Group Manager – Delivery and Operations)(online), Robin Rawson (Parks and Reserves Planner), Elizabeth Stacey (Team Leader – Capital Works & Renewals).

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER

Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania commenced the meeting with a karakia at 10:05 am.

2 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA ME NGĀ PĀNGA MEMA / APOLOGIES AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

APOLOGY

RESOLUTION 2025/31

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania
Seconded: Cr Babe Kapa

That the apologies received from Councillors Tāmāti Rākena and Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, be accepted and a leave of absence granted, and note apologies from Kaikohe Hokianga Community Board Chair Chicky Rudkin and Te Hiku Community Board Chair Adele Gardner.

CARRIED

3 NGĀ KŌRERO A TE KAHIKA / MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Acknowledged the passing of Hinewhare Harawira - sister of Hone Harawira and sister-in-law of Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira.
- Acknowledged the absence of Te Hiku Community Board Chair Adele Gardner whose husband is very unwell.
- Welcomed Te Hiku Community Board Deputy Chair John Stewart who is sitting in on his first Council meeting.
- Acknowledged and welcomed Nicola Smith who has stepped in as Acting Group Manager of Community and Engagement.

- 50th Te Tai Tokerau Kapa Haka Festival which is being livestreamed via Te Hiku Media today and hosted by Te Kura Takiwā o Ōpononi. Also acknowledged all three Community Boards who granted funding towards the festival.
- Regional Deals which are a significant opportunity that have been put up by the current Government. Far North District Council have submitted alongside Whangārei District, Kaipara District and Northland Regional Councils.

4 HE PĀNUI WHAKAMŌTINI / NOTICE OF MOTION

4.1 NOTICE OF MOTION - PIONEER VILLAGE KAIKOHE

Agenda item 5.1 document number A5145291, pages 5 - 69 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/32

Moved: Cr John Vujcich
 Seconded: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

That Council:

- a) **approve additional funding allocation through the remaining Annual Plans within the Long-Term Plan (LTP) 2024-2027, and subsequent Long-Term Plans, to secure two full-time staff positions for Pioneer Village Kaikohe - a Manager and a Curator - to address existing workforce constraints and enhance operational sustainability; and**
- b) **include the Pioneer Village Kaikohe in the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Strategy, ensuring recognition of Pioneer Village Kaikohe’s contributions and funding for preservation of heritage buildings, collections, and infrastructure upgrades.**

In Favour: Kōwhai-Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford, and Crs Babe Kapa, Penetaui Kleskovic, Steve McNally, Mate Radich and John Vujcich

Against: Crs Ann Court and Felicity Foy

Abstained: Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania

CARRIED

At 10:47 am Kōwhai-Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford left the room.

At 10:48 am Kōwhai-Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford returned to the room.

5 TE WHAKAAETANGA O NGĀ MENETI O MUA / CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Agenda item 6.1 document number A5056465, pages 70 - 85 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/33

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania
 Seconded: Cr Ann Court

That Council

- a) **confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Council meeting held 13 March 2025 are a true and correct record with an amendment that Cr Penetaui Kleskovic was an apology for lateness rather than absence; and**
- b) **confirm the minutes of Extraordinary Council meetings held 19 March and 2 April 2025 are a true and correct record.**

CARRIED

5.2 COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES - MARCH 2025

Agenda item 8.3 document number A5070104, pages 250 - 257 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/34

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

That Council note the following Community Board minutes:

- **18 March 2025 Te Hiku Community Board; and**
- **20 March 2025 Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board.**

CARRIED

At 11:10 am Cr Babe Kapa left the room.

At 11:10 am Cr Babe Kapa returned to the room.

The meeting adjourned at 11:13 am and resumed at 11:43 am.

6 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

6.1 APPLICATION FOR EASEMENT OVER A RUSSELL ESPLANADE RESERVE

Agenda item 7.1 document number A5089828, pages 86 - 101 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/35

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Cr Ann Court

That Council as the administering body of the Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve, Lot 5 DP 79476, (without title) and pursuant to its powers under section 48(1) Reserves Act 1977:

- 1. determine under section 48(3) Reserves Act 1977 that public notice is not required as the reserve will not be materially altered, and public use and access is not affected; and**
- 2. approve the granting of a stormwater drainage easement (shown as B on Plan 24495) over the local purpose reserve, subject to it:**
 - a. meeting Reserves Act 1977 requirements, at no cost to Council**
 - b. having a condition imposed that requires the applicant to use materials and design that protect the amenity values of the beach area.**

CARRIED

6.2 GROUND LEASE REQUESTS OVER KAIKOHE LANDFILL

Agenda item 7.2 document number A5094423, pages 102 - 106 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/36

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Council leave to lie item 7.2 – Ground Lease Requests Over Kaikohe Landfill pending further information.

CARRIED

6.3 NEW GROUND LEASE TO KOHUKOHU BOWLING CLUB INCORPORATED OVER 22 BEACH ROAD, KOHUKOHU

Agenda item 7.3 document number A5094490, pages 107 - 113 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/37

Moved: Cr John Vujcich

Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Council:

- a) commence the process on the granting of a new ground lease to Kohukohu Bowling Club Incorporated over part of the Recreation Reserve being Part Lot 2 DP 23934 and Pt Sec 81 Blk X Mangamuka SD, approximately 2,555.4 square metres, held in New Zealand Gazette 1981 page 1917 held in Record of Title NA636/269;
- b) the terms of the proposed lease shall be:
 - Term: 30 Years (10+10+10)
 - Annual Rental: \$121 plus GST for 2024/25 and reviewed annually in conjunction with the FNDC Fees and Charges Schedule; and
- c) appoint the Kaikohe – Hokianga Community Board to hear any submissions received in response to the consultation process and to make recommendations to Council.

CARRIED

6.4 APPLICATION FOR EASEMENT OVER WAIPAPA ESPLANADE RESERVE

Agenda item 7.4 document number A5102021, pages 114 - 136 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/38

Moved: Cr Ann Court

Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Council as the administering body of the Local Purpose (Esplanade) Reserve, Lot 3 DP 376253, (held in CFR 318792) and pursuant to its powers under section 48(1) Reserves Act 1977:

- 1. determine under section 48(3) Reserves Act 1977 that public notice is not required as the reserve will not be materially altered, and public use and access is not affected; and
- 2. approve the granting of a stormwater drainage easement (shown as A on LT Plan 605935) over the local purpose reserve, subject to it:
 - a. meeting Reserves Act 1977 requirements, at no cost to Council
 - b. including a condition that requires the landowner benefiting from the easement to provide at their costs an access structure over the drain, if the reserve becomes part of an accessible network.

CARRIED

6.5 THE STRAND, KORORĀREKA/RUSSELL TRAFFIC TRIAL EXTENSION

Agenda item 7.5 document number A5117808, pages 137 - 147 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/39

Moved: Cr Ann Court
 Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

That Council approve extending the existing Traffic Trial, as currently constructed, until Monday 1 September 2025.

CARRIED

6.6 BAY OF ISLANDS RUN WALK FESTIVAL

Agenda item 7.6 document number A5119750, pages 148 - 153 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/40

Moved: Cr John Vujcich
 Seconded: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

That Council approve the proposed temporary road closures to accommodate the safe operations of the Bay of Islands Run Walk Festival 2025.

CARRIED

6.7 NORTHLAND INC STATEMENT OF INTENT

Agenda item 7.7 document number A5129476, pages 154 - 193 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/41

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania
 Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Council approve the following to be tabled as an agenda item at the 29 April 2025 Joint Regional Economic Development Committee meeting:

That Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika / Far North District Council request that the Committee make the following changes to the Northland Inc Statement of Intent 2025/26 – 2028/29

- i) That the Statement of Intent explicitly reference and acknowledge Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika / Far North District Council’s Te Ao Māori Framework – Te Pae o Uta as a core strategic document driving decision making on economic development in the Far North District.**
- ii) That the Statement of Intent explicitly state that Northland Inc will give effect to Te Pae O Uta when visiting the Far North District and while working within the jurisdiction of Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika / Far North District Council.**
- iii) That all listings of Shareholder Councils be done in alphabetical order in the Statement of Intent.**
- iv) That the Statement of Intent contain short biographies and photos of the Northland Inc Board Members and the Elected Members from each Shareholder Council that are on the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee.**
- v) That the Key Performance Indicators in the Statement of Intent for each of the four Pou and five enablers be explicitly based on delivering measurable outcomes and opposed to undertaking activities.**
- vi) That Key Performance Indicators be broken down by Shareholder District and**

then by ward for Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika / Far North District Council.

- vii) That Pou Four – Innovation and Enterprise include the following Key Performance Indicators broken down by Shareholder Council and then by ward in the Far North District;
- Number of new businesses added (net growth)
 - Bankruptcies
 - Unemployment
 - Vacancy rates – commercial
 - Greenfield vs Brownfield new businesses added
 - Increase average salaries/income.
- viii) That the Statement of Intent include Key Performance Indicators that measure how growing relationships contribute to growing the economy.
- ix) That the Statement of Intent include a Key Performance Indicator that measures engagement with Māori establishing businesses in the Far North District.
- x) That all the Key Performance Indicators in the Statement of Intent demonstrate how they will deliver on the long-term (2040) Outcome Indicators captured in Te Rerenga.
- xi) That the Statement of Intent include a Key Performance Indicator for the administration and delivery of regular governance to governance meetings between the Northland Inc Board and the governing bodies of the Shareholder Councils.
- xii) That the Statement of Intent include a requirement to provide regular financial reporting to each Shareholder Council on Northland Inc activities.
- xiii) That the Statement of Intent replace the reference to Return on Investment with a Key Performance Indicator that demonstrates measurable economic growth in the Shareholder Districts therefore demonstrating the value add that Northland Inc brings to each Shareholder District.
- xiv) That the Statement of Intent include a clause that all major projects must be at the approval of the Shareholders and must have explicit objectives that deliver on economic growth Key Performance Indicators distributed across all the Shareholder Districts.
- xv) That Northland Inc focus on the core activities of economic development and growth, be empowered to deliver outcomes based on these activities alone and that this is explicitly captured in the Statement of Intent.
- xvi) That the Statement of Intent remove all references to climate change and climate change related Key Performance Indicators.
- xvii) That Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika / Far North District Council does not support the creation of specific roles at Northland Inc for the management and support of inward delegations.
- xviii) That Northland Inc check for grammar and spelling of English and Te Reo in the document before it is finalised
- xix) That the Statement of Intent include reference to Toi Mana.
- xx) That Northland Inc make a submission and advocate for district plan and planning processes relating to economic development.

Abstained: Cr John Vujcich

CARRIED

At 12:23 pm Cr Penetaui Kleskovic left the meeting.

6.8 PROPOSED REMIT - SECURITY SYSTEM PAYMENTS FOR ELECTED MEMBERS

Agenda item 7.8 document number A5133206, pages 194 - 201 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/42

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Council

- a) support the Security System Payments remit for submission to Local Government New Zealand; and
- b) support a remit for a national led approach to address the sale alcohol fees schedule.

CARRIED

7 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

7.1 COUNCIL OPEN RESOLUTIONS UPDATE APRIL 2025

Agenda item 8.1 document number A5056509, pages 202 - 219 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/43

Moved: Cr John Vujcich

Seconded: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

That Council receive the report Council Open Resolution Update April 2025.

CARRIED

7.2 MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Agenda item 8.2 document number A5056543, pages 224 - 224 refers.

RESOLUTION 2025/44

Moved: Cr John Vujcich

Seconded: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

That Council note the reports submitted by Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania, Kōwhai-Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford, Cr Court, Cr Halkyard-Harawira, Cr Kapa, Cr Vujcich and tabled member report from Cr Tāmami Rākena and the Local Government New Zealand Four Monthly report that was omitted as an attachment to Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania's report.

CARRIED

Attachments tabled at meeting

- 1 Kahika Moko Tepania - LGNZ_four-monthly_report_for_members_February_2025
- 2 Members Report - Cr Rākena

At 12:53 pm Kōwhai-Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford left the room.

At 12:56 pm Kōwhai-Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford returned to the room.

