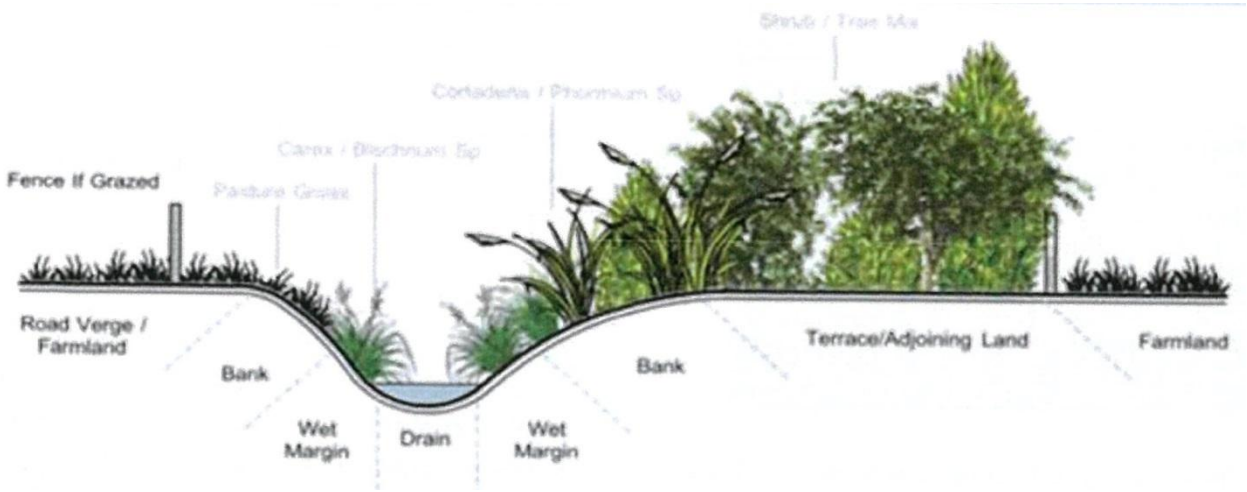
Far North District Council

MOTUTANGI DRAINAGE AREA

MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

XXXX 2026



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Appendix:

A – Motutangi Drain Compartment Maps
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1. Physical Environment

Climate
The Far North's climate is characterised by mild temperatures, humidity and windiness, particularly in coastal areas.

The Annual Average Rainfall measured at Kaitaia Airport is 1429mm.
At Motutangi the average rainfall is 1176mm annually.
There are sporadic heavy falls associated with depressions of tropical origin.
There is a clearly defined winter rainfall maximum with 30-40% of average annual rainfall typically falling in the period June to August.
Northland is also prone to summer droughts.

Landforms
The Motutangi Drainage Area catchment is complex and overlays a large, unconfined aquifer with permeable sands from old sand dunes across the catchment with recharging of the aquifer through the permeable surface of the catchment and sandstone ridges and basins confining the aquifer in places.

The basins have formed perched water tables, i.e. lakes, in between the old sand dune ridges which peat has formed. The old Motutangi stream provides the outlet of the drainage area to the Houhora Harbour.

Soils
The flat area around Motutangi contains sandy soils, as well as a large area of peaty loam and deep peat, along with some areas of clay loam.
Large areas of the flats have been classified as high value horticulture land.
The hill country contains primarily clay-loam and limestone soils. On steeper land, these soil types are prone to slipping, particularly during heavy rain.

Water and Soil
The Kaimaumau-Motutangi Complex (including East Beach and Lake Waikaramu Conservation Area) covers an area of more than 4,600 ha and stretches from the Rangaunu Harbour entrance near Kaimaumau, north-westwards to the Houhora Harbour mouth - a distance of approximately 15 km of continuous natural landscape.

About half of this Complex (1868 ha) is wetland with the remaining areas being in shrubland (2203 ha) and dunes (627 ha)3. Of the public conservation land within this Complex, 986 ha is classified as Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve; 247 ha as Lake Waikaramu Conservation Area; and 2269 ha as East Beach Conservation Area.
The remaining area (private land) is roughly divided as 1125 ha of shrubland (including gum land) and 163 ha of wetland.
A stretch of land approximately 5km long running along the western side of the Motutangi Stream is designated as the Motutangi Marginal Strip. A€•

The Motutangi stream collects some sediment where the gradient (and hence velocity) drops.
This is noticeably where there are issues with weed build up.
Weed build up has been particularly noticeable in the lowest reaches of the stream, before it discharges into the harbour.

Flora and Fauna
The vegetation is dominated by sedges, rushes and shrubs representative of the acidic, low fertility wetlands and dune systems that were once widespread and typical in the Aupouri Ecological District

2. Description of Motutangi Drainage Catchment Area

The Motutangi drainage area covers an approximate area of 30 km ^{2} and comprises ten primary drains which are depicted in Figure 1.

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Figure 1- Drains within the Motutangi Drainage Area

The catchment is complex and overlays a large, unconfined aquifer with permeable sands from old sand dunes across the catchment with recharging of the aquifer through the permeable surface of the catchment and sandstone ridges and basins confining the aquifer in places.

The basins have formed perched water tables, i.e. lakes, in between the old sand dune ridges which peat has formed.
The old Motutangi stream provides the outlet of the drainage area to the Houhora Harbour.
Sediment loads in this type of stream are generally low.

The majority of the catchment has been drained and developed for pastoral farming. Old dunes and peat areas can be clearly observed.

The vegetation is dominated by sedges, rushes and shrubs representative of the acidic, low fertility wetlands and dune systems that were once widespread and typical in the Aupouri Ecological District

Department of Conservation

The Department of Conservation (DOC) has statutory functions and responsibilities in relation to a number of reserves and conservation lands within the Motutangi drainage area.

Despite the development and operation of the drainage scheme, a significant remnant of the original wetland system remains intact, known as the Kaimaumau–Motutangi Wetland.

The remaining wetland includes areas administered by DOC, notably the Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve, as well as adjoining conservation and reserve lands. The extent of these areas is shown in Figure 2.

The Northland Conservation Management Strategy describes this area in detail and identifies its ecological significance. In summary, the distinctive features include:

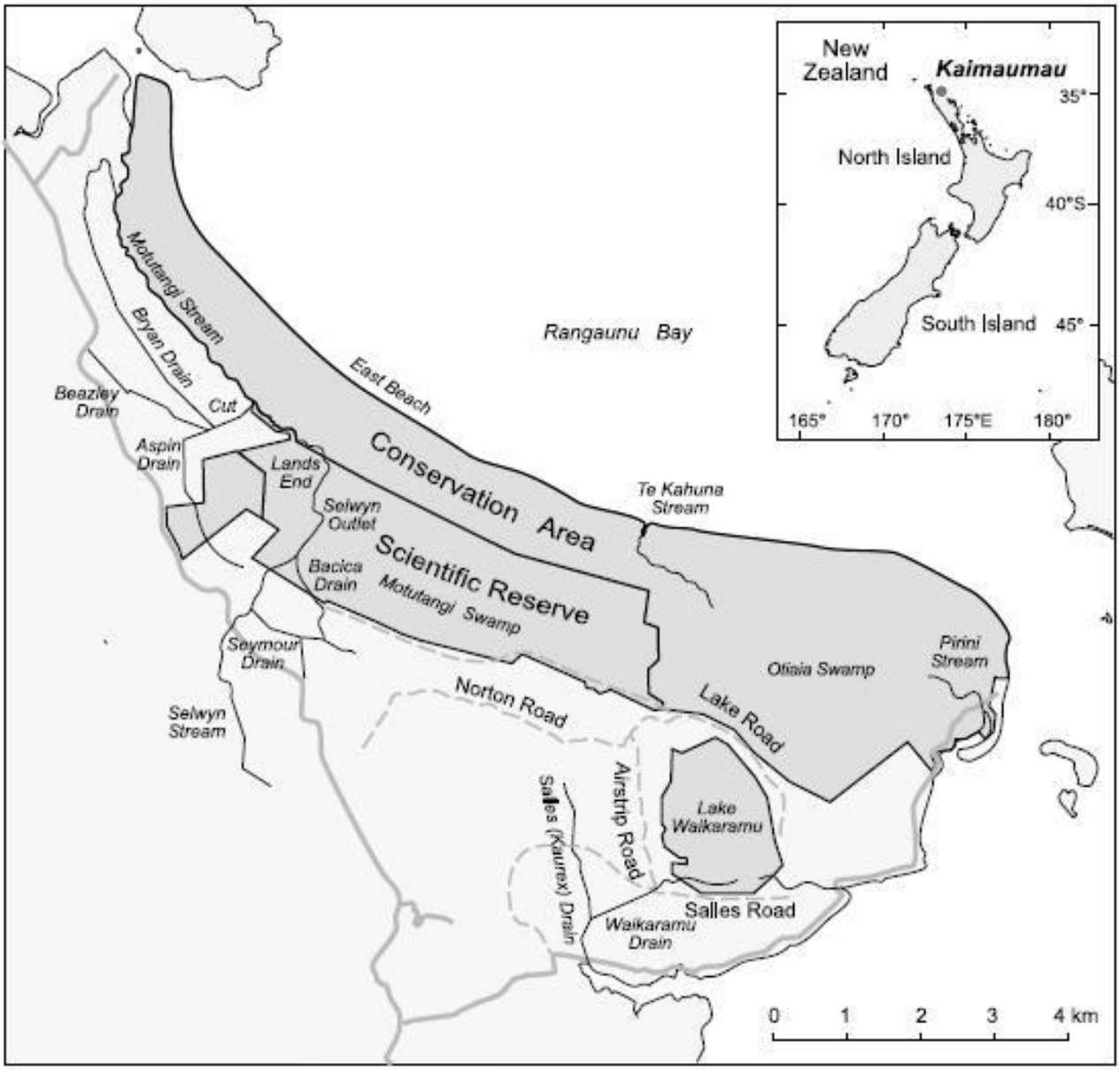

Figure 2 – Map for the Motutangi Drainage Area

- A significant example of a peat bog and wetland system;
- One of Northland's most important podzol gumland areas occurring at Kaimaumau;
- Priority ecosystems considered nationally important for natural heritage management on public conservation land, including the Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve and parts of the East Beach area (Motutangi/Waihuahua);
- Location within the Parengarenga–Aupouri–Kaimaumau–Karikari place area as described in the CMS;
- The presence of two of New Zealand's most outstanding harbour and estuarine habitats in close proximity;
- Ranking of the Kaimaumau wetland as the third largest peat bog system in New Zealand, with nearby shallow and ephemeral lakes, including Lake Ōhia; and

- A wetland substrate of ancient kauri roots providing important habitat for threatened ferns, mosses, orchids, freshwater fish, forest species, coastal broadleaf shrubland, and a wide range of coastal and seabirds.