8 TE WĀHANGA TŪMATAITI / PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 2025/45

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania
 Seconded: Kōwhai - Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
8.1 - Confirmation of Previous Minutes - Public Excluded	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
8.2 - Community Board Public Excluded Minutes	s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation where a right of appeal lies to any court or tribunal against the final decision of the Council in these proceedings	s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the part of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation
<u>Supplementary Item</u> 8.6 - Direction to Fluoridate Water Supplies Kaitāia, Kerikeri - Revisiting the Notice of Motion	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7

<p>8.3 - New Lease Request Over Part 6 South Road, Kaitāia - Far North Community Foodbank Trust</p>	<p>s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>
<p>8.4 - General Employment Matter</p>	<p>s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>
<p>8.5 - Council Public Excluded Open Resolutions Update April 2025</p>	<p>s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>
<p>And that the Community Board Chairs, Te Hiku Community Board Deputy Chair and Kaiwhakawhiti Reo Kawiti Waetford remain in the public excluded part of the meeting.</p>		
<p>CARRIED</p>		

DECISIONS AND INFORMATION TO BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC:

Direction to Fluoridate Water Supplies Kaitāia, Kerikeri – Revisiting the Notice of Motion

That Council receive the report ‘Direction to Fluoridate Water Supplies Kaitāia, Kerikeri - Revisiting the Notice of Motion’ and resolves;

- **not to cancel the fluoridation of Far North waters until local residents on town water supply agree to do so; specifically**
- **not to prohibit the implementation of the Direction to fluoridate Kerikeri and Kaitāia water supplies, issued July 2022 pursuant to section 116E of the Health Act 1956 by the Director-General of Health.**

9 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSING PRAYER

Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania closed the meeting with a karakia at 3:02 pm.

10 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 3:02 pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 8 May 2025.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

7 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

7.1 DEVELOPMENT OF A SMOKEFREE/VAPEFREE POLICY

File Number: A4951657

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TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek approval to develop a smokefree/vapefree policy for the Far North District.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council does not have a smokefree/vapefree policy.
- A smokefree/vapefree policy would align with the approach of other Northland local councils as well as councils around New Zealand.
- The policy would help meet national smokefree goals, enhance public health, and support a cleaner environment.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the development of a smokefree/vapefree policy for the Far North District.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

In 2021, the government set a national goal of fewer than 5% of New Zealanders smoking by 2025. The associated *Smokefree 2025 Action Plan* focused on reducing smoking initiation, increasing quitting rates, and reducing exposure to second-hand smoke.

The Council can support the Smokefree 2025 goal via a smokefree/vapefree policy. This policy would be non-statutory (it is not covered in legislation), is not mandatory, and cannot be enforced by the Council, as there is no supporting legislation.

A smokefree/vapefree policy can:

- 1) designate Council-owned or administered public spaces as smokefree and vapefree
- 2) ensure that signage clearly identifies these areas for the public
- 3) commit to partnering with other relevant agencies such as Health NZ and Hauora (Māori health) organisations to promote these areas.

Under legislation, Council's cannot:

- Regulate smoking and vaping on private property
- Restrict or limit vape shops – this is managed by the Vaping Regulatory Authority within the Ministry of Health
- Restrict or limit areas covered by the Act: e.g.
 - smokefree/vapefree areas such as workplaces, schools etc
 - smoking and vaping in vehicles
 - promotion and advertising of tobacco and vapes.

Council's previous *Reserves Policy 2017* included a provision to promote Council-owned parks, playgrounds, and reserves as smokefree areas via signage and publicity.

The *Parks and Reserves Policy 2022* replaced the 2017 Reserves Policy but omitted smokefree provisions as spaces and places other than parks and reserves could also be smokefree. Therefore, Council currently does not have a policy in this area.

Legislative Context

Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 (the Act):

- regulates the sale, supply, advertising, and promotion of tobacco and vaping products.
- requires a range of areas to be smokefree and vapefree, including enclosed public spaces, workplaces, schools, public transport, and vehicles carrying children. A Council smokefree/vapefree policy could potentially extend these restrictions by designating public places that are owned or administered by the Council as smokefree and vapefree.

In January 2023 the Act was extended to cover vaping products as well as tobacco.

The Health Act 1956

Section 23 mandates local authorities to "improve, promote and protect public health" within their districts.

Council’s Role relating to Smokefree/Vapefree Areas

By promoting smokefree/vapefree areas in the Far North, Council can demonstrate its commitment to the Long-Term Plan outcome: “Communities that are **healthy, safe, connected and sustainable**” and Council’s duty under the Health Act 1956 to "improve, promote and protect public health".

Smokefree/vapefree policies of other local councils

In 2024 over fifty local councils had policies that designated council areas as smokefree and vapefree. In Northland, Kaipara and Whangārei District Councils (KDC and WDC) have robust smokefree/vapefree policies, whereas the Far North District currently does not have a policy.

Smokefree/vapefree areas	FNDC	WDC	KDC
Council-owned/controlled parks, sports fields, skateparks, and playgrounds		✓	✓
Neighbourhood reserves		✓	
Swimming pool complexes		✓	✓
Bus and taxi shelters		✓	✓
Transport hubs		✓	
Council-owned and administered cemeteries		✓	
Inside Council-owned buildings and facilities		✓	✓
Entranceways to Council buildings and outdoor seating areas near Council’s buildings		✓	✓
Inside Council-controlled social housing/ housing for the elderly	✓	✓	✓
Council-owned carparks		✓	✓
Beaches that are accessible to the public		✓	
Council funded, administered, or supported events or events held on Council land		✓	✓

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Following is a summary of the findings from a research report which investigates developing a smokefree/vapefree policy for the Far North (see attachment 1).

Socio-demographic challenges in Far North

The socio-demographic make-up of the Far North District presents unique challenges for the population in relation to smoking and vaping, including:

- *Community deprivation* – from the 2018 Census, nearly seven out of ten residents in the Far North District (69%) live in areas with the highest levels of deprivation (quintile 5) where smoking is much more common than in low deprivation areas.
- *Socio-economic factors* – on average, people in the Far North are more likely than the national population to have lower education levels, earn under \$30,000 annually, be solo parents, and not work full-time.
- *A largely rural population* – the district is characterised by a much higher proportion of residents living in rural areas compared with the national average (61% cf. 16% nationally). Access to healthcare facilities for smoking cessation support or diagnosis of smoking-related diseases is a challenge for residents living in relatively remote rural areas, as travel to healthcare centres is often time-consuming and costly.
- *Ethnic identification* – in the 2023 Census 50% of Far North residents identified as Māori, much higher than the national average of 18%. The adult Māori population in the Far North has a much higher smoking rate than non-Māori. Māori in the district also have a younger age profile than non-Māori. This is relevant in that rangatahi Māori are particularly vulnerable to start smoking and vaping if smoking/vaping is normalised in their households and communities.

Tobacco smoking

Smoking rates are higher in the Far North than nationally

In the 2023 Census 13% of those aged 15 or more from the Far North said they smoked tobacco regularly compared with 8% nationally.

Geographical spread of smoking in the district

Highest levels of regular smokers are in the west of the district (centred in the North Hokianga area) and in the Whakaraka area on the east coast which includes Kāeo, Whangaroa and Mātauri Bay.

Health risks of tobacco smoking

In New Zealand, the risks of smoking include:

- *Morbidity and mortality* – smoking-related harm is a leading cause of preventable morbidity (illness) and mortality, with approximately 5,000 deaths per annum. About one in five deaths are attributable to smoking
- *Cancers* – smoking is a significant risk factor for many types of cancer. According to the Cancer Society, over 2,000 lives are lost to cancer every year because of smoking, with lung cancer the leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Rates of lung cancer for Māori are more than double those of non-Māori, largely due to higher smoking rates
- *Other diseases* – smoking is also a risk factor for cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases (relating to the heart, blood flow and blood vessels); chronic respiratory diseases; and chronic kidney disease
- *Life expectancy* – individuals who continue smoking throughout their lives have an average life expectancy around ten years shorter than non-smokers
- *Secondhand smoking* – has been linked to heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, and respiratory issues.

Smoking initiation

A leading reason for adolescents to start smoking is perceiving that this is a normal activity, typically by observing others smoking.

Vaping

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vapes were introduced to New Zealand in the early 2000's, as a 'more healthy' alternative to traditional tobacco smoking. Vaping statistics are only available at the national level. However, there is nothing to indicate that the national trends described below do not apply in the Far North.

Vaping is now more popular than smoking amongst the national adult population

In 2023/24 11% of the adult population were daily vapers compared with 6% who were daily smokers. Highest daily vaping rates were among adults who identify as Māori (29%) and young people aged 15 to 24 (24%).

Vaping by school students

In 2024, 9% of year 10 students aged 14 to 15 years were daily vapers. However, very high rates were recorded for Māori girls (25%) and Māori boys (17%)¹.

Health risks of vaping

These risks include:

- *Nicotine addiction* – vaping can cause young people to become addicted to nicotine.
“The Asthma and Respiratory Foundation often hears stories of children - some as young as six - becoming addicted to vaping”.
- *Long-term health effects* – extended use of vaping products may also result in long-term health effects that are not yet fully understood.
- *Risks of second-hand vape smoke* – risks include: 1) an increased incidence of bronchitis and shortness of breath among young adults, 2) vaping can leave a toxic film on surfaces which can be absorbed through the skin on contact.

Vaping initiation

In New Zealand initiation of vaping among adolescents is occurring at increasingly younger ages by pre-teens and early teens. As with smoking, a major factor influencing young people to start vaping is the perception that it's a normal behaviour, shaped by regularly seeing peers, family members, or others vaping.

Other issues associated with smoking and vaping

- *Economic impacts of smoking & vaping*
 - the economic cost of smoking in New Zealand (largely related to healthcare expenditure and lost productivity) was approximately \$3.6 billion annually in 2022. On a pro rata basis, this would translate to about NZ\$54 million per year in the Far North (or \$58 million on an inflation-adjusted basis in 2024).
 - data on the economic costs of vaping in New Zealand is currently not available.
- *Financial costs for individuals and households*
 - a person who smokes one 30g pack of roll-your-own tobacco each week spends an estimated \$4,674 per year. With the median personal income for Far North adults aged 15 and over at \$29,700 in 2023, this represents a substantial financial burden for individuals and their families. By contrast, the cost of vaping is much lower (vaping at roughly the same level as above would cost around \$870 per year). Disposable vapes typically cost around \$5 each and are very affordable for young people.
- *Public nuisance*
 - second-hand smoke from vaping or smoking tobacco in public places can be unpleasant and irritating to non-smokers. It may deter individuals from spending time in these areas.
- *Environmental impacts*
 - smoking litter such as cigarette butts, discarded vapes and associated packaging is a significant contributor to environmental pollution. Discarded cigarettes and the lithium batteries in discarded vapes can pose fire risks.
- *Effect on the amenity values of public spaces*
 - smoking and vaping litter can also be an eyesore, lowering the amenity values of public spaces.

Recommended elements of a new smokefree/vapefree policy

Council staff recommend that a new smokefree/vapefree policy will:

¹ From a Survey of over 30,000 Year 10 students conducted by ASH (Action for Smokefree 2025)

- be a standalone policy rather than including policy provisions in other policies such as the Parks and Reserves Policy 2022
- designate smokefree/vapefree areas in the Far North that align with other Northland local councils. If the Council approves developing a new smokefree/vapefree policy, these smokefree/vapefree areas will be included in a draft policy for Council’s approval
- rely on voluntary compliance by the public, with no monitoring or enforcement by the Council
- require prominent signage to indicate smokefree/vapefree areas to the public
- involve working in partnership with health agencies such as Health NZ and Hauora organisations to promote the smokefree/vapefree areas and help encourage compliance.

Significance and engagement

A new smokefree/vapefree policy would not be highly significant under the Significance and Engagement Policy as:

- it does not involve the transfer of the ownership or control of a strategic asset or other important asset
- it is not inconsistent with Council plans or policies – by contrast, it would be consistent with the Long-Term Plan outcome of communities that are healthy, safe, and connected.

If Council decides that a policy should be developed, public consultation should take place on the draft policy as it is likely to have significant public interest, with particular interest to Māori due to high levels of smoking/vaping-related harm occurring in Māori communities.

Implications for Māori

The relatively high rate of smoking and vaping occurring in Māori communities has three main consequences:

- higher rates of smoking-related diseases and mortality
- the financial burden of smoking for individuals and families
- Māori youth are susceptible to start smoking and vaping as they see this as a normal and acceptable activity.

Options

There are two options:

1. Develop a new smokefree/vapefree policy
2. Don’t develop a new smokefree/vapefree policy.

Advantages and disadvantages of these options are listed below:

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>1) Develop a new smokefree/vapefree policy (recommended)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the national Smokefree 2025 goal • Aligns the Far North with other districts in Northland and across New Zealand • Protects people from the dangers of second-hand smoke • Improved health and wellbeing of the community • Reduced smoking/vaping initiation by children and adolescents due to positive role modelling behaviour • Increased public awareness of the issues involved with smoking/vaping in public • A fresh and clean environment, • Increased pride in public places • Benefits for the local economy including lower healthcare costs and improved productivity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May be seen as overregulation, particularly by smokers and vapers who feel their personal freedoms are restricted • Costs associated with signage and public awareness campaigns

Options	Advantages	Disadvantages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced financial burden of smoking/vaping for individuals and households 	
<p>2) Do not develop a new smokefree/vapefree policy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No impact on the perceived personal freedoms of smokers and vapers Costs associated with signage and public awareness campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will not support the national Smokefree 2025 goal Will not align with other districts in Northland and across New Zealand Will not reduce smoking/vaping in public Will not protect people from the dangers of second-hand smoke Will not improve the health and wellbeing of the community Will not reduce smoking/vaping initiation by children and adolescents Will not increase public awareness of the issues involved with smoking/vaping in public Will not foster a fresh and clean environment Will not increase pride in public places Will not help reduce the economic costs of smoking/vaping or the financial costs to individuals and households

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

A standalone non-regulatory policy will align with the approach of other Northland local councils and with other councils across New Zealand. It will provide clear guidance regarding Council-owned and administered areas where smoking is discouraged. This will advance the Smokefree 2025 vision, and can potentially address:

- health risks for smokers and vapers
- risks associated with inhaling secondhand smoke
- the normalisation of smoking and vaping, which increases the likelihood of smoking/vaping initiation by youth
- the environmental impacts of smoking and vaping litter
- economic costs for the district, including public health impacts and lost productivity, estimated at \$58 million per year in 2024
- the financial costs of smoking and vaping for individuals and households.