Kaimaumau is notable for the high numbers of threatened plant species and orchid communities present, as well as the diversity of coastal and forest birdlife it supports.

DOC therefore continues to have an important statutory role in relation to conservation outcomes, biosecurity, fire management, and ecological protection within and adjacent to the drainage area and remains a key agency for engagement in drainage maintenance planning and implementation.

Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve:

The Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve covers an area of approximately 986 hectares and is designated pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977. The Reserve is of national and international importance, consistent with the purpose of a Scientific Reserve, due to its support of:

- an appreciable number of rare, vulnerable, or endangered species;
- special value for maintaining the genetic and ecological diversity of the region due to the quality and distinctiveness of its flora and fauna; and
- special value of its endemic plant and animal species and ecological communities.

The Reserve is nationally recognised for its outstanding ecological values.
Kaimaumau is a large wetland system supporting a wide range of habitat types, including acidic, low-fertility wetlands, peat bogs, fens, and gumlands. These habitats have been recorded as providing habitat for at least 12 Threatened species, 14 At Risk species, and four Regionally Significant species.
The Reserve has been identified as the highest-ranked peat bog system in Northland (Martin *et al.*, 2011). Peat bogs such as this are among Northland's rarest wetland types, with less than 2% of their original extent remaining, and they continue to be vulnerable to land-use change and hydrological modification.
Waterways flowing through the Reserve also support high ecological values for native freshwater fish, particularly inanga (whitebait) and tuna (eel).
The wetland system comprises a perched water table, supported by an underlying sandstone hardpan. Its primary source of water is rainfall directly onto the wetland surface, with average annual rainfall of approximately 1,176 mm (Hicks *et al.*, 2001).
Hydrological processes affecting the wider Motutangi catchment, including the Kaimaumau wetland, are described by Hicks *et al.* (2001). That work was based on an earlier review undertaken by the Department of Conservation in 1997 and remains the principal published hydrological assessment of the system, providing baseline information to inform drainage management decisions. The report also summarises geological and botanical information available at the time.
The Northland Conservation Management Strategy identifies active management of water levels, plant pests, and fire risk within the Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve as key actions to protect wetland habitats, including through liaison with Northland Regional Council and Far North District Council in relation to the operation and maintenance of the Motutangi Drainage Scheme.
The primary threats to the Reserve are largely associated with alteration of the natural hydrological regime, which can lead to drying of parts of the wetland. This, in turn, facilitates weed establishment, increases fire risk, and contributes to peat mineralisation and shrinkage, all of which can adversely affect wetland integrity.
The Selwyn Drain, Cut to Lands' End Drain, and Bacica's Drain traverse parts of the Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve, resulting in some drainage influence on the wetland in their immediate vicinity. These drains therefore require particular consideration in drainage maintenance planning and regulatory engagement.

Motutangi Marginal Strip

The Motutangi marginal strip runs for approximately 5 kilometres from the intersection of the Main Outfall and Motutangi stream to the Houhora Harbour along the western side of the stream.

The Motutangi Marginal Strip was originally reserved under section 129 of the Land Act 1924 and is now administered under Part 4A of the Conservation Act 1987.
Under section 24C of the Conservation Act 1987, the purposes of a marginal strip are to:

- maintain and protect natural values;

- maintain water quality;
- maintain aquatic life and control harmful species of aquatic life; and
- enable public access to and along waterways, where appropriate.

Operational access and maintenance within the marginal strip remains subject to Department of Conservation approval, concession conditions, and relevant resource consents.

The Motutangi Stream is flanked on its western bank by the Motutangi Marginal Strip.

East Beach Conservation Area

The East Beach area comprises land along the eastern margin of the Motutangi drainage catchment and includes areas with high conservation and cultural values.
The eastern coastal portion, extending along East Beach and adjoining the Motutangi Marginal Strip, includes land subject to Treaty of Waitangi settlement redress under the Ngāi Takoto Claims Settlement Act 2015. Under that Act, the Wharemaru / East Beach property vested in Ngāi Takoto governance entities and was subsequently declared a Scenic Reserve pursuant to the Reserves Act 1977, while retaining ongoing statutory roles for the Minister of Conservation in relation to matters such as fire management and pest control.
The western portion of the East Beach area, located east of State Highway 1, remains subject to conservation and land-use controls consistent with its current statutory classification.
The Motutangi Stream is flanked along its eastern bank by East Beach land. In addition, portions of the Aspin Drain and Subritzky Drain traverse the western extent of the East Beach area, and the Cut to Lands' End Drain is flanked on both sides by East Beach land.
Drainage maintenance activities within or adjacent to the East Beach area therefore require careful consideration of conservation values and statutory responsibilities, and appropriate engagement with Ngāi Takoto, the Department of Conservation, and the Northland Regional Council, as applicable.

3. The planned level of protection of the drainage area

The Motutangi drainage scheme is to be maintained for the primary purpose of providing for pastoral farmland drainage and the protection of land from flooding, while complying with relevant regulations relating to the catchment area.

A concession application was approved with the Department of Conservation in late 2025 to formalise easements for the drains and associated assets that traverse the Scientific and Conservation Reserves. This Management Plan may need to be modified to reflect any measures required by that concession.

A resource consent application will be lodged with the Northland Regional Council (NRC) in 2026 to formalise occupation and use of the land drainage area. Once resource consent is granted, this Management Plan may need to be modified to reflect any measures required by that consent.

Description of assets within in the drainage area
A description of each drain, and associated assets, are provided below.

4. Objective of Motutangi Drainage Catchment Area Management Plan

The purpose of this Management Plan is to:

- Formalise the purpose of the Motutangi Drainage Area and its assets
- Document the objectives, policies, and methods of implementation for the management of the Motutangi Drainage Area and its assets
- Provide an operational plan of the necessary works and procedures to put into effect the purpose and policies of the Motutangi Drainage Area
- Cover the maintenance of existing assets, proposed upgrades, and the means of funding the proposed works
- Provide general information in support of resource consent(s) from the Northland Regional Council to undertake the necessary maintenance works contained in the management and operational plan

- Work alongside DOC to the benefit of the environment and the Motutangi Drainage Area assets.

This Management and Operational Plan does not authorise works that fall outside permitted activity standards or approved resource consent conditions and does not replace the need to obtain consents where required by legislation or regional rules.

5. The Motutangi Drainage Area Management

The Far North District Council (FNDC) oversees the management of a series of drainage areas in the Far North. The origin of many of these drainage areas date back to the early 20th century and were generally developed for the purpose of converting wetlands and swamps into productive land.

Management responsibilities for the Drainage Areas are divided between the two authorities.
FNDC is responsible for land drainage functions, including the maintenance and operation of farm drainage systems.
NRC is responsible for managing rivers and areas influenced by main tidal flows.
Flood hazard mapping and flood risk controls are primarily addressed through the Far North District Plan and regional river management functions.
FNDC continues to liaise with, and obtain advice from, the relevant Drainage Committees to support its land drainage responsibilities.

6. Statutory Requirements

Various legislation gives Council power to manage, administer, fund and carry out physical works within the Motutangi Drainage Area. Legislation also imposes controls on the drainage area assets and work carried out on them and, as such, imposes obligations on Council. Historical establishment provides context only; activity status is determined by the current Regional Plan for Northland. This section lists all such legislation and their implications for the Motutangi Drainage areas.

The most relevant acts are as follows:

- Local Government Act 2002
- Land Drainage Act 1908
- Local Government (Rating) Act 2002
- Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941
- Resource Management Act 1991
- Building Act 2004
- Other Legislation

The assets to which the legislation applies are recorded in the Council information system.
Maintenance and upgrading work on the assets is recommended in the various sections.

7. Establishment and Administration of the Motutangi Drainage Area

Settlement and development of swamp land started prior to the 1900's with gum diggers forming the initial drains and tracks. The New Zealand Government, Lands and Survey Department developed significant areas of land to be subdivided into sections and later sold to settlers who would develop the swamps into productive agricultural land. The majority of the development occurred after the 1st World War.

In 1913 the Kaitaia Land Drainage Act passed, making the area subject to the Land Drainage Act 1908, with the exception that a board of 4 trustees was to be applied.

The Motutangi Drainage Area was developed from the 1920's (through the now East Beach Conservation Area) up until the late 70's (through the now Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve).

At the time the land was unoccupied crown land, however the reserves were gazetted in 1988 and 1984 respectively.

In 1926 the Mangonui County Council agreed to act as the Drainage Board and in 1928 the Motutangi swamp was declared a Drainage District.

A hurricane in April 1959 stripped the Marram grass cover from the sandhills and large sand drifts blocked the Motutangi outlet; the Government funded the remedial works in May 1956.

In 1975 the Motutangi Drainage District was extended by an additional 688 ha.

With changes in legislation, the term Drainage District no longer applies and pursuant to the Local Government Act 1974 this Drainage District is now referred to as a Drainage Area. The drainage area is located in Motutangi (contact Council for the location of these schemes).

The agricultural drainage areas have been funded through a combination of private work by landowners and public works by the former Ministry of Works, the local territorial authority, which was the Mangonui County Council until 1989 and is now the Far North District Council (FNDC) and the (now defunct) Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Authority.

Council funding has been obtained through a specific drainage rating classification.

In 2013 the Northern Drainage Committee (NDC) was established.
NDC was made up of local representatives from each drainage area, to advise Council on a programme of works for the respective drainage areas.

This (NDC) zone has since been split into four sub areas, Kataia, Motutangi, with the Waiharara/Kaikino areas working together as one subgroup.

In 2015 the Motutangi Drainage Area Committee was established as a Committee of the Te Hiku Community Board (THCB).

The Motutangi Drainage Area Committee is comprised of one representative from the THCB and five ratepayers from within the defined area of the Motutangi Drainage Area.

The purpose of the Motutangi Drainage Area Committee is to represent and consult with the ratepayers of the Motutangi Drainage Area to make recommendations to the THCB in respect of all matters pertaining to the management of the Motutangi Drainage Area.

The representatives of these areas consider what maintenance is required and then set an order of priority. These works can relate to improving accessibility of the drains for maintenance crew, as well as spraying and machine cleaning programmes.

The general administration of the Motutangi Drainage Area is undertaken by the FNDC through the Water Services Team who undertakes the following administrative tasks:

- Inspect the physical assets of the Motutangi Drainage Area.
- Liaise with the members of the Motutangi Drainage Area Committee.
- Prepare the Annual Maintenance Works Programme and budgetary estimates.
- Prepare reports for the Motutangi Drainage Area Committee and THCB meetings.
- Issue instructions to the contractors for the agreed Annual Maintenance Works Programme.
- Ensure all works are being undertaken in accordance with all FNDC Health & Safety Policies and Procedures.
- Certify all payments on completion of the works.
- Liaise with Northland Regional Council, Department of Conservation and Ngai Takoto as and when required.

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8. The Planned Level of Protection of the Drainage Area

The Motutangi drainage scheme is to be maintained for the primary purpose of providing for pastoral farmland drainage and the protection of land from flooding, while complying with relevant regulations relating to the catchment area.

A resource consent application will be lodged with the Northland Regional Council (NRC) in 2026 to formalise occupation and use of the land drainage area. Once resource consent is granted, this Management Plan may need to be modified to reflect any measures required by that consent.

9. Description of Assets within in the Drainage Area

Overview
Much of the drainage development in the past has been influenced by the necessity to reduce the flooding in the Motutangi and Awanui urban areas. However, extensive works are also in place to protect the rural land and lower groundwater levels to improve the productivity of the land.

Description
The Motutangi Drainage Area has various assets and works associated with it. The farm drainage works consist primarily of a network of open drains. The flood protection works consist primarily of stop banks, channel improvements, overflow channels, detention areas and flood gates. Some of the works provide both flood protection and farm drainage functions.

A description of each drain, and associated assets, are provided below. These are spatially defined in the schedule of assets, attached as appendix 2

8.1 Motutangi Stream

The Motutangi Stream is a tidal stream with a sand bottom trapped between two sand dune ridges.
The flow within the stream is relatively constant with little plant growth in the lower reaches due to the presence of salt water. In several places erosion of the stream bank has occurred with further erosion possible where exposed sand exists.

For the majority of its length, the western side of this stream is gazetted as marginal strip and is managed by DOC.
The lower reaches of the stream are an important spawning area for white bait species inanga, which rely on stream side vegetation to lay their eggs.

Cattle and domestic pigs currently have access to the western side of the stream for approximately 4km.
In keeping with NRC guidelines for the management of waterways these areas should be fenced to exclude stock and encourage riparian vegetation.
The eastern side of the stream is classified as East Beach Conservation Area.

The stream is crossed in several locations by bridges and other structures, which have been built without the necessary approvals and concessions of either DOC or FNDC; these should be either authorized or removed to prevent further unauthorized use.

For most of its length an access track has been developed down the eastern side of the stream to provide access for drain cleaning by machine and spraying of the stream.
This track varies in its width from 4-15m wide. Spoil from drain clearing has been deposited along the eastern length of the stream and into the East Beach Conservation Area.
This has created weed invasion and problems into the reserve, including pampas, tobacco weed, and wattle.

8.2 Main Outfall drain

The Main Outfall Drain was constructed by machine effectively straightening and shortening the old Motutangi Stream.
A section of the Main Outfall Drain has been cut through a larger sand dune which has the potential to erode and raise the invert level.

Bank collapse has occurred over time along the complete length of the drain with ongoing machine cleaning widening the invert and steepening the batters.

8.3 Bryan drain

The Bryan drain provides pastoral drainage to private property.
Machine cleaning over the years has caused the steepening of the batters and some bank collapse has occurred, but not as severe as the main canal.

The council maintains a 1200 culvert which provides a crossing for machines. A bridge and five culverts provide private crossings.
These are the responsibility of the owners. At chainage 1400 meters there is a 450mm diameter culvert which has approximately 300mm fall, i.e. it raises the upstream water level by 300mm.

At the intersection with State Highway 1, a 600 mm diameter culvert has approximately 1.0 metres fall i.e. it raises the upstream water level by 1.0 metre.

8.4 Beazley drain

The Beazley drain provides pastoral drainage to private property.
A culvert crossing near the main canal provides machine access.

An exposed sand ridge on the left side of the drain has the potential to run off into and raise the upstream water level. Stabilization of the sand should be undertaken.
Suitable area is available on the true right side of the drain for diversion of the drain away from the sand dune while maintaining the existing drain length.

At chainage 1300 meters the drain was excavated through sandstone which if lowered could provide an extra 300mm of fall upstream.
A check is required to ensure no artesian groundwater will be released if the sandstone is fractured.

8.5 Aspin drain

The Aspin drain is a man-made drain which has straightened and shortened the old Motutangi Stream.
The flow velocity is faster in the lower reaches than in the upper reaches of the drain suggesting two different grades exist.

A portion of this drain runs through the East Beach Conservation Area before it flows into the Main Outfall drain.
Along this section of the drain the land to the east has been cleared and informally grazed and its conservation values have already been compromised.

The western side of the drain, however, has not been cleared. For this reason, access for drain clearing and spraying should only take place from the eastern bank.

This area is peat and over drainage threatens the environmental values of the reserve.
The drying out of the peat that has already occurred along the western edge of the drain has led to the introduction and proliferation of weed species such as pampas and if left unmanaged this has the potential to undermine the conservation values of the remaining wetland in the area.

Two bridges and two culverts provide access across the drain.
These private structures are the responsibility of the owners.
However, it is assumed one of the structures is used by the contractor’s machine to provide access to the eastern side of the drain.
This structure should be inspected and certified by a suitably qualified engineer with structural experience.

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8.6 Cut to Lands' End drain (scientific reserve boundary to main outfall)

This 1km section runs from the fenced boundary of the scientific reserve to the exit of the main outfall drain into the Motutangi Stream. Both sides are classified as East Beach Conservation Area.

However, the conservation area on the western side has been incorporated into the neighbouring farm and is grazed, with cattle having access to the water way.

The Cut to Lands' End has steady flows and has a sandstone invert.
Land either side of the drain is susceptible to flooding.

One structure provides access across the Reserve. This is a private structure which has not been built with the authority of the Department of Conservation; a concession application will be lodged with DOC to formalize this structure's presence.

In places spoil from the drain cleaning has been deposited along the eastern edge of the stream into the East Beach Conservation Area. This has created weed invasion problems into the reserve.

Machine cleaning of the stream along this section is to be carried out from the western side.

8.7 Selwyn drain

The Selwyn Drain runs from the SH1 east through the Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve.
The drain was cut through sandstone in the lower reaches and peat in the upper reaches around 1978 before the reserve was gazette.

The drain takes water from an area referred to as the 'Selwyn Swamp', an area of farmland on the western side of the SH1, via the Seymour and Bacica's drains.

As the drain flows from west to east, the volume of water increases, indicating that the drain is not only taking water from the farmland above the Scientific Reserve but also from the surrounding Scientific Reserve wetland.

The establishment and maintenance of the access track along the edge of the Selwyn, including the addition of side drains and culverts, has further compounded this issue.
Through the reserve, access is maintained on the western side of the Selwyn drain only.

8.8 Seymour drain

The Seymour drain is a small drain with a slow flow, and low grades.
Land drained in the upper reaches was developed for agriculture, while land in the lower reaches is privately owned swamp.

8.9 Bacica's drain

The lower reaches of Bacica's drain are cut through wetland with sandstone invert.
The upper reaches are cut through peat and drain agricultural land, at the top end further land is presently being developed. Good grades are available.

After leaving private property, this drain runs through the Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve before flowing into the Selwyn drain.
Access is provided through the Scientific Reserve, from the farmland down approximately 100m on the western side of the drain. No access or maintenance is carried out for the remaining section of drain.

8.10 Subritzky drain

This drain provides drainage to the eastern side of SH1, and an approximately 200m wide portion of the drain runs through East Beach Conservation Area.

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8.11 Changes to these drains to achieve DOC approval to continue the existing drain network.

The following upgrades are required to ensure regulatory compliance is attained:

8.11.a Motutangi Stream access track reconfiguration

The existing access track developed down the eastern side of the Motutangi Stream (which varies in width from 4-15m wide) needs to be widened to allow for the safe use of excavators in stream cleaning operations.

The access track needs to be widened to at least 6m and in some areas at least 11m. This track reconfiguration needs to be marked out prior to work commencing, to ensure as little as possible native vegetation clearance occurs.
The widening of this track will be included in the DOC Concession application.

Designated iwi representatives shall be given the opportunity to be present during track widening to ensure Tikanga is followed if any remains are disturbed. Ngai Takoto have advised DOC that they are prepared to carry out this monitoring work at no cost to the drainage scheme.

Prior to track widening work commencing, sensitive areas will need to be GPS recorded and marked on site to avoid spoil being pushed further into them.
In areas where spoil cannot be pushed east, alternative methods for depositing/removing spoil will be used.

8.11.b Selwyn side drain closures

Existing side drains feeding into the Selwyn, which are not part of the scheme, will be blocked to attempt to stop drying out of these areas. Refer to Figure 3 below for the approximate location of these side drains.

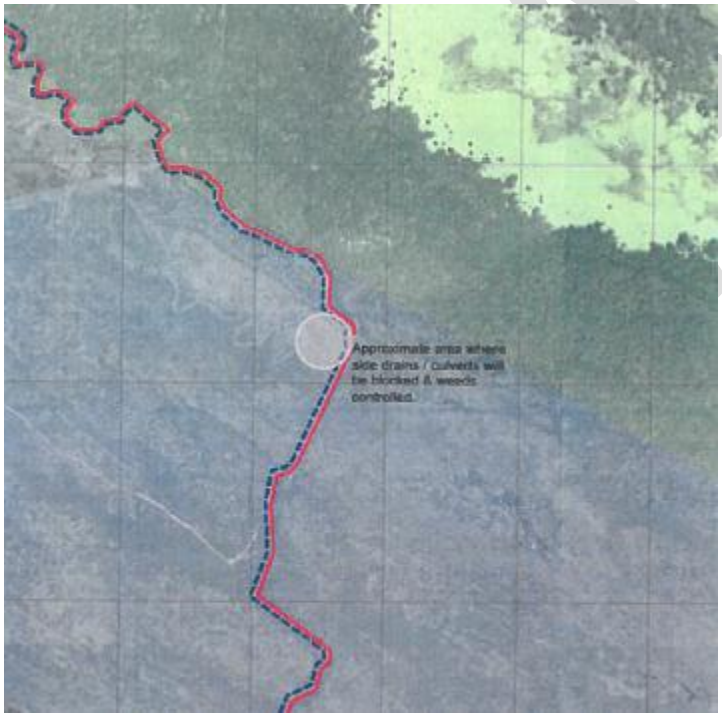

Figure 3 Approximate location on the Selwyn drain where side drains are to be blocked.

Assessment of any built structures (bridges, culverts, etc.) required to facilitate maintenance of the drainage scheme, to determine compliance with building code. Should physical upgrades be required, building consents will be obtained and the structures will be upgraded.

A schematic plan of the assets and a register of drains (including a description of their desirable cross section shape and size) is available from the FNDC.

9. Outline of the Objective of the Planned Maintenance Works

To manage and maintain the existing scheme assets and works in the most economically efficient manner such that the system:

9.1. Meets its primary purposes of providing for farm drainage and the protection of land from flooding in accordance with the relevant objectives in Council's *Te Pae Tata Three-Year Long-Term Plan 2024-27, Wai Ua me Hopuwai Stormwater and Drainage*; and meets its statutory requirements.