NEXT STEPS

If Council agrees to the development of a smokefree policy, staff will engage with Health NZ, Hauora organisations, other interested parties, and the wider community to design the policy and investigate implementation costs and logistics. A draft policy and an implementation plan will then be presented to Council for consultation and adoption.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

Costs to develop a draft smokefree policy will be minimal (staff resourcing) and will be met from existing budgets.

The costs to implement the policy, including signage and public education, will be identified in the design phase and presented to Council with the draft policy.

Note that compliance and enforcement costs will not be involved as Council cannot legally enforce the policy.

ĀPITIHANGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Research Report for a Smokefree and Vapefree Policy - A5170125**  

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	In line with the Significance and Engagement Policy, the level of significance is not high. Engagement will include public consultation, as the proposed policy is likely to have a high level of public interest.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	<p>Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Government Act 2002, Section 10 • Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 • Health Act 1956 <p>Long-Term Plan Community Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities that are healthy, safe and connected
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	This proposal has district-wide relevance as it seeks to improve public health, and promote cleaner, safer environments across the Far North District. Input from Community Boards will be sought during the policy's design phase. This will ensure that local perspectives are considered.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	Reflecting the disproportionate impact smoking and vaping has on Māori communities, initial conversations have occurred with Hauora (Māori health) organisations including Te Hauora o Ngāpuhi, and Hauora Te Hiku. These organisations strongly support having a smokefree/vapefree policy and said they are willing to help promote the policy if it is adopted. At the Design stage of the project there will be further engagement with Māori to seek their input.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	The Smokefree/Vapefree Policy potentially impacts all members of the community as well as visitors to the district who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • may be exposed to second-hand tobacco and vape smoke in public places owned or administered by the Council, with the health risks this involves

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are affected by the environmental damage and impact on amenity values of smoking/vaping litter in these public places. <p>Specifically, de-normalising smoking and vaping in public can help reduce smoking/vaping initiation amongst youth.</p>
<p>State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.</p>	<p>Costs to develop a draft smokefree policy will be minimal (staff resourcing) and will be met from existing budgets.</p> <p>The costs to implement the policy, including signage and education campaigns, will be identified in the design phase and presented to Council with the draft policy.</p> <p>Note that compliance and enforcement costs will not be involved as Council cannot legally enforce the policy.</p>
<p>Chief Financial Officer review.</p>	<p>The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report.</p>



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Research Report

Smokefree/Vapefree Policy Investigation

1 Purpose

To describe and discuss the problems and opportunities relating to the Council designating smokefree and vapefree areas in the Far North District.

2 Context

Unlike most local councils in New Zealand, currently the Council does not have a smokefree/vapefree policy to help address the issues relating to smoking and vaping in the district. This report investigates these issues to help the Council decide whether to develop a policy or not.

2.1 Legislative Context

Smokefree 2025

In March 2021 the government set a national target of *Smokefree 2025*, aiming for fewer than 5% of New Zealanders to be smokers by 2025. To achieve this, in December 2021 the *Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan* was introduced. This *Plan* outlined measures to reduce smoking rates. Objectives of *Smokefree 2025* are:

1. To reduce smoking initiation
2. To increase quitting
3. To reduce exposure to secondhand smoke.

NB. In this report, the term “smokefree” represents a goal that less than 5% of the district’s population will be tobacco smokers and does not mean banning smoking altogether.

Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990¹ (the Act) is one of the most comprehensive pieces of tobacco legislation in the world. This Act was amended in January 2023 to also cover vaping products.

In March 2024, the government passed legislation to repeal some parts of the Act, including:

1. The ban on selling tobacco to anyone born after 2008 (the “generational ban”)
2. Plans to significantly reduce the number of tobacco retailers
3. The requirement to reduce nicotine levels in cigarettes.

Despite these repeals, several important tobacco and vaping control measures remain in place, including:

- Regulations regarding the sale and supply of tobacco and vaping products
- Restrictions on advertising and sponsorship
- Health warnings on packaging
- Declaring smokefree and vapefree areas:
 - in all workplaces
 - in enclosed public places
 - in schools, early childhood education and care centres
 - on passenger service vehicles, aircraft, and in travel terminals
 - in licensed premises, gaming machine venues, and restaurants
 - in vehicles carrying children.

¹ [Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990](#)

Potentially a policy designating Council-owned and administered areas as smokefree/vapefree could complement the smokefree/vapefree areas that are covered by the Act.

Health Act 1956

Section 23 of the Health Act 1956 states that “it is the duty of every local authority to improve, promote and protect public health within its district”.

2.2 Council's Role Relating to Smokefree Environments

The Council can potentially support the Smokefree 2025 goal via a smokefree/vapefree policy. This policy would be non-statutory (it is not mentioned in the Act), is not mandatory (Council is not required to have a policy), and cannot be enforced by the Council.

Via a smokefree/vapefree policy the Council can:

1. designate public spaces owned or administered by the council as smokefree and vapefree areas
2. inform the public of these areas via signage and education
3. commit to partnering with other relevant agencies such as Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora and Hauora organisations to promote these areas.

By promoting smokefree/vapefree areas in the Far North, Council could help achieve the Long-Term Plan outcome: “Communities that are **healthy, safe, connected and sustainable**”.

2.3 Health New Zealand Role

The Community Whanau and Wellbeing team at Health New Zealand's National Public Health Service promotes public health in Northland and aims to reduce smoking and tobacco-related harm. Their efforts support individuals and communities to achieve the *Smokefree 2025* goal through tailored initiatives. These include awareness and education programmes, as well as engaging with communities to encourage quitting and discourage people from starting to smoke. This team collaborates with schools, workplaces, and local councils to implement smokefree policies in public spaces and at events.

Health NZ also funds Hauora (Māori health) services under the *Te Pae Tata | Interim New Zealand Health Plan* and the *Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022*.

The Council could partner with Health NZ including Hauora organisations to develop and promote a district-wide smokefree/vapefree policy and jointly promote smokefree and vapefree public areas.

2.4 Council's Previous Policy Response to Smokefree Environments

Far North District Council was the first local council in Northland to address smoking in Council-owned and administered areas by prohibiting smoking in Housing for the Elderly units and designating its parks, playgrounds and reserves as smokefree. While the prohibition still applies for Housing for the Elderly units, the policy applying to parks, reserves and playgrounds has since lapsed, and **Council does not currently have a smokefree/vapefree policy**

Smokefree Parks, Playgrounds, and Reserves Policy 2012

This Policy was adopted by Council in 2012. Its stated purpose was to “*demonstrate leadership by promoting a smokefree lifestyle as being desired throughout the Far North District. Council will send a positive message that our children's health and the environment should be protected from the effects of smoking*”. Council's approach centred on raising awareness and promoting smokefree spaces through education, consistent messaging, and collaboration with health partners, rather than monitoring and enforcement.

Reserves Policy 2017

Section Six of the *Reserves Policy 2017* superseded the previous *Smokefree Parks, Playgrounds, and Reserves Policy 2012* with a policy provision that “*Council owned parks, playgrounds and reserves will be promoted as smokefree areas through signage and publicity*”.

Parks and Reserves Policy 2022

The *Reserves Policy 2017* was replaced by the *Parks and Reserves Policy 2022* and has no smokefree or vapefree provisions. Therefore, currently the Council does not have a smokefree/vapefree policy in place. During the development of the *Parks and Reserves Policy 2022*, Council staff recommended that Council adopt a standalone smokefree and vapefree policy (rather than including policy provisions within other

policies). Such a policy would cover public areas owned or managed by Council including parks and reserves and other areas. This report investigates developing such a standalone policy.

Housing for the Elderly Units

Although the Council does not currently have a smokefree policy, smoking is not permitted inside Council’s Housing for the Elderly units with smoking only allowed on balconies or in outdoor areas.

3 Research objective

The research objective is to identify and discuss problems and opportunities relating to smoking and vaping in public in the Far North District.

4 Scope of the research report

In scope

- To understand:
 - the legislative context for possibly developing a smokefree/vapefree policy
 - smoking and vaping trends in the Far North and in New Zealand generally
 - the issues relating to smoking and vaping
 - smokefree and vapefree policies developed by other local councils
 - the opportunity for the Council to develop a smokefree/vapefree policy.

Out of scope

- Smoking and vaping on private property
- Areas managed or regulated by the government: e.g.
 - smokefree/vapefree areas such as workplaces and schools (see section 2.1)
 - smoking and vaping in vehicles
 - tobacco and vape sales, promotion and advertising – including the proliferation of vape outlets
 - public education around quitting smoking and vaping (the responsibility of Health NZ).

5 Problem areas and opportunities

5.1 Socio-demographic challenges

The socio-demographic make-up of the Far North District includes a range of factors that make it challenging to meet *Smokefree 2025* goals.

1) High levels of community deprivation

2018 Census data revealed that nearly seven out of ten residents in the Far North District (69%) live in areas with the highest levels of deprivation (quintile 5), as indicated in the following table:

Table 1: Percentage of the Far North population living in areas with each deprivation quintile

Deprivation quintile	%
Deprivation quintile 5 (highest level of deprivation)	69%
Quintile 4	19%
Quintile 3	12%
Quintile 2	8%
Quintile 1 (least deprived)	3%

88% in quintile 4 or 5

Base: usually resident population from the 2018 Census. Total adds to more than 100% due to rounding

Smoking rates in Northland are higher in more deprived communities. From 2017 to 2020, individuals in the most deprived areas (quintile 5) were over three times more likely to smoke than those in the least deprived areas (quintile 1). See the following table:

Table 2: Percentage of Northland adults aged 15 or more who currently smoke tobacco by deprivation quintile

Deprivation quintile	Current smokers %
Deprivation quintile 5 (highest level of deprivation)	32%
Quintile 4	19%
Quintile 3	17%
Quintile 2	9%
Quintile 1 (least deprived)	10%

Source: New Zealand Health Survey 2017 to 2020

Factors associated with high community deprivation, such as low incomes, limited access to healthcare, low levels of education, and high levels of financial stress, can exacerbate the harmful effects of tobacco smoking and create barriers to achieving smokefree goals.

2) Socio-economic challenges

The Far North is characterised by several socio-economic factors that place residents at a disadvantage compared with New Zealanders as a whole. Examples of these factors include the following:

Table 3: Far North District socio-economic statistics

Socio-economic factors	Far North %	NZ %
No educational qualifications or Level 1-2 Certificate	44%▲	37%
Personal income less than \$30,000 per year	62%▲	48%
Employed full-time	39%▼	50%
Solo parents with children	20%▲	15%

Source: 2018 Census - residents aged 15 or more

Individuals in socio-economically disadvantaged groups may face barriers to accessing smoking cessation resources associated with low levels of income and education and be more likely to experience stresses that can lead to higher levels of smoking.

3) A largely rural population

The Far North District, with over 40 small towns and townships (and no cities), is characterised by its geographically dispersed population. The district has a much higher proportion of residents living in rural areas² compared with the national population (61% cf. 16% nationally).

Access to healthcare facilities for smoking cessation support or diagnosis of smoking-related diseases is a challenge for many residents living in relatively remote areas, as travel to healthcare centres is often time-consuming and costly. Residents in these areas with early signs of smoking-related diseases including lung cancer can put off visiting a GP and first seek treatment at an emergency department.

4) Ethnic identification and smoking

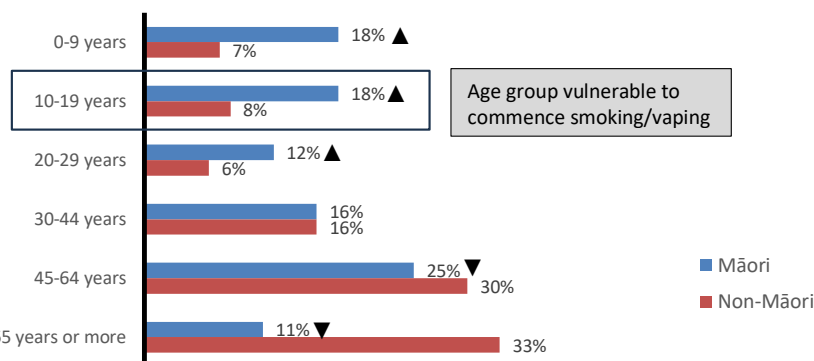
In the 2023 Census 50% of Far North residents identified as Māori, much higher than the national average of 18%. From 2023 Census results, the adult Māori population in the Far North were 2.3 times more likely to smoke than non-Māori (18% were regular smokers cf. 8% non-Māori) (see section 5.3).