9.2. To improve land productivity through improved drainage and reduced duration of flood inundation.

9.3. To have all works completed in a manner sensitive to the environment and creating minimal disturbance compatible with the scope of the works.

To work within the requirements and aims of DOC, NRC and FNDC.

10. Outline of the Maintenance Schedule for the Drainage Scheme

Each year the drains are checked and their condition assessed.
The data is then used to provide a program for machine cleaning, spraying and other associated works in the Motutangi Drainage Area.
This program is then put up for approval by the Drainage Committee and the Te Hiku Community Board.

Normally the drain cleaning will be carried out in late summer or early autumn, to remove any large weed mats/growths that formed over the spring - summer period as well as reshape and batter the drains.
This allows time for grass to re-establish before the peak rain falls is expected and will help prevent increased erosion of the newly formed drain embankments.

In addition to planned works such as machine cleaning of the drains, annual spraying is also undertaken. Spraying is the only form of regular maintenance that is carried out on the drains and unless advised, only the centre of the drain/weed is sprayed. This reduces the effect on the grass established on the embankment.
.
Maintain the drains in a condition that supports their intended drainage and flood risk management function.

Below is a summary of the drains, where regular maintenance is carried out upon these drainage scheme assets:

11.1 Drains within the Spraying & Machine cleaning programme

Motutangi Stream

Total Length: 2,600 m

Main Outfall Drain

Total Length: 1,150 m

Bryan Drain

Total Length: 2,900 m

Beazley Drain

Total Length: 2,050 m

Aspin Drain

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Total Length: 2,250 m

Cut to Lands End Drain

Total Length: 1,700 m

Selwyn Drain

Total Length: 2,950 m

Seymour Drain

Total Length: 750 m

Bacica's Drain

Total Length: 2,050 m

Subritzky Drain

Total Length: 160 m

11. Details of the Maintenance Schedule for the Drainage Scheme

All landowners are required to comply with the FNDC Land Drainage Bylaw 2019.
The key sections are:

- There must be no obstructions which interfere with the access for plant or machinery to and along the drainage channel or parts thereof and in particular within 10 m from the edge of the drain, Clause 3.1. (trees planted too close are a major issue).
- Grazing stock must be excluded from the drainage channel, Section 8 Obstruction to Flow.
- There must not be damage caused to the drainage channel, due to stock accessing the drainage channel for water, Section 14 Watering Places.
- Remove flood debris or other recently deposited material that prevents the free flow of water, from waterways and/or floodgates.

and

- To ensure access to drains is available at all times in accordance with the policies of this management plan. This includes the control of vegetation outside the tops of drain banks

11.1 Machine Cleaning

Landowners adjacent to all drains need to be aware of the influence of DOC, NRC requirements and the discharge of silt downstream. To continue to operate these drainage schemes, the movement of silt needs to be minimised.

The most practical solution is to batter the banks back at the time of machine drain cleaning. This will progressively stop virtually all bank erosion and most of the silt movement. This will also minimise cost.

A few notes and requirements with machine cleaning and battering are as follows:

- This will require fences to be moved back from the edge of drains to allow the battering of the drain banks.
- Different soils require different batter angles but as a guideline the angles will be between 30 to 40 degrees.
- The spraying will be confined to weed growth in the centre, un-battered section of the drains.

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- Any weeds will be removed by machine without cutting into the bank batters, using a weed rake.

By using these methods adverse environmental effects are minimised, and regulatory requirements are more likely to be met.

See the NRC publication Farm Management Issues – Chapter 4, 4.1.4 to 4.1.4.3 for more information.

Cleaning will generally involve the removal of the weed mat only, while leaving the sides of the drain untouched.

It is imperative that the drain banks are not cut into during normal drain cleaning.

When reshaping drains or creating new drains, batters and fences are required, along with the works being carried out during late spring to early autumn. This will assist in the reestablishment of vegetation and minimise silt movement.

DOC requirements related to drain cleaning

The following must be observed in relation to drain maintenance within the DOC reserves:

- All machines and vehicles will be cleaned and free of soil and any other material that could transport seeds, before entering the DOC managed reserves or marginal strip
- DOC is to be contacted two weeks prior to any machinery entering the reserves, to enable DOC time to organize biosecurity monitoring of equipment should it choose to
- High threat weeds, such as Alligator weed, will be sprayed prior to removal, and maintenance is to be planned so that areas infested with high threat weeds are cleaned last to avoid weeds being transported throughout the scheme
- For weed spraying/control within the DOC reserves in the following drains, DOC must be contacted two weeks prior to work commencing, to give DOC the opportunity to observe the works. (Motutangi Stream, Aspin drain, Cut to Lands' End drain, Selwyn drain, Bacica's drain)
- To minimize the risk of non-target species being impacted on, DOC can assist weed spraying and control maintenance by either providing onsite supervision or written task specifications
- DOC will be able to provide the contractor with a list of High Threat weeds that need to be sprayed before commencing drain cleaning

The following works are not permitted to occur in the areas where the drains cross the DOC Reserves without obtaining a Department of Conservation Concession, and any other NRC approvals as may be required.

- Deepening of drains
- Earthworks or vegetation clearance (apart from mulching of approved access tracks as shown in Figure 4 below)
- Construction of new drains or drainage support structures

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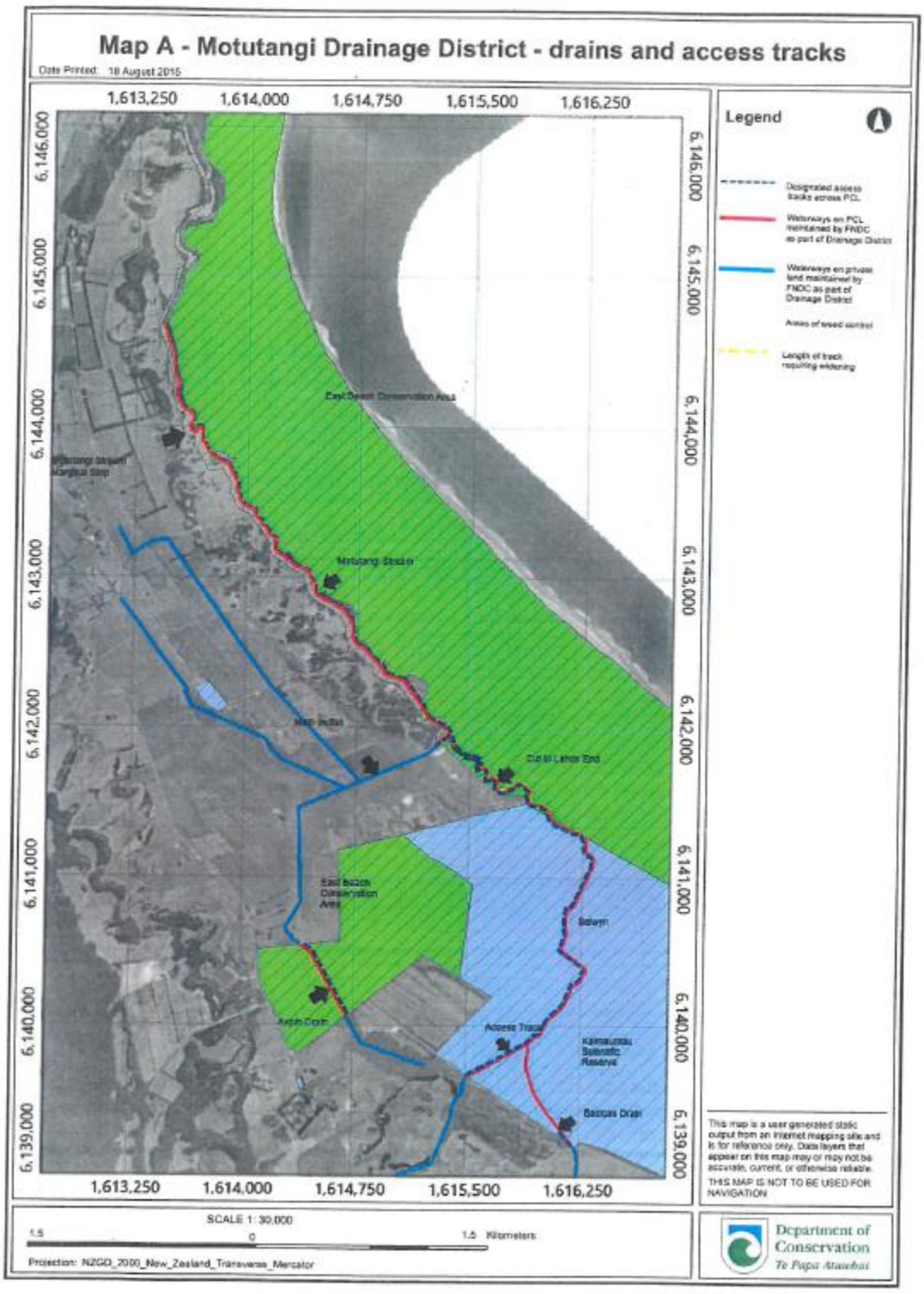

Figure 4- Drains and access tracks through DOC reserves

Disposal of drain cleaning

- All weed cleanings are spread along the access ways.
- If the landowner desires the drain cleanings to be placed elsewhere, it is at his cost for all the extra time and work.
- Any drain cleaning/silt must be placed at least 3.5 m from the top of the drain bank batter, provided that this is not likely to raise the height of the machine access and creating future access/reach problems. Drain cleanings and spoil must be placed in a manner that does not obstruct access, impede flood flows, or cause material to re-enter the drainage channel, and must not be deposited in locations where floodwaters may encroach.
- If this is the case, the drain cleanings must be placed outside of the access track.
- Drain cleanings must be disposed of in such a way that they do not impede the overland flow of stormwater runoff from adjoining lands into the drains.

11.2 Fencing

Landowners are required to prevent stock from accessing drains.

The reasons are,

- Damage due to stock walking up and down banks and drains
- Silt movement along drains due to bank damage/collapsing and soil dragged in by stock
- Additional cost for drain cleaning due to slower work, generating a higher per metre rate
- More frequent drain cleaning

11.3 Common Aquatic Weeds

Spraying of these weeds is to be carried out on demand.

This will generally be as required, with spraying in the late Spring and/or Autumn.

11.4 Culverts and gates

Culverts and gates are to be installed wherever possible to allow continuous access along the edge of drains.

If the culvert acts as a connection to a drainage area drain it is to be paid for and becomes the responsibility of the property owner (this is the same with any farm gates, Taranaki gates are acceptable).

The Motutangi Drainage Scheme committee members shall review the list of improvements to be undertaken and make their recommendation. Culverts are to be added into an asset register.