5) Age profile

The Māori population in the district has a younger age profile than non-Māori and in the 2023 Census the median age of Māori in the Far North was 31 years compared with 57 years for non-Māori. See the following chart:

² Stats NZ - [Subnational population estimates \(urban rural\), by age and sex, at 30 June 2023](#) [Rural areas include small townships with less than 1,000 people and fully rural areas]

Figure 1: Age Distribution of Far North Residents – Māori versus non-Māori



KEY: ▲ ▼ Māori significantly higher/lower than non-Māori

Base: Far North residents in the 2023 Census

With younger people aged 10 to 19 susceptible to start smoking or vaping (see sections 5.6 and 6.5) it is important to note that 18% of Māori residents and 8% of non-Māori residents are in this age group.

Insights into these socio-demographic challenges

In a recent article³ Professor Jason Gurney (Ngāpuhi), who leads the Otago University cancer and chronic conditions research group, made the following points:

- high rates of cancer in Northland (see section 5.5) are due to inequities experienced by the population, particularly Māori
- Māori are three times more likely to develop and 30% more likely to die of lung cancer, once diagnosed, than Europeans
- this is due to low average incomes and less access to higher education, which are both linked to greater rates of tobacco smoking (see the next section)
- surviving lung cancer is about getting an early diagnosis, and Māori are more likely to first present with symptoms at their ED than at their GP, meaning delayed diagnosis
- Northland’s geographical spread and high numbers of rural patients also contribute to these statistics, leading to both late diagnosis and difficulty accessing care once diagnosed.

5.2 Smoking rates in the Far North and nationally

The following chart compares the proportion of adults aged 15 or more who regularly smoke cigarettes⁴ in New Zealand as a whole and in the Far North.

As the chart shows:

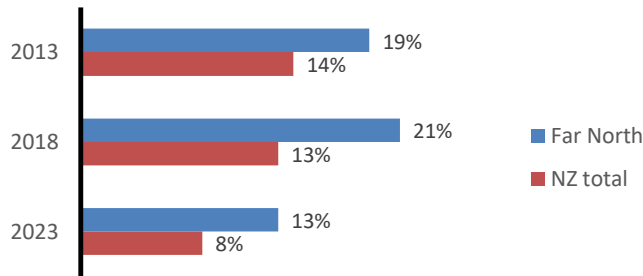
- the proportion of Far North adults who regularly smoke cigarettes has declined from 19% of adults in 2013 to 13% in 2023
- smoking has consistently been more common in the Far North than in New Zealand as a whole – in the 2023 Census 13% of those aged 15 or more from the Far North smoked regularly compared with 8% nationally. In 2023 this level of smoking placed the Far North seventh out of 67 territorial authorities in New Zealand (Wairoa was first with 20% of adults being regular smokers)
- by 2023, the national rate of smoking (8%) had almost reached the Smokefree 2025 target of fewer than 5% of New Zealanders smoking by 2025.

³ Northern Advocate (7 October 2024) - [Cancer in Northland: Stark figures show postcode lottery for cancer care](#)

⁴ Regular smoking is defined in the Census as smoking one or more cigarettes per day including manufactured and roll-your-own cigarettes. Cigarette smoking refers to tobacco smoking and does not include:

- smoking cigars or pipes
- smoking e-cigarettes (vaping)
- smoking other substances such as herbal cigarettes or marijuana.

Figure 2: Regular smokers in the Far North versus NZ total

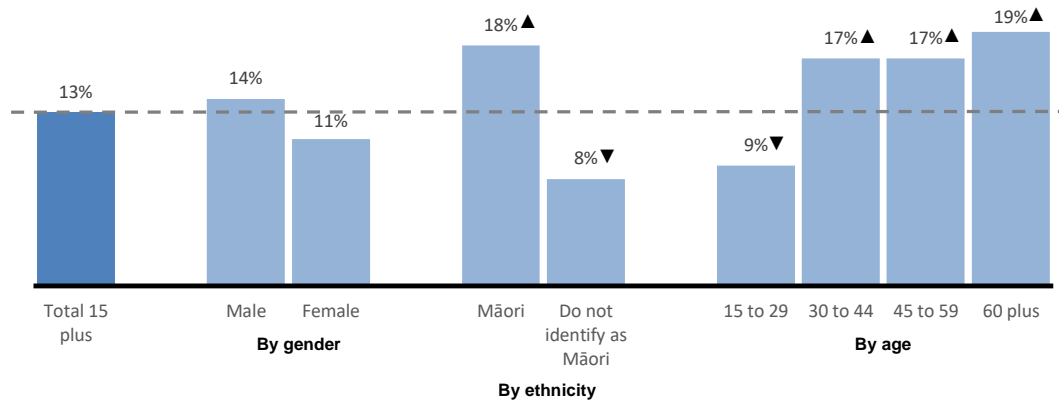


Source: Stats NZ – Census results for adults aged 15 or more

5.3 Smoking in the Far North in 2023 by demographics

In 2023 those who identified as Māori and people aged over 30 were more likely to smoke regularly while non-Māori and those aged 15 to 29 were less likely to be regular smokers.

Figure 3: Regular smokers in the Far North by demographics



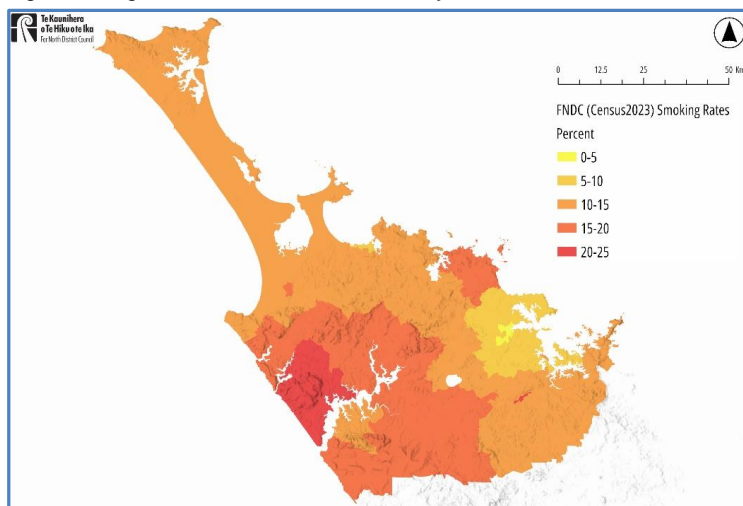
Source: 2023 Census results for adults aged 15 or more

Cont'd...

5.4 Smoking in the Far North in 2023 by statistical area unit

The map below shows levels of smoking by statistical area unit in the Far North recorded in the 2023 Census. As the map shows, the highest levels of regular smoking are in the west of the district (centred in the North Hokianga area) and in the Whakaraka area on the east coast which includes Kāeo, Whangaroa and Mātauri Bay. By contrast, smoking levels in the Bay of Islands are lower, with one area (Riverhead, shown in yellow on the map) meeting the national *Smokefree 2025* target of fewer than 5% of the population being smokers.

Figure 4: Regular smokers in the Far North by statistical area unit



Source: Stats NZ – 2023 Census results for adults aged 15 or more

5.5 Health risks of tobacco smoking

International evidence

Smoking poses severe health risks not only to individuals who smoke but also to those around them who are exposed to secondhand smoke, as highlighted by the World Health Organization (WHO)⁵:

- **Mortality:** "Tobacco kills up to half of its users who don't quit"
- **Annual deaths:** "Tobacco kills more than 8 million people globally each year, including an estimated 1.3 million non-smokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke"
- **Addiction and disease:** "Nicotine contained in tobacco is highly addictive and tobacco use is a major risk factor for cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, over 20 different types or subtypes of cancer, and many other debilitating health conditions"
- **Life expectancy:** "Smokers who start smoking early in adult life and do not quit lose a decade of life expectancy versus non-smokers"
- **Secondhand smoking (passive smoking):** "Secondhand smoke causes serious cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, including coronary heart disease and lung cancer, and kills around 1.3 million people prematurely every year".

New Zealand evidence

In New Zealand, the risks of smoking include:

- **Morbidity and mortality⁶:** smoking-related harm is a leading cause of preventable morbidity (illness) and mortality in New Zealand, with approximately 5,000 deaths per annum⁷. About one in five deaths in New Zealand are attributed to smoking. Smoking causes about three times as many deaths as all non-medical causes combined (for example, murder, suicide, drowning, and road accidents)⁵.

⁵ World Health Organisation – [Tobacco Key Facts July 2023](#)

⁶ [New Zealand's Tobacco Control Programme](#) [Ministry of Health, April 2016]

⁷ Treasury Report – [Briefing for Cabinet December 2023](#)

- **Cancers:** Smoking is a significant risk factor for lung, head and neck, upper digestive tract, stomach, pancreas, bladder and kidney cancers. According to the Cancer Society⁸, over 2,000 lives are lost to cancer every year because of smoking.
 - **Lung cancer** is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in New Zealand⁹. Up to 90% of lung cancer in New Zealand is caused by smoking¹⁰ and secondhand smoke is estimated to be responsible for one in four lung cancers found in non-smokers¹¹. Māori communities are disproportionately affected, with lung cancer rates more than double those of non-Māori, largely due to higher smoking rates⁴.
- **Other diseases:** smoking is a risk factor⁴ for:
 - cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases relating to the heart, blood flow and blood vessels - the risk of heart attack is up to four times greater and the risk of stroke up to two times greater for smokers than non-smokers
 - chronic respiratory diseases that affect the airways and other structures of the lungs
 - chronic kidney disease
 - smoking in the home has been linked to higher rates of asthma and glue ear in children
 - smoking during pregnancy contributes to lower birth weight and poorer outcomes for infants.
- **Life expectancy:** smoking is the second highest risk factor contributing to reduced life expectancy (after high body weight)¹². On average, individuals who continue smoking throughout their lives have a life expectancy approximately ten years shorter than non-smokers¹³
- **Secondhand smoking:** exposure to secondhand smoke in New Zealand has been linked to heart disease, lung cancer, stroke, and respiratory issues in children¹⁴.

Northland evidence

Professor Jason Gurney from Otago University (see section 5.1) noted that Northland had the third highest rate of lung cancer of all regions in New Zealand from 2018 to 2022¹⁵.

In 2023, the incidence of lung cancer per head of population in the Far North was three times the national average¹⁶.

Recommendation from the WHO

To mitigate these health risks, the WHO advocates comprehensive smokefree policies in public places, workplaces, and on public transport to protect non-smokers, and especially vulnerable populations, from the dangers of secondhand smoke.

5.6 Smoking initiation

Exposure to smoking plays a crucial role in smoking initiation (commencing smoking).

A report¹⁷ on the age of smoking initiation in New Zealand found that nearly 80% of adolescents aged 13–15 who had tried smoking had their first cigarette before turning 13, based on data from 2010 to 2020.

⁸ [Cancer Society Manifesto 2023-24](#)

⁹ [Lung Health | Lung Foundation NZ](#)

¹⁰ Asthma Foundation - [Lung Cancer Information for Family and Carers](#)

¹¹ Taylor R; Najafi F; Dobson A. *Meta-analysis of studies of passive smoking and lung cancer* [International Journal of Epidemiology 2007]

¹² Ministry of Health - [Health and Independence Report 2023 - Te Pūrongo mō te Hauora me te Tū Motuhake 2023](#)

¹³ Heart Research Institute (NZ) - [Smoking and heart disease](#)

¹⁴ Smokefree.org.nz – [Secondhand smoke](#)

¹⁵ Northern Advocate (7 October 2024) - [Cancer in Northland: Stark figures show postcode lottery for cancer care](#)

¹⁶ Source: Ngā Tai Ora - Public Health Northland (April 2025)

¹⁷ Xing S; Zhao M; Magnussen C; et al *Proportion and trend in the age of cigarette smoking initiation among adolescent smoking experiencers aged 13–15 years in 148 countries/territories* [Public Health Journal November 2022]

From a number of studies¹⁸, main reasons that New Zealand adolescents commence smoking include:

1. perceiving that smoking is a normal activity, typically by observing others smoking
2. influence of others (e.g. peer pressure and parental/sibling smoking)
3. adolescent attitudes (e.g. lack of awareness of health risks, curiosity and experimentation, wanting to assert independence or conversely wanting to fit in with others)
4. access to tobacco products (often through friends and social sources).