11.5 Monitoring and Works Outside the Programme

It is expected that landowners, contractors and council staff shall pool information to achieve a realistic picture of the condition and works required to maintain the current scheme.

If the Council representative receives a recommendation from at least 2 members of the committee for a specific works, when there is not a committee meeting programmed within 1 month, the works shall be accepted as if from the complete committee.

11.6 FNDC Staff, Resources, Information and Feedback Management.

11.6.a Policy

- That the assets of the Motutangi Drainage Area be maintained to, at all times, facilitate the policies of this Management Plan and its associated objectives, including all Resource Consent and statutory requirements and any other system requirements.

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- The Council shall supply staff and resources as required in order to fulfil the Council's responsibilities.

- The Council staff shall work with the committee to achieve an outcome which minimises the expenses and maximises the long-term benefits to the landowners and drainage system.

11.6.b Information Management

Policy
That an information management system, capable of facilitating the analysis necessary for the efficient management of the system, be established and maintained up to date.

Method
That a central computer spreadsheet database be maintained in the Far North District Council's computer system, and updating the following information at three-monthly intervals, as required:

- Drain lengths and locations
- Drain heights and GIS data
- Drainage rate paying landowners
- A summary of problems identified during the inspections
- Non-routine work undertaken (including the location, a description of the work, the date and cost)
- Complaints and requests from stakeholders (including the date and a brief description of the complaint/request (e.g. "sediment in river at Bloggs Bend"))
- Information on flood events including (if known) the date, maximum flood level at monitoring points in the system, duration of inundation, damage caused and the findings of any flood gauging that is undertaken
- All other information collected

11.7.c Feedback Management

Policies
That a feedback system be put in place that:

1. Is readily accessible by stakeholders, both to report faults and to request improvements they feel the system would benefit from;

and

2. Facilitates the acknowledgment of requests and feedback in accordance with the Far North District Council's policy in this regard.

and

3. Allows the local drainage committees to recognise customer requests for service via a list which contain the request itself and the resolutions for each request.

11.8 Preliminary schedule for maintenance works

Below is a summary of regular maintenance to be carried out on the drainage scheme assets.

Motutangi Stream		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**

Track mulching	Annually	
Drain spraying. Weeds (mostly Pampas and Wattle) will be controlled for at least 10m beyond the eastern edge of the track. DOC is to be contacted two weeks prior to any weed control work to enable DOC time to arrange supervision of weed control, should it choose to.	Annually	Not during Aug-Nov
Drain cleaning. Access from eastern side of the stream only. No depositing of spoil is permitted on the eastern side of the stream. All drain cleanings to be deposited and spread on tracks to ensure weeds don't spread into nearby wet areas. Within the DOC reserves, approximately 10% of instream vegetation on either side of the waterway will remain undisturbed to provide habitat and erosion control. Also within the DOC reserve, designated iwi representatives are to be given opportunity to observe all mechanical cleaning to ensure Tikanga is followed if remains are disturbed, and to ensure protection of harvest sites, and return of any eels and fish to waterways.	Every 5 years	Not during Aug-Nov
Weed spraying	Annually	
Bridges/culverts inspected	Annually	
Bridges/culverts maintained	As required	

Note:
Spraying and mechanical cleaning of weeds in the Motutangi Stream is to occur in a manner, and at a time which reduces the effect to a acceptable level, within the reaches of waterways identified as potential inanga spawning habitat.

Main Outfall Drain		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**
Track mulching		
Drain spraying		
Drain cleaning		
Weed spraying		

Bryan Drain		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**
Track mulching		
Drain spraying	Annually	Early Autumn

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Drain cleaning	On an 'as required' basis – to the lower reaches.	
Weed spraying		

Beazley Drain		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**
Track mulching		
Drain spraying	Annually	Early Autumn
Drain cleaning	On as 'as required' basis – to the lower reaches	
Weed spraying		

Aspin Drain		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**
Track mulching	Biennially (once every two years)	
Drain spraying	Biannually (twice a year)	
Drain cleaning Within the DOC reserve, designated iwi representatives are to be given opportunity to observe all mechanical cleaning to ensure protection of harvest sites, and return of any eels and fish to waterways. All drain cleanings to be deposited and spread on tracks to ensure weeds don't spread into nearby wet areas.	Every 2 years	
Weed spraying. Note that within the East Beach Conservation Area, weeds within 10m of eastern edge of track and within 5m of western edge of drain are to be controlled.	Annually	
Bridges/culverts inspected	Annually	
Bridges/culverts maintained	As required	

Cut to Lands End		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**

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Track mulching	Annually	
Drain spraying	Biannually	
Drain cleaning. Machine cleaning to take place from western side of stream only, and no further spoil to be deposited in the East Beach Conservation Area. All drain cleanings to be deposited and spread on tracks to ensure weeds don't spread into nearby wet areas. Within the DOC reserve, approximately 10% of instream vegetation on either side of the waterway will remain undisturbed to provide habitat and erosion control. Also, within the DOC reserve, designated iwi representatives are to be given opportunity to observe all mechanical cleaning to ensure Tikanga is followed if remains are disturbed, and to ensure protection of harvest sites, and return of any eels and fish to waterways.	Every 5 years.	Not during Aug-Nov
Weed spraying. Note that within the Scientific Reserve, weeds within 10m of western edge of track and within 5m of eastern edge of drain are to be controlled. Weed control also extends where necessary to the side drains that are to be blocked in accordance with section 7.2 of this report.	Annually	Not during Aug-Nov
Culverts inspected	Annually	
Culvert maintenance	As required	
Monitoring: Within the Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve: monitoring of wetland water levels and stream flows to quantify impact the current drains are having on adjoining wetland.	Discuss frequency with DOC/iwi.	

Selwyn Drain		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**
Track mulching	Annually	
Drain spraying	Biannually	Not during Aug-Nov
Drain cleaning. Within the DOC reserves, approximately 10% of instream vegetation on either side of the waterway will remain undisturbed to provide habitat and erosion control. All drain cleanings to be deposited and spread on tracks to ensure weeds don't spread into nearby wet areas Also, within the DOC reserve, designated iwi representatives are to be given opportunity to observe all mechanical cleaning to ensure Tikanga is followed if	Every 5 years. Access is maintained on the northern side of the drain only.	Not during Aug-Nov

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remains are disturbed, and to ensure protection of harvest sites, and return of any eels and fish to waterways.		
Weed spraying - within 10m of western edge of track and within 5m of eastern edge of drain are to be controlled.	Annually.	
Monitoring: Within the DOC reserves: monitoring of wetland water levels and stream flows to quantify impact the current drains are having on adjoining wetland. Refer Figure 4 for area of monitoring. DOC and Ngai Takoto would like to discuss with FNDC how they can support this monitoring.	Discuss frequency with DOC/iwi.	

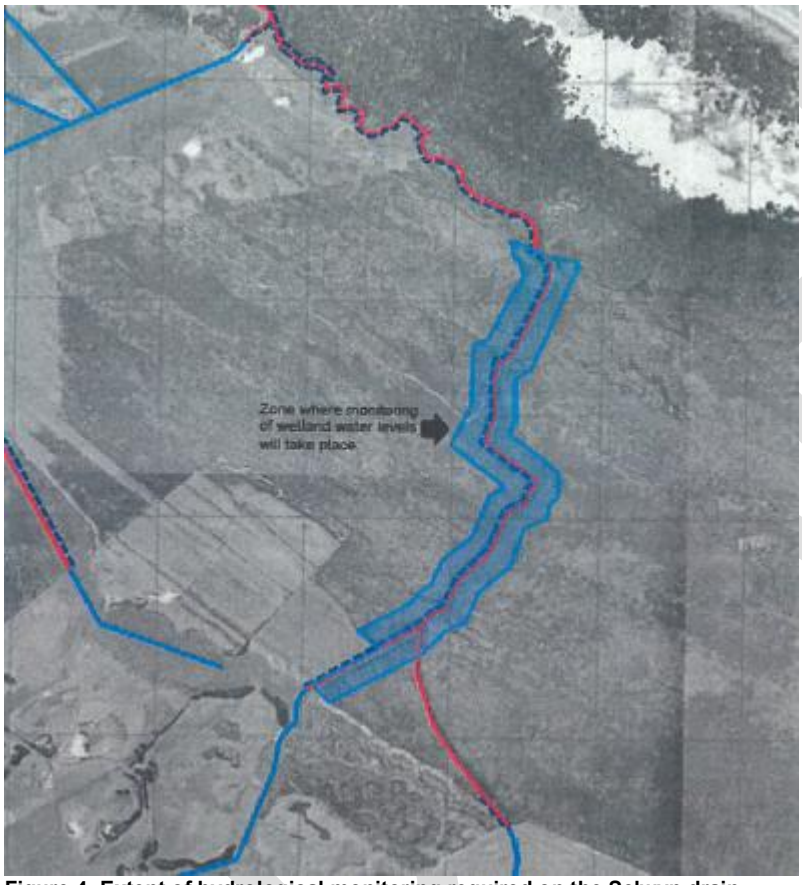

Figure 4- Extent of hydrological monitoring required on the Selwyn drain

Seymour Drain		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**
Track mulching		
Drain spraying	Annually, or biennially when possible.	
Drain cleaning		
Weed spraying		

Bacica's Drain		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**
Track mulching	Biennially	
Drain spraying	Biannually	
Drain cleaning. Within the Kaimaumau Scientific Reserve, work is only to be conducted along the designated 100m portion of this drain as depicted in Figure 5 below. All drain cleanings to be deposited and spread on tracks to ensure weeds don't spread into nearby wet areas. Designated iwi representatives to be given opportunity to observe all mechanical cleaning to ensure protection of harvest sites and return of any eels and fish to waterways.	Every 5 years	
Weed spraying	Annually	