Amongst these reasons, perceiving that smoking is a normal activity by observing others smoking (reason 1) suggests that designating Council-owned and administered areas as smokefree can play a part in reducing smoking initiation. The higher-than-average smoking rates in the Far North (see section 5.2) place children and adolescents at an increased risk of exposure to smoking, particularly among Māori and those living in more deprived communities. This can increase the likelihood that they will view smoking as a typical or desirable behaviour and take up smoking themselves.

Establishing smokefree environments has been shown to reduce smoking initiation rates including rapid reductions in smoking initiation among adolescents¹⁹ and supports those currently trying to quit smoking. Indeed, a 2021 UK Royal College of Physicians report²⁰ noted that calls for smokefree environments to protect children may be less to do with exposure to secondhand smoke and more to prevent children from seeing adults smoking and modelling their smoking behaviour on this exposure.

6 Vaping

Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and vapes were introduced to New Zealand in the early 2000s, initially as an alternative to traditional tobacco smoking.

6.1 Types of vaping products sold in New Zealand

There are two main types of vaping products sold in New Zealand:

1. **Vapes** work by vaporising an e-liquid solution containing nicotine and flavours
2. **Heated tobacco products (HTPs)** heat real tobacco within a specific temperature range, using an electronic system to prevent it from burning. These products are currently unavailable but are likely to return to the market.

Under the *Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Regulations 2021*, both these vaping products are regulated in the same way e.g. the law restricts “vaping,” including inhaling HTPs, in the same places where smoking is prohibited. If the Council introduces a smokefree/vapefree policy, to avoid any confusion, the definition of vaping in this policy should include smoking HTPs.

6.2 Incidence of vaping

Vaping statistics are only available at the national level. However, there is nothing to indicate that the national trends described below do not apply in the Far North.

Vaping is now much more popular than smoking amongst the national adult population

According to the Ministry of Health²¹ the estimated number of daily vapers in New Zealand increased dramatically from 33 to 480 thousand over the eight years from 2015/16 to 2023/24, while the number of daily tobacco smokers dropped from 552 to 300 thousand over the same period. See the following chart.

¹⁸ See: Hoek, J; Lee, E; et al. *How do New Zealand youth perceive the smoke-free generation policy? A qualitative analysis.* [Tobacco Control Journal 2022]

Ponnia NS, *Addressing smoking among young people in New Zealand* [Doctoral Thesis, University of Otago 2011]

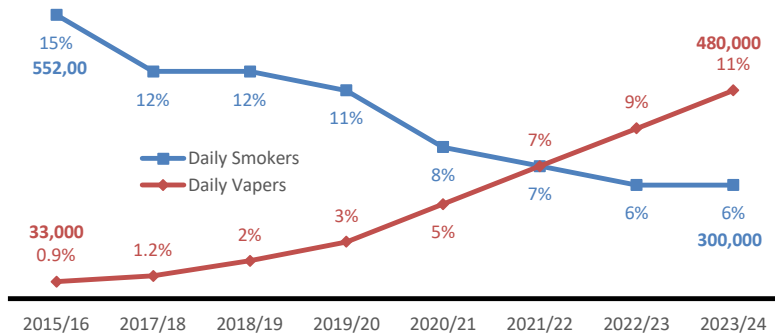
Littlecott HJ; Moore GF; et al, *Perceptions of friendship, peers and influence on adolescent smoking according to tobacco control context: a systematic review and meta-ethnography of qualitative research.* [BMC Public Health. March 2023]

¹⁹ Semple S; Dobson R; et al, *Smoke-free spaces: a decade of progress, a need for more* [Tobacco Control Journal, 2022]

²⁰ Royal College of Physicians, *Smoking and health 2021: a coming of age for tobacco control?* London: RCP, 2021

²¹ [Trends in smoking and vaping](#) [Ministry of Health 2024]

Figure 5: Daily smokers and vapers – percent of the national population aged 15 or more

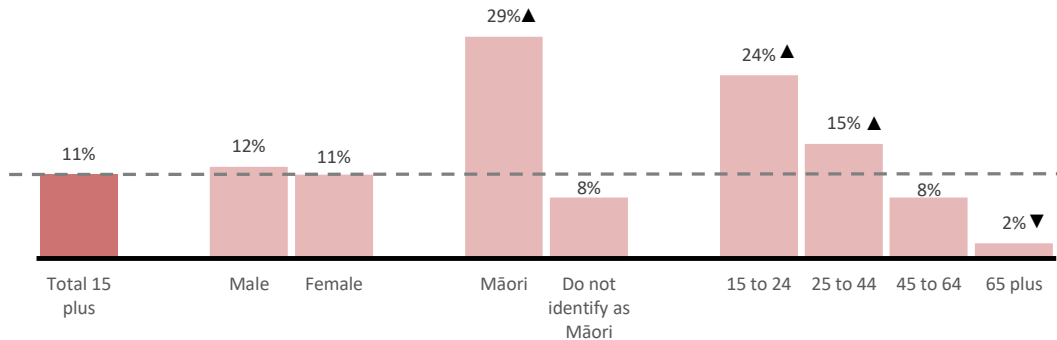


Source: New Zealand Health Survey - adults aged 15 or more

Daily vaping in New Zealand by demographics – 2023/24 results

As the next chart shows, daily vaping is most common among adults who identify as Māori (29%) and those aged 15 to 24 (24%). By contrast, scarcely any people aged 65 or more are daily vapers (just 2%).

Figure 6: Daily vapers in New Zealand by demographics – 2023/24 results



Source: New Zealand Health Survey results for adults aged 15 or more

Vaping by young people

The next two charts (published by ASH - Action for Smokefree 2025) show survey results from the *Action for Smokefree 2025 Youth Smoking and Vaping Surveys*²² which recorded daily smoking and vaping levels by year 10 students (aged 14 or 15) in New Zealand. As the charts show:

- daily vaping among Year 10 students has increased significantly, rising from 3.0% in 2019 to 8.7% in 2024
- by 2024 the daily tobacco smoking rate had dropped to a very low level (1.2% of Year 10 students) compared with 8.7% of Year 10 students who were daily vapers (7.3 times higher).
- there was a small reduction in daily vaping from 10.0% of Year 10 students in 2023 to 8.7% in 2024, a statistically significant decrease. This is attributed to tighter regulations on vape sales to minors
- in 2024 the highest incidence was among Māori girls (25%) and Māori boys (17%). By contrast, daily vaping by non-Māori/non-Pacific Year 10 students was much lower (5% for both boys and girls).

²² [ASH Year 10 Snapshot Survey Results](#) [Action for Smokefree 2024]

Figure 7: Daily smoking and vaping among year 10 students 1999 to 2024

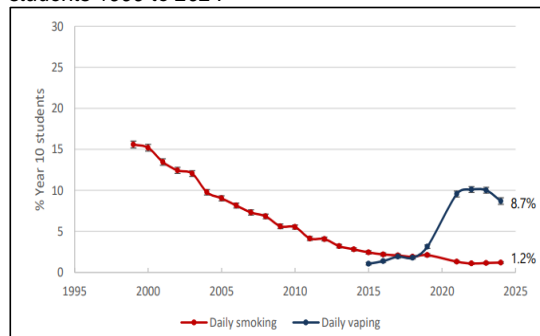
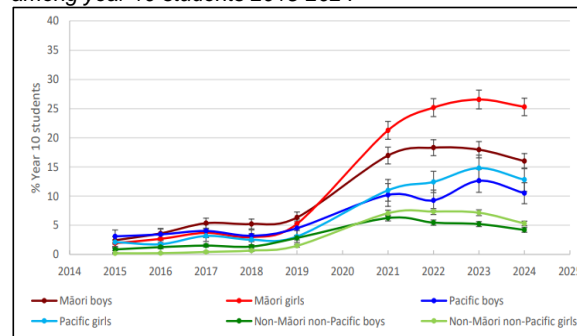


Figure 8: Daily vaping incidence by gender and ethnicity among year 10 students 2015-2024



Source: Action for Smokefree 2025 Youth Smoking and Vaping Surveys [charts courtesy of ASH]

6.3 Risks of vaping

While many experts view vaping as a relatively safe tool to help adult smokers quit, others warn of potential risks, especially as vaping can cause young people to become addicted to nicotine. “The Asthma and Respiratory Foundation often hears stories of children - some as young as six - becoming addicted to vaping”.²³ Within the Far North, Hauora Te Hiku mentioned that young children aged six to eight had been found vaping at Ahipara Primary School.

The Cancer Society of New Zealand has identified three main potential harms associated with vaping by children and adolescents²⁴:

1. The potential for **nicotine addiction**, leading to prolonged use of nicotine products with uncertain long-term health effects
2. Extended use of vaping products may result in **long-term health effects** that are not yet fully understood
3. The possibility that vaping could serve as a **gateway** to smoking traditional cigarettes. A 2024 Australian study²⁵ found that young people who vape are five times more likely to try smoking than those who do not vape.

6.4 Risks of secondhand vape smoke

The long-term risks of inhaling secondhand vape smoke (passive vaping) are unknown. However, a range of short-term risks have been reported:

- **Respiratory issues:** a study published by the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ²⁶ found that secondhand vape smoke exposure was associated with an increased incidence of bronchitis symptoms and shortness of breath among young adults
- **Surface residues:** research from the University of Technology Sydney indicates that vaping indoors can leave a toxic, oily film on surfaces. This residue contains harmful chemicals like formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, which can be absorbed through the skin upon contact.

Recognising these risks, the government has made it illegal to vape in a motor vehicle carrying children and young people under 18 years of age. Vaping is also prohibited in areas where smoking is banned, including indoor workplaces, schools, and early childhood education facilities.

6.5 Vaping initiation

In New Zealand, initiation of vaping among adolescents has been documented at increasingly younger ages by pre-teens and early teens.

Reasons for commencing vaping described in a range of studies^{23 to 28} include:

1. perceptions that vaping is a normal activity
 - observing others vaping including peers and family

²³ [Vaping 'report card' for Government reveals average grades](#) [Asthma and Respiratory Foundation, April 2024]

²⁴ [Vaping: Degrees of harm – A narrative review of evidence](#) [Cancer Society, June 2019]

²⁵ Egger S; et al, *The association between vaping and subsequent initiation of cigarette smoking in young Australians from age 12 to 17 years* [Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 2024]

²⁶ [Second-hand vaping exposure](#) [Asthma and Respiratory Foundation]

2. peer pressure - "I just wanted to try it because everyone else was doing it"²⁴
3. belief that vaping poses fewer health risks than smoking
 - o the fruit flavours are perceived to denote healthiness²⁷
4. sensory appeal - "the fruity flavours are really nice; they don't taste like cigarettes"²⁸
 - o it smells better than tobacco²⁹
5. targeted marketing via social media and sponsorship of events
 - o a University of Auckland study³⁰ noted that vaping companies have sponsored music festivals and collaborated with artists and designers, creating an image of vaping as a trendy lifestyle choice
6. affordability
 - o a briefing by the Public Health Communication Centre (PHCC)³¹ highlighted that price discounting strategies have made vaping products appealing to young people – "[these are] pocket money priced products"
7. curiosity and experimentation
8. ease of obtaining vapes – often bought online without ID.

A typical scenario reported by a 15-year-old girl³² to BBC News, Auckland is as follows:

"It got more accessible for me, so I got addicted. Everyone around me was vaping at the time"

"Coco, whose name has been changed to protect her identity, was 12 when she vaped for the first time. She's now 15 and trying to quit. Coco had never brought the vapes home, but as she grew more used to the habit, she also wanted to vape after school.

" 'What attracted me to it was more the flavours like 'Peach ice' or 'Lychee grape'. You can find vapes inspired by video games, they come in bright colours and flavours like bubble gum and candy floss'.

"It's illegal to sell vapes to under 18s in New Zealand, but Coco said that never stopped her or her friends. 'The older kids sell to the younger kids and lots of shops don't check IDs' she said. 'You can just walk in there and say, 'I want strawberry, raspberry, watermelon' and they'll sell it to you. You can even go in your uniform, and they just don't say anything"

As with smoking, to help prevent vaping initiation the Council can potentially address perceptions that vaping is a normal activity (reason 1. above) by designating Council-owned and administered areas as vape-free.

7 Other issues and opportunities associated with smoking and vaping

7.1 Economic impacts

Smoking

The impacts of smoking on the New Zealand economy are significant. According to the Tobacco Atlas³³, the total economic cost of smoking in New Zealand was approximately \$3.6 billion annually in 2022. Assuming the Far North District bears a proportionate share of these costs, this would translate to about NZ\$54 million per year (1.5% of \$3.6 billion). Adjusting for inflation, this figure translates to \$58 million in 2024.

Main economic costs associated with smoking include:

- **Healthcare expenditure:** Smoking-related health conditions cost the New Zealand health system more than NZ\$2 billion annually³⁴, for instance through hospitalisations, practitioner consultations, prescription medicines, and invalid benefits

²⁷ Ball J; Pettie M; et al, "You just wanna hit it 'cause like it smells like fun": a qualitative investigation of adolescents' experiences of nicotine vaping in Aotearoa New Zealand. [New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences, 2024].