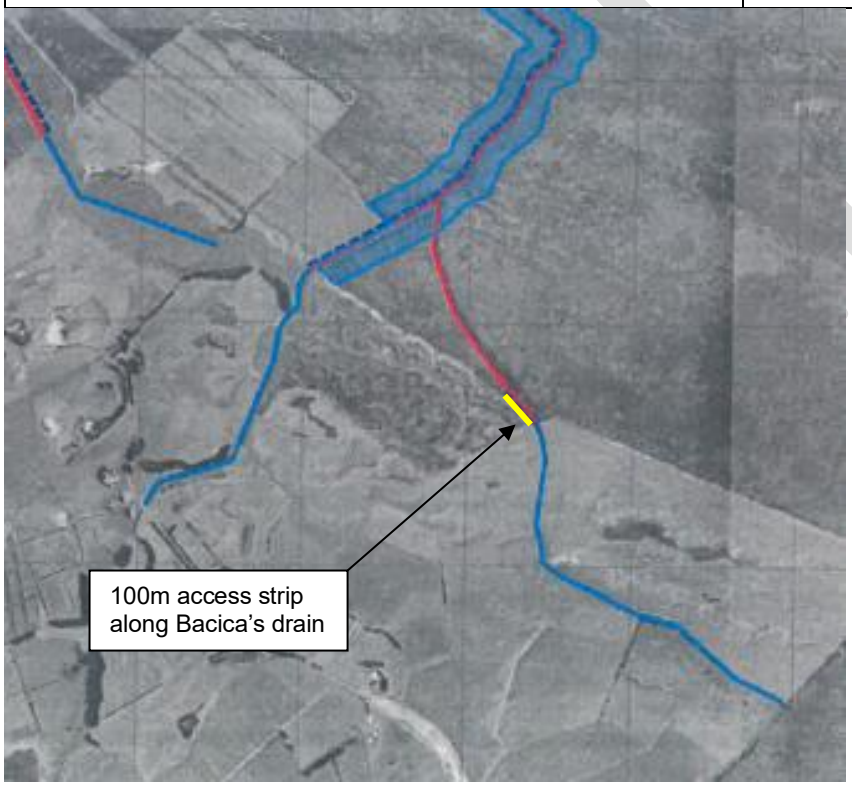

Figure 5 – Extent of hydrological monitoring required on the Selwyn drain

Subritzky Drain		
Activity	**Frequency**	**Timing**
Track mulching		
Drain spraying		
Drain cleaning		

Weed spraying		

12. Review date for the management plan

This management plan must be formally and comprehensively reviewed every five years, or sooner if a majority of drainage area ratepayers request a review at any other time.

Amendments to this management plan should be made through a formal process of consultation with the Motutangi Drainage Committee (Est 2016), followed by approval from the Far North District Council Infrastructure and Asset Management Committee.

It is noted that any amendments to the management plan may require approval of the Northland Regional Council and, possibly, a variation to one or more resource consents for the scheme.

13. Regulations relating to the Motutangi Drainage Area

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

This Act governs legislation for resource use in New Zealand, it's purpose, contained in section 5 of this Act, is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, in a way that enables people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing, while sustaining the intergenerational potential of natural and physical resources, safeguarding the life supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems, and avoiding, remedying or mitigating any adverse effects on the environment.

The Act controls and administers the effects of the use of land, air, and water through a hierarchy of policies, standards, plans and consents.
Each set of controls is binding over those below them to the extent that they must not be inconsistent.
It imposes responsibilities on the Regional and District councils to minimise the effects of human activities and natural hazards on the environment.
This is carried out via objectives, policies, and methods of implementation contained in the Regional Policy Statement, Regional Plans and District Plans.
Any activities within the Motutangi Drainage Area must comply with these plans.

The relevant sections of the RMA are set out and discussed below.

Certain existing uses in relation to land protected

(1) Land may be used in a manner that contravenes a rule in a district plan or proposed district plan if;
(a) either
(i) the use was lawfully established before the rule became operative or the proposed plan was notified; and
(ii) the effects of the use are the same or similar in character, intensity, and scale to those which existed before the rule became operative or the proposed plan was notified:
(b) or
(i) the use was lawfully established by way of a designation; and
(ii) the effects of the use are the same or similar in character, intensity, and scale to those which existed before the designation was removed.

Comment: The Drainage Area was lawfully established as a Drainage District in 1913.

Far North District Council Bylaw

The Land Drainage Bylaw 2009, made in accordance with the provisions of Pt 8 of the Local Government Act 2002, Pt XXIX of the Local Government Act 1974 and the Land Drainage Act 1908, was developed for the purpose of enabling regulation of land drainage assets within the Far North District.
This Bylaw provides access to and along drains for maintenance purposes and sets out conditions for any landowner connecting a private drain into any Drainage Area.

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Regional Plan for Northland (2026)

The Regional Plan for Northland, 2026 controls the use of land and water resources of the Northland region.

Most farm drains within the Motutangi Drainage Area are artificial watercourses and are therefore generally excluded from s13 RMA controls on river and lake beds. This does not apply where a drain is a modified natural watercourse or where works extend beyond permitted activity conditions.

As discussed, the Motutangi Drainage Area assets are legally established under C.4 Land Drainage and flood control in the Regional Plan for Northland, and, as such, no consents are required under that plan.

The "Existing Use" provisions in Section 10 of RMA apply only to land use, not water.
Motutangi Drainage Area activities affecting water are authorised under the Regional Plan for Northland as either permitted, controlled, or discretionary activities depending on scale, location, and effects. Resource consent is required only where permitted activity conditions are not met or where activities occur in sensitive mapped areas.

Tables 1 and 2 (Table 2 can be found in the lists the key assets in the Motutangi Drainage Area, the most common activities carried out to maintain them and possible major capital works, and the regional plan consents required for those assets and activities.

It is noted that even if consent is not required, the Regional Plan usually lists conditions that still must be complied with as part of the permitted activity.

In these cases, the location of the conditions is shown in the right-hand column.

Asset	Resource Consent Required?	Correct Regulatory Position
Scheme drains on farmland (≈131 km maintained by FNDC)	No, if conditions met	Routine maintenance, clearance, and repair of scheme drains is a **permitted activity under Rule C.4.1.4**, provided all **Land Drainage and Flood Control General Conditions (C.4.1.9)** are complied with. Many scheme drains are **artificial watercourses** and therefore excluded from s13 RMA bed controls. If a drain is a **modified natural stream**, or if permitted activity conditions are not met (e.g. excessive bed disturbance, spoil disposal, downstream effects), a resource consent may be required.
Floodgates and culverts (≈178 assets)	No, if conditions met	**Repair and maintenance** of existing authorised floodgates and associated structures is a **permitted activity under Rule C.4.1.3**, subject to compliance with **C.4.1.9 General Conditions**. **New structures, upgrades, or works outside existing footprints**, particularly in the bed of a river or lake, are typically managed under **Rule C.2** and may require resource consent.

Table 1. Resource Consents Required for the Existing Motutangi Drainage Assets.

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14. Description of the Rating/Funding Classification (To Be Reviewed)

15.1 Ratable Areas

Existing rating classifications were developed in 2003 following a review of the individual drainage areas. There are three rating classifications A, B & C.

A class applies to all land with direct access to drains maintained under this Management Plan and would lose production if drains were totally blocked off.
B class applies to all other drained land connected indirectly to the drainage system.
C class applies to adjoining land that would lose access without the drains and by location has a more immediate disposal of excess rainfall to lower lying ground.

15.2 Non-Rated Land

Non-Rated land is classified according to location as either A, B or C. This covers wetland areas, bush covenants and private land with significant natural and aesthetic values to be protected as included in Far North District Council's database of indigenous vegetation.

15.3 Drainage Rates

The proposed drainage rates are calculated from the ratio of the rate per Ha based on Class A – 6, Class B – 3 and Class C – 1. The table below lists the properties which are subject to the rating classification, and the class applied to each property:

The rating base for the Motutangi drainage scheme is set out below:

Rating Category	Approximate Rating Base
A	452 ha
B	477ha
C	1647 ha

Rating is carried out in accordance with Local government Rating Act 2002. Targeted rates use the separate rates for the specific purpose of land drainage.

Rates are set each year around the proposed programme of maintenance as submitted by the Advisory committee.

15. Motutangi Drainage Area Committee Formation and Operational Details

15.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Motutangi Drainage Area Committee is:

- To represent and consult with the Drainage ratepayers of the Motutangi Drainage Area
- To make recommendation to the Te Hiku Community Board in respect of all matters pertaining to the management of the Motutangi Drainage Area
- To ensure the Motutangi Drainage Area ratepayers and the Te Hiku Community Board are well informed about matters of concern relating to the Motutangi Drainage Area
- To identify initiatives and improvements and make recommendations to the Te Hiku Community Board on how these improvements can be implemented
- To provide the Motutangi Drainage Area community with an opportunity to provide feedback to the Te Hiku Community Board
- Ensure open and free exchange of information, ideas and concerns between the Te Hiku Community Board and community.

15.2 Quorum

The Quorum is set at three.

15.3 Responsibilities

Work Programmes

Preparing the programme of work for the Motutangi Drainage area, relevant to the purposes of the Committee, which are:

- consistent with the Annual and Long-term Planning processes of Council
- in accordance with the conditions and requirements outlined in the Management Plan and resource consent conditions.
- Consistent with Policy #4302 - Northland River Management Policy.

Such programmes are to include budgetary provision for all costs associated with the work of the Committee.

Notifying the appropriate Council Staff of any Emergency Work required to be carried out.

Stakeholder Liaison

Liaise with all stakeholders as requested by the Council Officer responsible for the Motutangi Drainage Area.

15.4 Membership

The Motutangi Drainage Area Committee is to be appointed by resolution of the Te Hiku Community Board pursuant to the Standing Orders adopted by that Board.

One member of the committee must be a Community Board member.

15.5 Protocols

A chairperson and deputy chairperson must be elected pursuant to the standing orders adopted by the Te Hiku Community Board.

An agenda will be prepared and circulated 2 clear working days in advance of the meeting following a call for items to be notified to the Chairperson and pursuant to the Standing orders adopted by the Te Hiku Community Board.

15.6 Values

Advocacy - promote the public's trust and confidence in Council and the Community Board

Openness - communicating clearly and providing as much information as possible

Honesty - observing both the spirit and the letter of the law, policy and procedures

Respect - treating people with courtesy, observing their rights and recognising the different roles that others play in management and decision making

Responsiveness - dealing with issues within agreed timeframes

Consider the full range of costs and benefit of alternatives in making recommendations to Council

Ensure open and free exchange of information within the group

15.7 Meetings

The Motutangi Drainage Area Committee will meet formally twice a year as determined by the Te Hiku Community Board in the Schedule of Meetings.

The Far North District Council and the Drainage Committees are both open to having additional informal meetings (such as workshops) during the year.

Additional formal meetings may be held when required with the approval of the Chief Executive Officer.

15.8 Standing Agenda Items

Confirmation of previous minutes
A financial report
Proposed Work Programme

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15.9 Reporting

A report will be included in the Te Hiku Community Board agenda at the following meeting that conveys any recommendations to the Te Hiku Community Boards for adoption.

15.10 Support

Administrative support is provided by the Council's Governance Support team.

15.11 Funding and Budgets

Funding for the Committee will align with Council's Revenue and Financing Policy.

The Committee shall only recommend the expenditure of funding on purposes for which that funding was originally raised and in accordance with the budgets (supported by the drainage and the Te Hiku board) approved by Council through its Long-term Plan and Annual Plan.

Expenses will be funded from the Motutangi Drainage Targeted Rate.