²⁸ Caie S; Ran GJ, *The rationale of non-smoking adolescents' use of electronic cigarettes (vaping)* [Social Work Journal, April 2023]

²⁹ Health NZ: [Youth Insights Survey 2018](#)

³⁰ Auckland University [How savvy marketing made vaping into a youth sensation May 2023](#)

³¹ Public Health Communication Centre [New Vaping Bill: Some important progress but critical gaps remain September 2024](#)

³² BBC News, Auckland [New Zealand's youth vaping crisis clouds smoke-free future August 2023](#)

³³ [The Tobacco Atlas – Country Factsheets – New Zealand](#)

³⁴ [Last Generation of Kiwi Smokers Need More Support Than Ever to Quit on World Smokefree Day](#) [Asthma and Respiratory Foundation, May 2023]

- **Productivity losses:** Smoking contributes to sickness and premature mortality, resulting in significant losses in productivity.

Vaping

Data on the economic costs of vaping in New Zealand is currently not available. While vaping may represent lower costs and reduced harm to users compared with smoking, the long-term health implications and associated costs of vaping are unclear.

7.2 Financial costs for individuals and households

Costs of smoking

The current estimated average annual cost for a smoker who smokes one 30g pack of Roll Your Own tobacco per week costing \$89.90 per pack³⁵ is \$4,674. Given that the median personal income of Far North adults aged 15 or more was \$29,700 in 2023³⁶ (28% lower than the national median income of \$41,500), these costs can place a significant burden on the individuals concerned and their families.

Costs of vaping

The same smoker who vapes at roughly the same level as a 30g Roll Your Own tobacco pack per week would pay around \$16.65 per week for vape cartridges or around \$870 per year, representing a much lower burden for individual and household budgets. NB. A disposable vape costs around \$5 (\$10 for a two-pack) and is attractive for young people as it is cheap, and discreet (easily hidden from teachers and parents without the bad smell of tobacco smoke).

7.3 Public nuisance

Secondhand smoke from vaping or smoking tobacco can be unpleasant and irritating to non-smokers, affecting their enjoyment of public spaces such as parks, outdoor dining areas, and public transportation. It may also deter individuals from spending time in these areas.

7.4 Environmental impacts

Impacts from smoking

Cigarette litter is a significant contributor to environmental pollution, as cigarette butts contain toxic chemicals and can persist in the environment for years. These butts, which are non-biodegradable, release harmful chemicals as they break down, posing risks to ecosystems and wildlife. Marine environments are particularly vulnerable to cigarette litter. Discarded butts wash into waterways and oceans, where they release toxic substances and create ingestion hazards for marine animals. Discarded cigarettes also represent a fire hazard.

Impacts from vaping

Disposable vapes are emerging as a significant environmental concern in New Zealand, contributing to pollution through hazardous chemicals and non-biodegradable materials including:

- **nicotine** which can leach into soil and waterways, adversely affecting ecosystems,
- **heavy metals** such as lead, tin, and nickel, which are toxic and can contaminate the environment if not properly disposed of
- **lithium batteries** which are a fire hazard and, if damaged or improperly discarded, can leak harmful chemicals.
- **plastic** makes up a huge amount of our solid waste and takes centuries to break down in landfill.

In response to environmental and health concerns, the government has announced a ban on disposable vapes, set to take effect in mid-2025.

Effect on amenity values of public spaces

Litter from cigarette butts, disposable vapes and their packaging can also be an eyesore, lowering the amenity values of public spaces.

7.5 The opportunity

Unlike most local councils, the Council currently does not have a smokefree policy. Developing a policy to discourage smoking and vaping in council-owned and administered areas could potentially help address the problems and issues associated with smoking and vaping described above.

³⁵ Cost for 30g Holiday Roll Your Own Red Tobacco from Pak 'n Save stores - 9 January 2025

³⁶ Stats NZ – 2023 Census result

The literature points to the importance of smoke-free outdoor areas to help de-normalise smoking as an acceptable behaviour and thus decrease the incidence of smoking particularly amongst young people³⁷:

“... evidence of de-normalisation of smoking is particularly relevant for Māori and Pacific communities where smoking is normalised and significant smoking inequalities exist compared with the general population”³³

8 Smokefree policies of other New Zealand Councils

As reported by smokefree.org.nz in 2022, over fifty local councils had taken steps to make public outdoor areas smokefree and vapefree. All these councils took a non-regulatory approach, using policies, signage and public awareness tools, rather than using regulations in bylaws. In the past, Whanganui District Council and Palmerston North City Council both included smokefree provisions in bylaws. However, both these councils have since removed these regulations from their bylaws and now have smokefree policies.

8.1 Northland Local Councils

Whangārei District Council (WDC) and Kaipara District Council (KDC) have implemented comprehensive smokefree and vapefree policies^{38,39}.

As the next table shows, with no policy in place the Council lags behind other local councils in Northland.

Table 4 – Smokefree/vapefree areas implemented by Northland Local Councils as of January 2025

Smokefree/vapefree areas	FNDC	WDC	KDC
Council-owned/controlled parks, sports fields, skateparks, and playgrounds		✓	✓
Neighbourhood reserves		✓	
Swimming pool complexes		✓	✓
Bus and taxi shelters		✓	✓
Transport hubs		✓	
Council-owned and administered cemeteries		✓	
Carparks		✓	
Inside Council-owned buildings and facilities		✓	✓
Entranceways to Council buildings and outdoor seating areas near Council's buildings		✓	✓
Inside Council-controlled social housing/ housing for the elderly	✓	✓	✓
Council-owned carparks		✓	✓
Beaches that are accessible to the public		✓	
Council funded, administered, or supported events or events held on Council land		✓	✓

9 Possible elements of a smokefree policy for the Far North

This section discusses elements that could be included in a smokefree/ vapefree policy for the Far North. At this stage, no decisions have been made regarding which elements, if any, should be included in a policy, as further consultation with the community and relevant stakeholders will be required to design the policy.

9.1 Inclusion of vaping in a smokefree policy

Reflecting the addition of vaping to the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990 in 2023, a Council smokefree policy would cover both smoking tobacco and vaping including the use of HTP products (see section 6.1).

³⁷ See extensive references in Thompson et al, [Expanding smokefree outdoor areas in Wellington City: Rationale and options](#) [University of Otago March 2016]

³⁸ [Smokefree and Vapefree Policy - Whangarei District Council](#)

³⁹ [Smokefree Kaipara Policy](#)

9.2 Designated smokefree/vapefree areas

Designated smokefree/vapefree areas in public places owned or administered by the Council would be a key component of a smokefree policy, helping to reduce exposure to secondhand smoke, reduce youth uptake of smoking/vaping, support those trying to quit smoking/vaping, and prevent the normalisation of smoking in these public spaces. There is an opportunity to align these areas with those covered in WDC’s and KDC’s policies (see section 8.1). If Council decides to make a smokefree/vapefree policy, investigating which areas would be covered in such a policy would involve engaging with the public and other stakeholders.

9.3 Communicating a smokefree/vapefree policy

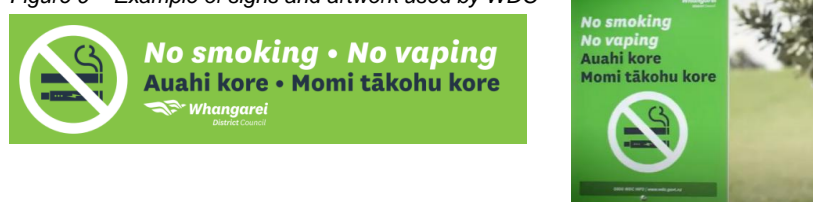
Signage

If Council decides to implement a smokefree/vapefree policy, clear signage will be required to inform the public as to which areas are smokefree/vapefree. Placing and maintaining this signage would be the responsibility of the Council, as Health NZ has ceased to supply free signs to local councils.

The costs and logistics of providing signage will be investigated at the design stage of developing the policy. In this regard the Council can potentially learn from other local councils including WDC and KDC, and Health NZ is willing to share advice on the most cost-effective approaches to signage that other councils have used. The following considerations are relevant to Council placing and maintaining signs:

- legacy signage from pre-2022 is still displayed in many parks, playgrounds, and reserves – this refers to smokefree areas, not smokefree and vapefree areas
- if Council decides that new smokefree/vapefree areas should be included in the policy such as the entranceways to Council building or areas where al fresco dining occurs, then new signs would be needed
- new smokefree and vapefree signs have been designed by WDC. See below:

Figure 9 – Example of signs and artwork used by WDC



- to save costs, WDC is happy to share the artwork for these signs which can be adapted to print signs for our district. This approach was used by KDC (who changed the colours to match KDC branding) and, if adopted, would mean that the three local councils in Northland would have consistent signage
- careful consideration would be given to the types of signs used. Potentially printed adhesive stickers (which are relatively cheap to produce) could be used
- to manage labour costs, signs could be placed as Council staff (or contractors) go about their daily business rather than treating this a new one-off activity.

Public awareness campaigns

Public awareness campaigns would potentially play a key role in promoting smokefree/ vapefree areas and help to encourage compliance. Whangarei, Auckland and Dunedin Councils have implemented extensive awareness campaigns using social media, signage, and local media to promote smokefree/vapefree areas and this material could guide the design of any campaigns in the Far North

- for example, WDC created a video for social media platforms [Link](#) and added a page to their website [Smokefree and Vapefree Policy - Whangarei District Council](#)

9.4 Public support for a smokefree/vapefree policy

If the Council decides that a smokefree/vapefree policy should be developed, a key element of the policy would be support from the public and stakeholder groups.

In general, the New Zealand public supports smokefree/vapefree legislation. This is indicated by survey results:

7.2 NEW LEASE TO KAWAKAWA MEMORIAL LIBRARY CENTRE INCORPORATED OVER 3 WYNYARD STREET, KAWAKAWA

File Number: A5155332

Author: Michelle Rockell, Team Leader - Property Management

Authoriser: Ruben Garcia, Acting Group Manager – Delivery and Operations

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek Council resolution on the granting of a new lease over Local Purpose (community facility) Reserve, under Section 61 Reserves Act 1977 being 3 Wynyard Street, Kawakawa being Part Lot 36 DEEDS W46 to Kawakawa Memorial Library Centre Incorporated.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 1 October 2000, Kawakawa Memorial Library Centre Incorporated entered a Deed of Lease over 3 Wynyard Street, Kawakawa. This Deed of Lease expired on 30 September 2020.
- In December 2024, Kawakawa Memorial Library Centre Incorporated formally requested a new lease over the site that the Kawakawa Museum has occupied since 1997.
- The site is classified Local Purpose (community facility) Reserve and the proposed lease is consistent with the reserve purpose.
- The Reserves Act 1977 does not require public consultation on the issuing of a lease over a Local Purpose Reserve.
- This report was presented to the Bay Of Islands – Whangaroa Community Board on 20 March 2025 who supported the recommendation.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- a) approve a new lease to Kawakawa Memorial Library Centre Incorporated over Local Purpose (Community Facility) Reserve being Part Lot 36 DEEDS W 46, approximately 227 square metres, held in New Zealand Gazette 2000, page 2043 held in Record of Title NA35B/1247.

The terms of the proposed lease shall be:

- **Term: 30 (5+5+5+5+5) years**
- **Annual Rental: As per FNDC Fees and Charges Schedule for a Community lease.**
- **\$121 plus GST for 2024/25 and reviewed annually in conjunction with the FNDC Fees and Charges Schedule.**

- b) authorise the Group Manager Delivery and Operations to negotiate the final terms and conditions of the lease and execute the lease on behalf of Council.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

On 20 March 2025, the Bay Of Islands – Whangaroa Community Board passed the following resolution:

7.1 NEW LEASE TO KAWAKAWA MEMORIAL LIBRARY CENTRE INCORPORATED OVER 3 WYNARD STREET, KAWAKAWA

Agenda item 7.1 document number A5063625, pages 16 - 20 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/16

Moved: Deputy Chairperson Lane Ayr

Seconded: Member Roddy Hapati-Pihema

That the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board recommends that Council:

- a) **approves a new lease to Kawakawa Memorial Library Centre Incorporated over Local Purpose (Community Facility) Reserve being Part Lot 36 DEEDS W 46, approximately 227 square metres, held in New Zealand Gazette 2000, page 2043 held in Record of Title NA35B/1247.**

The terms of the proposed lease shall be:

- **Term: 30 (5+5+5+5+5+5) years**
 - **Annual Rental: As per FNDC Fees and Charges Schedule for a Community lease.**
 - **\$121 plus GST for 2024/25 and reviewed annually in conjunction with the FNDC Fees and Charges Schedule.**
- b) **authorises the Group Manager Delivery and Operations to negotiate the final terms and conditions of the lease and execute the lease on behalf of Council.**

CARRIED

Kawakawa Local Purpose (community facility) Reserve is vested in Council and has been occupied by Kawakawa Memorial Library Centre Incorporated, since 1997. The Kawakawa Memorial Library was built on the site by public subscription in 1921 to spread knowledge and honour the servicemen, women and families that were affected by World War II. Furthermore, the Kawakawa Memorial Library Museum was founded within the building on 25 April 1997, ANZAC Day.

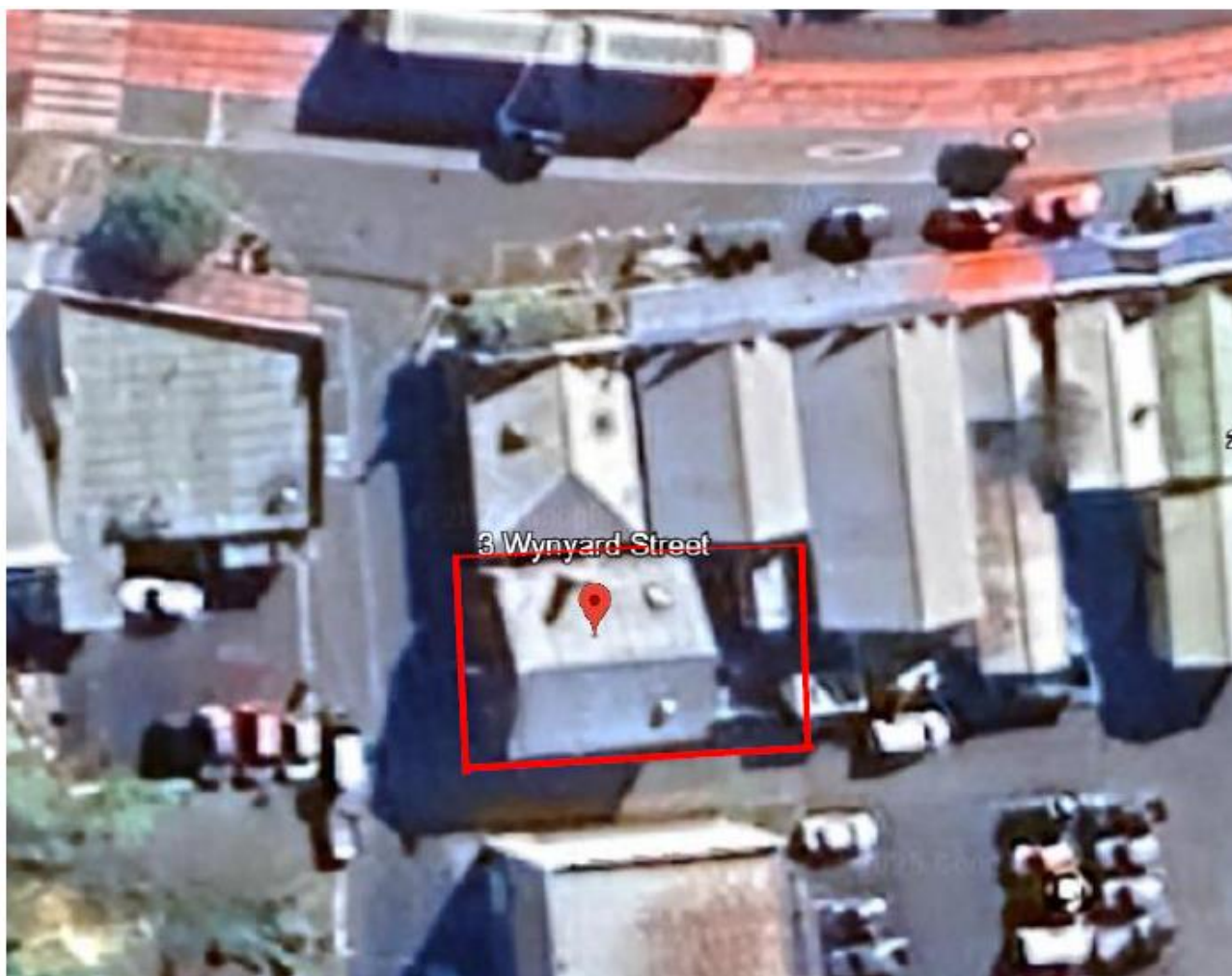
The building is owned by Far North District Council.

Kawakawa Memorial Library Centre Incorporated entered a lease with Far North District Council for 20 years (10+10) on 1 October 2000. This lease expired on 30 September 2020, and in December 2024, Kawakawa Memorial Library Incorporated approached Far North District Council staff formally seeking a new lease of the site.

Community Group History

The Kawakawa Memorial Library hosts a variety of activities and exhibitions, including over 50 events featuring items loaned from other museums and live demonstrations such as printing, bookbinding, fudge making, and picture framing. It serves as a museum, endorsed by the Kawakawa RSA, showcasing rare photographs, World War I artifacts, and personal stories from local servicemen. The library also holds annual ANZAC Day exhibitions and regularly hosts school tours and participates in the Kawakawa Festival of Transport.

The library is home to local history clubs, including the History Club and the Coal Mining and Steam Group, and has hosted artists like Frederick Hundertwasser. It offers adult literacy courses, provides facilities for scanning rare documents, and serves as a stable place to preserve and display Kawakawa's history for future generations. The museum is operated by volunteers six days a week and continues to play an important role in the community.



Aerial view of proposed leased area in red.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

As per the Reserves Act 1977 section 61, public consultation is not required on the granting of a lease over local purpose reserve.

The options available for this site are:

Option 1: Recommended

That the Bay of Islands - Whangaroa Community Board recommends that Council:

- a) approves a new lease to Kawakawa Memorial Library Centre Incorporated over part Local Purpose (Community Facility) Reserve being Part Lot 36 DEEDS W 46, approximately 227 square metres, held in New Zealand Gazette 2000, page 2043 held in Record of Title NA35B/1247.

The terms of the proposed lease shall be:

- Term: 30 (5+5+5+5+5+5) years
- Annual Rental: As per FNDC Fees and Charges Schedule for a Community lease.
- \$121 plus GST for 2024/25 and reviewed annually in conjunction with the FNDC Fees and Charges Schedule.

- b) authorises the Group Manager Delivery and Operations to negotiate the final terms and conditions of the lease and execute the lease on behalf of Council.

Option 1 will allow Kawakawa Memorial Library Incorporated to continue providing their service to the community.

Option 2:

- a) Decline Kawakawa Memorial Library Incorporated request for a new lease and require them to vacate the building.

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

Kawakawa Memorial Library Incorporated provide a beneficial service to the community and requiring them to vacate the building will be detrimental to the Community, whānau and tamariki of the area.

As per the FNDC Parks and Reserves Policy 2022, Council can grant exclusive leases to part or all of a reserve for a maximum term of 30 years.

The term of 5+5+5+5+5+5 was requested to by Kawakawa Memorial Library Incorporated to aid forward planning and ensure the lease is still fit for purpose for both parties. Smaller renewal terms affords Council the opportunity to regularly check in with the tenant and keep open communication.

Public Notice is not a statutory requirement under Reserves Act for the leasing of a Local Purpose Reserve, however Ngāti Hine have been informed of the proposed lease.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

The lease will provide for the lessee to continue to be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the building, the payment of all utility charges, rates (if any) and insurances.

Should a lease not be provided to Kawakawa Memorial Library Incorporated, Council will become responsible for any ongoing maintenance of the site. The building is owned by Far North District Council.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	Medium.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	FNDC Reserves Policy: The Policy supports a long-term lease being offered to community orientated groups wanting a permanent base. Reserves Act 1977 Section 61 Powers in respect of local purpose reserves.
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	This does not have District wide relevance. Delegation to the relevant Community Board to provide recommendations to the Council in respect of applications for the use and/or lease of reserves not contemplated by an existing reserve management plan.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	Far North District Council recognises the significant role of tangata whenua as set out in the Working with Māori chapter in the Long-Term Plan 2021-2031. It is important to notify tangata whenua in the Kawakawa locality of the lease proposal prior to the public consultation. Te Hono was approached to provide advice on who the main contacts were in the first instance. A letter has been sent via email to Ngāti Hine Chief Executive to inform of the requested lease. At the time of writing this report a response has not been received.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	Public consultation is not a requirement as per the Reserves Act 1977. The community of Kawakawa and surrounding areas will be affected should a lease not be granted.
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	All upgrade and maintenance costs fall to the lessee. The appropriate community rent for the land is set by the FNDC Fees Charges Schedule.
Chief Financial Officer review.	The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report.

7.3 ELECTED MEMBER STEERING GROUP FOR LOCAL WATER DONE WELL

File Number: A5164299

Author: Andy Dowdle, Change Specialist - Organisational Development

Authoriser: Charlie Billington, Group Manager - Corporate Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek Council approval to establish a Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group to support the development of a joint Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) and further investigate collaborative opportunities for water service delivery under the Local Water Done Well (LWDW) legislative framework.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Public consultation for how the Far North District Council should deliver water services under Local Waters Done Well is currently underway.
- One of the two options presented for public consultation is the formation of a Regional Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) with Kaipara District Council and Whangārei District Council.
- To provide governance oversight for the Regional CCO, it is proposed to establish a Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group, with three Elected Members from each of the three councils.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve:

- a) The formation of a Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group with three representatives from each of the following councils (Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council and Whangārei District Council) to oversee the LWDW programme,
- b) The appointment of _____, _____, _____ to the Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group,
- c) The draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group as provided in Attachment A,
- d) Delegated authority to the Mayor and Chief Executive Officer to make editorial changes to the ToR, if needed,
- e) The appointment of an independent qualified expert to the Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group,
- f) Delegated authority to the Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group to select and appoint the independent qualified expert to the Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group, and

That Council note:

- g) The Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group will make recommendations to each Council for future decision-making, and
- h) The Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group will be supported by an operational team from each council.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Following the repeal of the previous Three Waters legislation, the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 was enacted to establish the foundation for a new water services system.

Key provisions of the Act require Councils to:

- Develop a Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) by 3 September 2025.
- Consult on at least two service delivery options (e.g. in-house vs. CCO).
- Consider financial sustainability, regulatory compliance, and regional collaboration.

Council has already undertaken an options analysis with external consultants and participated in joint Northland modelling exercises with Beca and Martin Jenkins. A Northland CCO was found to be potentially viable.

In developing consultation plans both Far North District Council and Whangārei District Council selected an in-house model as the preferred option over a CCO, while Kaipara District Council identified its preferred option as a regional CCO. All three councils are currently consulting on the chosen options, with the Far North District Council's final date for submissions being 4 May 2025.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

LWDW Consultation

At the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 2 April 2025 council approved the draft 'Local Waters Done Well' consultation document and that minor corrections to the draft consultation document and/or supporting information may be approved in writing by either the Chief Executive or Mayor, prior to publication on 3 April 2025.

Public consultation was entered into on 3 April 2025 and submissions closed on 4 May 2025.

The Consultation Document presented the following options:

Option 1 – Keep water services in-house but with significant changes.

Option 2 – A three-council water services organisation (for water supply and wastewater only) owned by Far North District Council (FNDC), Kaipara District Council (KDC) and Whangārei District Council

Option 1 was presented in the Consultation Document as the preferred option, whilst outlining councils' intention to collaborate further with KDC and WDC to understand how a three-council water services organisation could work.

A key decision is expected in June as to which Option Council will proceed with, and is required to form the water services delivery plan due to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) on 3 September 2025. Given the time constraints, understanding whether there is political support for a regional model in a timely manner is critical in meeting these ambitious timelines. The decision by Elected Members will take into consideration the results from the steering group, iwi and hapu, and the feedback from the public consultation.

Supporting further collaboration with KDC and WDC, council directed the Chief Executive Officer to prepare a Statement of Intent (SOI) to enter into a Heads of Agreement with KDC and WDC for the potential future formation of a Multi-Council CCO water Organisation. The SOI outlines that the formation of the regional CCO requires agreement from all three councils on key items, such as governance, shareholding, and more. It is the aim of the steering group to facilitate and provide

recommendations to Council in understanding and determining if agreement can be reached on these key items. A copy of the SOI is attached (Attachment B).

Forming an Elected Member Steering Group

In recommending to proceed with consultation between 3 April 2025 and 4 May 2025 the formation of a Multi-Council Elected Member Steering Group was proposed.

The proposed steering group, consisting of three members from each of the three councils, offers flexibility and agility. This structure allows for efficient decision-making while ensuring that key decisions still come back to the councils for approval. By contrast, including all elected members from all three councils would be more challenging to coordinate and would likely add additional time requirements to the process.

Further to the approval of the consultation material and approach, the Chief Executive Officers from FNDC, KDC and WDC have drafted a Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Elected Member Steering Group. A copy of the ToR is attached (Attachment A).

Option 1: Council approves recommendations.