15.12 Procurement of Goods and Services

The procurement of goods and services for the Motutangi Drainage Area will be in accordance with the Far North District Council Procurement Policy, Procurement Policy (including Sustainable Procurement) and the Procurement Manual.

15.13 Contacts with Media and Outside Agencies

The Committee Chairperson is the authorised spokesperson for the Committee in all matters where the Committee has authority or a particular interest.

Committee members, including the Chairperson, do not have delegated authority to speak to the media and/or outside agencies on behalf of Te Hiku Community board on matters outside the Committee's delegations.

15.14 Conduct of Affairs

The Committee shall conduct its affairs in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2002,* the *Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987,* the *Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Act 1968*, The Hiku Community Board Standing Orders and Council Code of Conduct.

15.15 Power to Delegate

The Motutangi Drainage Area Committee may not delegate any of its responsibilities, duties or powers.

15.16 Returning Standing Members

The existing Motutangi Drainage Area Committee members shall be returned at the time of election unless they request otherwise.

15.17 New Members

A minimum of 2 existing Motutangi Drainage Area Committee members shall be required to propose the addition of a new member to the committee.

15.18 Removing Existing Committee Members

A unanimous vote by all of the other existing Motutangi Drainage Area Committee members shall be required to remove a current committee member.

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Appendix A – Drain Compartment Maps

Figure 6 – Map Index for the Motutangi Area (Aerial)

Figure 7 – Map Index for the Motutangi Area (Property Map)

Figure 8 – Location and Length of the Motutangi Stream

Figure 9 – Location and Length of the Main Outfall Drain

Figure 10 – Location and Length of the Bryan Drain

Figure 11 – Location and Length of the Seymour Drain

Figure 12 – Location and Length of the Aspin Drain

Figure 13 – Location and Length of the Bacica's Drain

Figure 14 – Location and Length of the Beazley Drain

Figure 15 – Location and Length of the Cut to Lands End Drain

Figure 16 – Location and Length of the Selwyn Drain

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Figure 6 – Map Index for the Motutangi Area (Aerial)

Figure 7 – Map Index for the Motutangi Area (Property Map)