Advantages

- The steering group will provide a dedicated forum for consistent and regular input from all three councils and prioritises input across councils
- Elected member involvement ensures decisions reflect political expectations and community considerations early on.
- Having elected members directly involved helps streamline governance and avoids delays in decision-making and implementation.
- Governance level oversight will help build public trust in the process.

Disadvantages

- There may be uncertainty about the steering group's decision-making powers unless clearly defined in the Terms of Reference (ToR).
- Steering group members may change due to council elections or other commitments, which can affect continuity of direction and knowledge.
- Supporting the steering group will require additional coordination and reporting effort from staff.
- Time commitment from elected members and staff may stretch existing workloads unless resourcing is planned.

Option 2: Council does not approve the recommendations.

Advantages

- Ensures that all councillors across the three councils have the same opportunity to contribute to discussions and decisions.
- Utilises the current council meeting structure and delegations, which are already well-understood and embedded.
- Keeps key decisions in the hands of the full governing body, reinforcing transparency and direct accountability to the public.

Disadvantages

- Slower progress due to the need to consult with three separate councils individually.
- Greater risk of miscommunication or decisions being revisited if not all councils are on the same page.
- Staff may be left without a clear governance group to test options and get timely direction.

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

It is recommend that Council approve the formation of the steering group to enable more efficient and aligned decision-making across the three participating councils. The group will provide a focused governance forum that supports collaboration, accelerates progress, and ensures elected member oversight is embedded early in the process. Expectations as set out in the draft terms of reference will define the group's role and maintain transparency, while also ensuring full councils remain the final decision-makers on key matters. This structure balances efficiency with accountability and helps position the project for regional success.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

The formation and operation of the Steering Group will incur minimal costs, that are primarily related to meeting facilitation and administrative support. These costs are expected to be absorbed within existing budgets. Any future financial implications arising from the Steering Group's recommendations will be presented to the Council for consideration.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Joint LWDW Working Group Terms of reference - A5168816** [↓](#) 
2. **LWDW Statement of Intent - A5168817** [↓](#) 

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

Full consideration has been given to the provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 S77 in relation to decision making, in particular:

1. A Local authority must, in the course of the decision-making process,
 - a) Seek to identify all reasonably practicable options for the achievement of the objective of a decision; and
 - b) Assess the options in terms of their advantages and disadvantages; and
 - c) If any of the options identified under paragraph (a) involves a significant decision in relation to land or a body of water, take into account the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water sites, waahi tapu, valued flora and fauna and other taonga.
2. This section is subject to Section 79 - Compliance with procedures in relation to decisions.

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	High significance in accordance with our Significance and Engagement Policy.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Local Government (Water Services) Bill Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 Water Services Acts Repeal Act Water Services Entities Act 2022. (repealed) Water Services Legislation Act 2023. (repealed) Water Services Economic Efficiency and Consumer Protection Act 2023. (repealed)
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	The proposal has District wide relevance.
State the possible implications for Māori and how Māori have been provided with an opportunity to contribute to decision making if this decision is significant and relates to land and/or any body of water. State the possible implications and how this report aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi.	There are wide reaching implications for Māori, whenua Māori, awa and moana. Contact has been made with Te Kahu o Taonui to help ensure awareness is filtered to hapū.
Identify persons likely to be affected by or have an interest in the matter, and how you have given consideration to their views or preferences (for example – youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	As this a district wide service, there will be a wide ranging number of people & groups who will be affected and their views will be considered as part of the consultation process.

<p>State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.</p>	<p>There are negligible financial implications. Existing BAU budgets will absorb costs.</p>
<p>Chief Financial Officer review.</p>	<p>This report was not reviewed by the CFO, although has been reviewed by the Group Manager Corporate Services</p>

7.4 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS - APRIL 2025**File Number: A5170105****Author: Marysa Maheno, Democracy Advisor****Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services****TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- To increase governance oversight of Committee business/discussions.
- Communicate resolutions of Committee meetings.
- Escalate Committee recommendations to Council.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The following Committee meetings were held in April 2025.
 - 8 April 2025, Te Miromiro-Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee
 - 23 April 2025, Te Koukou-Transport and Infrastructure Committee
 - 24 April 2025, Te Kuaka-Te Ao Māori Committee
- Copies of the Committee meeting minutes are attached for information.
- Links to the agendas containing the reports that formed the basis of the recommendations below are included in this report.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION**That Council**

Te Koukou-Transport and Infrastructure Committee: Item 5.3 Water and Transport Portfolio Members Reports.

Moved: Cr Steve McNally

Seconded: Kahika Moko Tepania

That Te Koukou – Transport and Infrastructure Committee recommend to Council:

- that Redwood trees on reserve be removed urgently under Health & Safety legislation to reduce risk to public who walk through from Hawkings Crescent to Kerikeri high school and residents in Retirement Village and Hawkings Crescent residential homes and**
- That the CEO report the financial risk to ratepayer, insurance premiums, excess and consequential loss due to Council negligence.**

Te Kuaka-Te Ao Māori Committee: Item 5.2 Reorua Te Kerikeri

Moved: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro

Seconded: Cr Tāmati Rākena

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee:

- receive the report Reorua Te Kerikeri;**
- endorse the new Reorua Strategy name, “Te Rauora” – “Kia rāhiri te reo, hei mōhiohio ka rauora te tūākiri (The revitalisation of language through education, respect and identity)”;** and
- recommend to Council to approve the new Reorua strategy name.**

and:

Te Kuaka-Te Ao Māori Committee: Item 5.3 Rating Relief Policy 2021 Review

Moved: Cr Tāmami Rākena

Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Rating Relief Policy 2021 Review and recommend that Council

- a) agree, the Rating Relief Policy has been reviewed.
- b) approve, the Rating Relief Policy continue with amendment.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

This is a regular report to provide greater governance oversight of discussions that occur at Committee meetings and to avoid duplication of reading for Councillors for decisions that are recommended to them, from each Committee meeting.

Copies of Committee meeting minutes that have occurred since the last ordinary Council meeting are attached for information.

From time to time, Committee's discuss items that are outside their delegations. This report, when necessary, will highlight recommendations from each Committee to Council for decision.

Information about Council, Committee or Community Board meetings is publicly available at <https://infocouncil.fndc.govt.nz/>

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

The Committee meetings held since the last Council meeting are listed here, along with a link to information where a recommendation from the Committee is made to Council.

8 April 2025 – Te Miromiro-Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee

[Agenda of Te Miromiro - Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee Meeting - Tuesday, 8 April 2025](#)

23 April 2025 – Te Koukou-Transport and Infrastructure Committee

[Agenda of Te Koukou - Transport and Infrastructure Committee Meeting - Wednesday, 23 April 2025](#)

24 April 2025 – Te Kuaka-Te Ao Māori Committee




[Agenda of Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting - Thursday, 24 April 2025](#)

[Supplementary Reports Agenda of Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting - Thursday, 24 April 2025](#)

PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

This report does not intend to repeat the financial implications, options or decision-making requirements for the recommendations listed. Please review the agendas via the provided links for further information.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **2025-04-08 Te Miromiro - Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee Minutes - A5147409**

2. **2025-04-23 Te Koukou - Transport and Infrastructure Committee Minutes - A5165420** 


3. **2025-04-24 Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Minutes - A5166888** [↓](#) 

8 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

8.1 CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT - PERIOD JANUARY - MARCH 2025

File Number: A5168148

Author: Philippa Boye, Project & Facilities Coordinator

Authoriser: Emma Healy, Chief of Staff

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an overview of key activities across the organisation for quarter three of the 2024/2025 financial year.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chief Executive's report to Council presents an overview of activities that Council undertakes.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the report Chief Executives Report - Period January - March 2025.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The Chief Executive's report to Council is attached and covers a detailed overview of progress against Council's activities.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

This Report is for information only.

PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications or budgetary provision needed as a result of this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. CE Report - A5168115 [↓](#) 

8.2 MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

File Number: A5056545

Author: Marysa Maheno, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

TE TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report is a mechanism to have open communication and transparency on activities undertaken by Councillors as elected representatives.

NGĀ TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the reports submitted by Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania, Kōwhai Kelly Stratford and Crs Ann Court, Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Babe Kapa and John Vujcich.

TE TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Kahika-Mayor Tepania has reintroduced Council members reports as a mechanism to have open communication and transparency on activities undertaken by Councillors as elected representatives. Members reports are compulsory for Councillors.

TE MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Members reports are attached for information.

REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

To formally receive the Mayor and Councillor reports.

NGĀ PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications or the need for budgetary provision as a result of this report.

NGĀ ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Members Report - Kahika Moko Tepania - A5170005** [↓](#) 
2. **Members Report - Kōwhai Kelly Stratford - A5175889** [↓](#) 
3. **Members Report - Cr Court - A5170332** [↓](#) 
4. **Members Report - Cr Halkyard-Harawira - A5173985** [↓](#) 
5. **Members Report - Cr Kapa - A5175216** [↓](#) 
6. **Members Report - Cr Vujcich - A5169718** [↓](#) 

8.3 COUNCIL OPEN RESOLUTIONS UPDATE MAY 2025

File Number: A5056512

Author: Marysa Maheno, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Council with an overview of outstanding Council and the previous term Committee decisions from 1 January 2020.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Open resolutions are a mechanism to communicate progress against decisions/resolutions.
- Open resolutions are also in place for all formal elected member meetings.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the report Council Open Resolution Update May 2025.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Any resolution or decision from a meeting is compiled on an open resolution status report, to capture actions triggered by Council decisions. Staff provide updates on progress against tasks that are not yet completed.

The open resolution report also includes outstanding actions from previous triennium committees.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

The outstanding tasks are often multi-facet projects that take longer to fully complete. Where a decision differs to the recommendation of staff there may be unintended consequences or challenges that take longer for staff to work through.

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION.

To provide Council with an overview of outstanding Council decisions from 1 January 2020.

3) PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications or need for budgetary provision in receiving this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. Open Resolution Report - A5175090 [↓](#) 

8.4 COMMUNITY BOARD MINUTES - APRIL 2025

File Number: A5070106

Author: Marysa Maheno, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an overview of resolutions made by Community Boards with an opportunity for Chairpersons to speak with Council about pertinent discussions held at Community Board.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Minutes from Te Hiku, Bay of Islands-Whangaroa and Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board April 2025 meetings are attached for Council information.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the following Community Board minutes:

- 15 April 2025 Te Hiku Community Board;
- 16 April 2025 Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board;
- 17 and 10 April 2025 Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board;

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

This report is to provide Council with an overview of resolutions made at Community Board meetings and for Community Board Chairpersons to raise any Community Board issues with Council.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

This is intended as an information report but shows on the agenda as a standard report to place it earlier on the agenda.

From time-to-time Community Boards may make recommendations to Council. This report is not considered to be the appropriate mechanism for Council to make a decision from a Community Board recommendation. Council could however move a motion to formally request a report on a particular matter for formal consideration at a subsequent meeting. The report would then ensure that Council have sufficient information to satisfy the decision-making requirements under the Local Government Act 2002 (sections 77-79).

The minutes presented to this meeting include recommendations to Council, which staff have requested be considered by Council for the June meeting.

PĀNGA PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGA TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications or need for budget provision in considering this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. 2025-04-15 Te Hiku Community Board Minutes - A5159510 [↓](#) 
2. 2025-04-16 Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Minutes - A5158958 [↓](#) 
3. 2025-04-17 Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board Minutes - A5160338 [↓](#) 
4. 2025-04-10 Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board Minutes - A5155382 [↓](#) 

9 TE WĀHANGA TŪMATAITI / PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION

That the public be excluded from the following parts of the proceedings of this meeting.

The general subject matter of each matter to be considered while the public is excluded, the reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter, and the specific grounds under section 48 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution are as follows:

General subject of each matter to be considered	Reason for passing this resolution in relation to each matter	Ground(s) under section 48 for the passing of this resolution
9.1 - Confirmation of Previous Minutes - Public Excluded	s7(2)(a) - the withholding of the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(h) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
9.2 - Community Board Public Excluded Minutes	s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the whole or the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting is necessary to enable the Council to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation where a right of appeal lies to any court or tribunal against the final decision of the Council in these proceedings	s48(2)(a)(i) - the exclusion of the public from the part of the meeting is necessary to enable the local authority to deliberate in private on its decision or recommendation
9.3 - Housing for the Elderly Portfolio of Assets - Outcome of Due Diligence and Negotiations	s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7
9.4 - Council Public Excluded Open Resolutions Update May 2025	s7(2)(g) - the withholding of the information is necessary to	s48(1)(a)(i) - the public conduct of the relevant part of the proceedings of the meeting would be likely to result in the disclosure

	<p>maintain legal professional privilege</p> <p>s7(2)(i) - the withholding of the information is necessary to enable Council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)</p>	<p>of information for which good reason for withholding would exist under section 6 or section 7</p>

10 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSING PRAYER

11 TE KAPINGA HUI / MEETING CLOSE