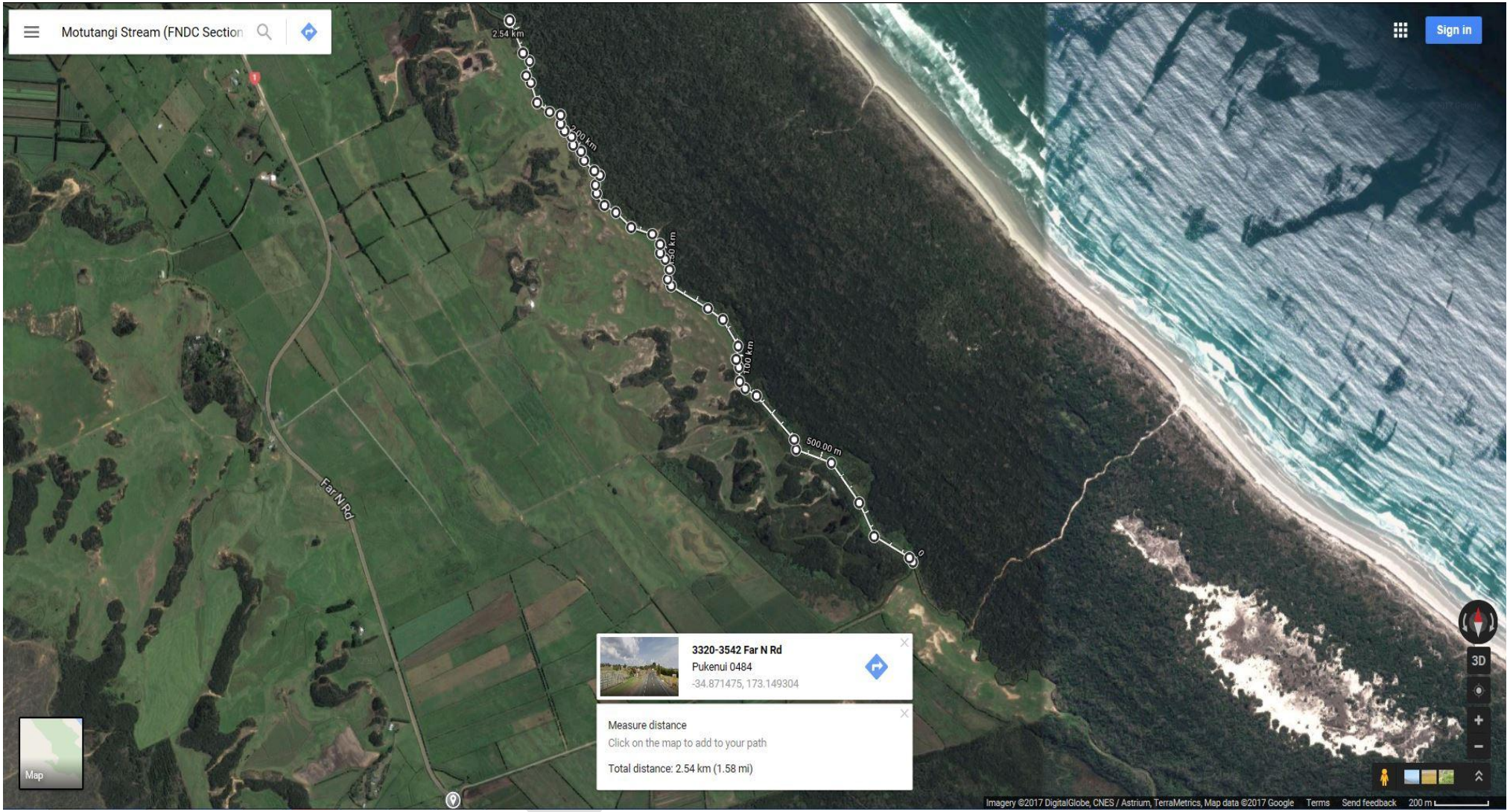


Figure 8 – Location and Length of the Motutangi Stream

Figure 9 – Location and Length of the Main Outfall Drain

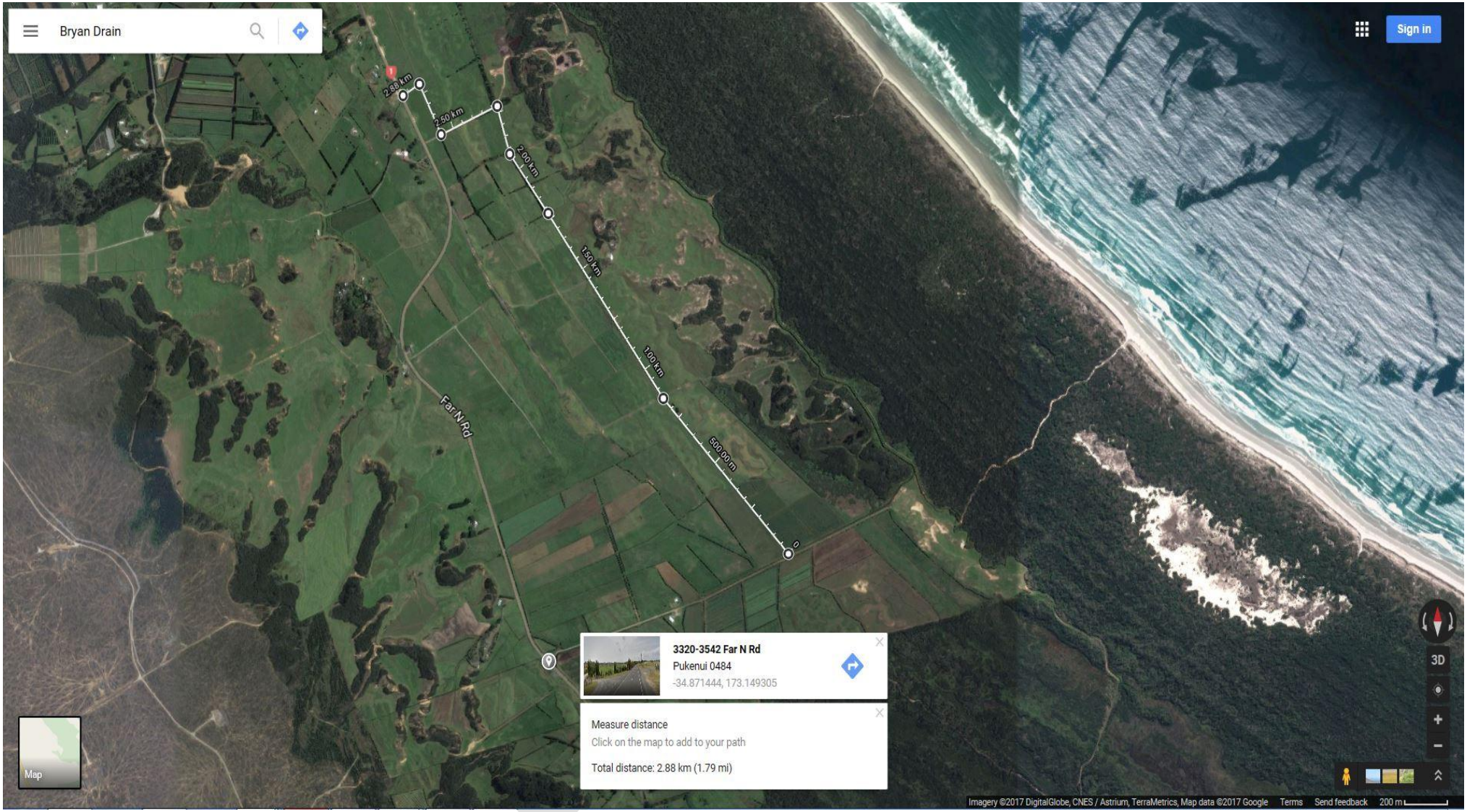


Figure 10 – Location and Length of the Bryan Drain

Figure 11 – Location and Length of the Seymour Drain

Figure 12 – Location and Length of the Aspin Drain

Figure 13 – Location and Length of the Bacicas Drain

Figure 14 – Location and Length of the Beazley Drain

Figure 15 – Location and Length of the Cut to Lands End Drain

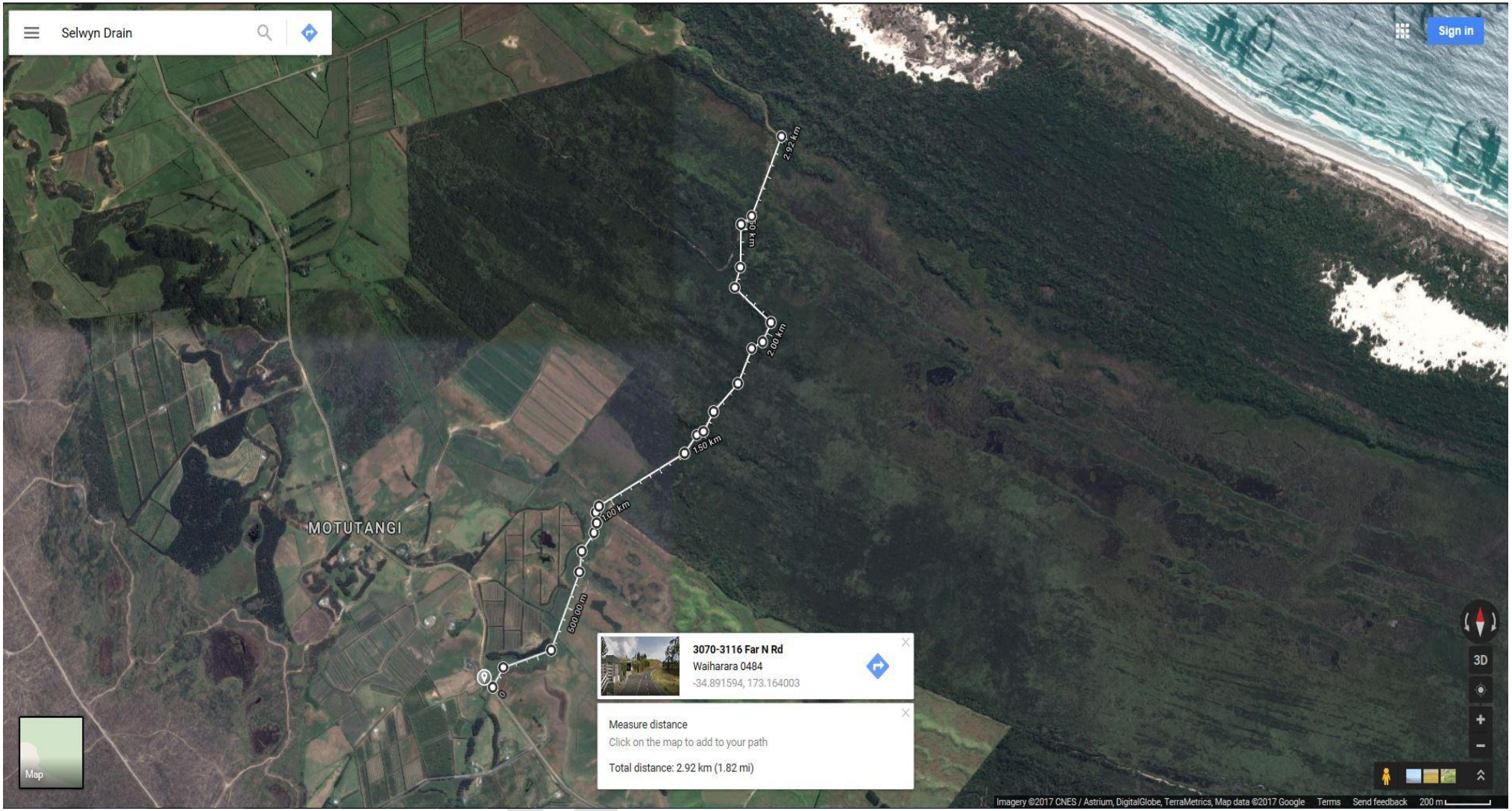


Figure 16 – Location and Length of the Selwyn Drain

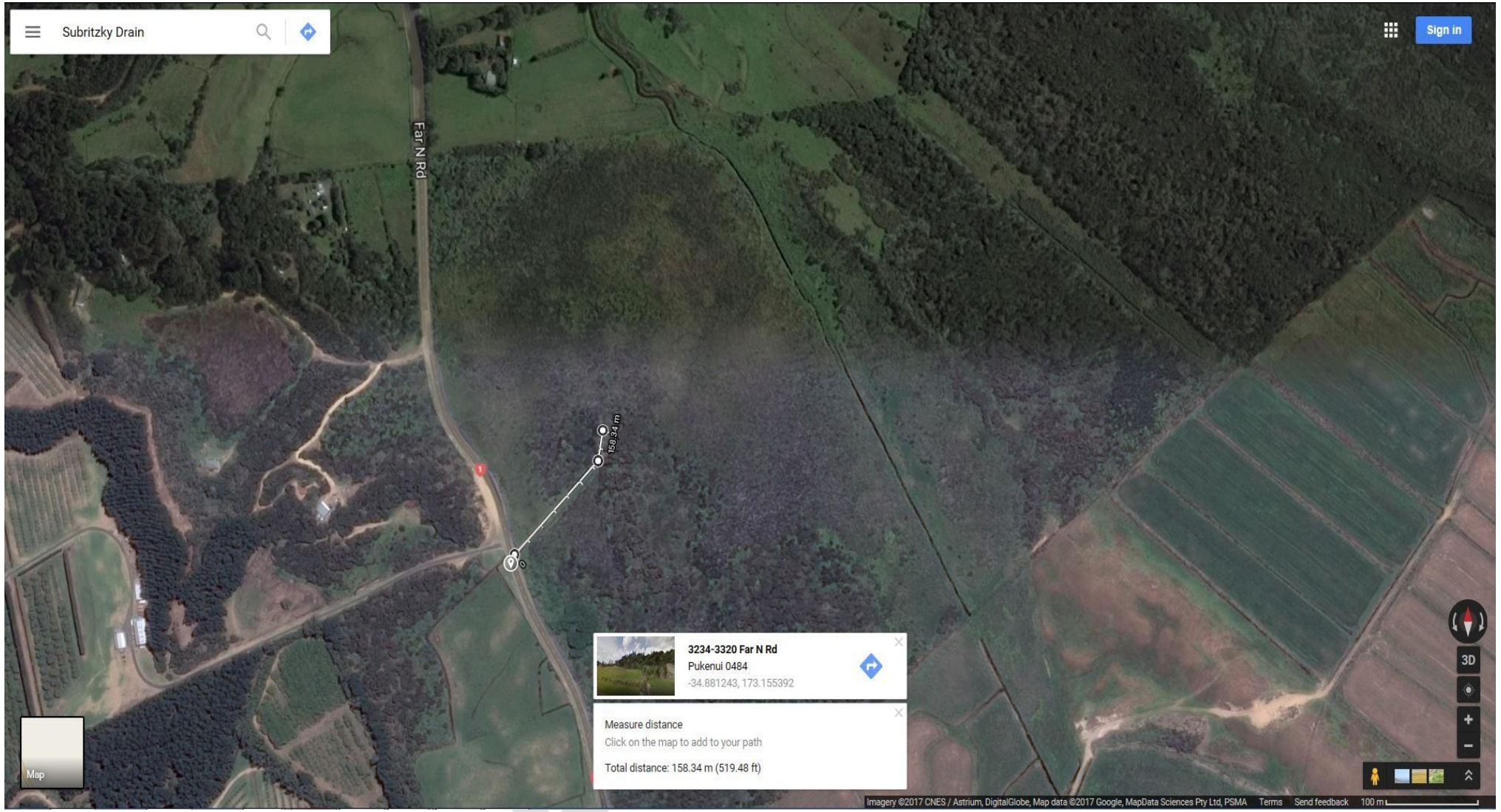


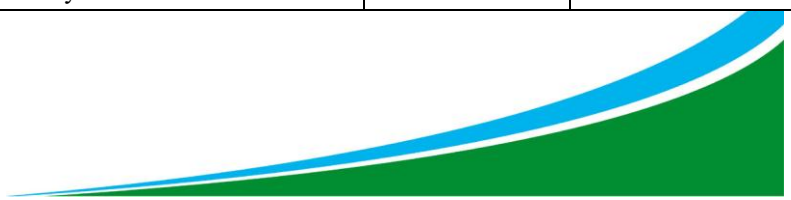
Figure 17 – Location and Length of the Subritzky Drain

Appendix B – Motutangi Drain Database

Table 3 – Motutangi Drain Database

ID	Sub Area (Motutangi)	Drain Name / Location	Length (m)	Drain Dimensions
60065	Motutangi (Northern)		71.87	
60066	Motutangi (Northern)		280.61	1.5-3.0m W/1.0-1.5m D
60067	Motutangi (Northern)		2875.12	
60068	Motutangi (Northern)	Bryan Drain	290.11	
60069	Motutangi (Northern)	Bryan Drain	171.12	
60070	Motutangi (Northern)	Bryan Drain	344.71	
60071	Motutangi (Northern)	Bryan Drain	1016.82	
60072	Motutangi (Northern)	Beazley's Drain	279.53	
60073	Motutangi (Northern)	Beazley's Drain	618.08	
60074	Motutangi (Northern)	Beazley's Drain	1219.83	
60075	Motutangi (Northern)	Main Outfall	345.9	
60076	Motutangi (Northern)	Bryan Drain	983.04	
60077	Motutangi (Northern)	Bryan Drain	95.29	
60078	Motutangi (Northern)	Beazley's drain	387.65	
60079	Motutangi (Northern)	Beazley's drain	38.51	
60080	Motutangi (Northern)	Beazley's drain	348.98	
60081	Motutangi (Northern)	Aspin Drain	145.27	
60082	Motutangi (Northern)	Aspin Drain	91.3	
60083	Motutangi (Northern)	Aspin Drain	328.54	
60084	Motutangi (Northern)	Aspin Drain	126.65	
60085	Motutangi (Northern)	Aspin Drain	98.11	
60086	Motutangi (Northern)		822.52	
60087	Motutangi (Northern)	Cuts to Lands end Drain	1681.76	
60088	Motutangi (Northern)	Aspin Drain	973.72	
60089	Motutangi (Northern)	Selwyn Drain	600.12	
60090	Motutangi (Northern)	Aspin Drain	169.59	
60091	Motutangi (Northern)	Aspin Drain	435.85	
60092	Motutangi (Northern)	Selwyn Drain	376.56	
60093	Motutangi (Northern)	Selwyn Drain	193.9	
60094	Motutangi (Northern)	Selwyn Drain	434.52	
60095	Motutangi (Northern)	Seymour Drain	772.49	
60096	Motutangi (Northern)	Bacica's Drain	1271.24	
60097	Motutangi (Northern)	Bacica's Drain	305.51	
60098	Motutangi (Northern)	Bacica's Drain	554.2	
60099	Motutangi (Northern)	Selwyn Drain	357.46	

Table 3 – Motutangi Drain Database



Appendix C – Informational Tables

Table 4 – Table of Consented Work

Updated Table – Aligned with Regional Plan for Northland 2026

Management / Maintenance Activity	RPN 2026 Rule Reference	Consent Required?	Comments
Maintenance of free flows (drain clearance)	C.4.1.4 + C.4.1.9	No (if conditions met)	Routine drain maintenance permitted if all general conditions are met.
Connections to scheme drains	C.4.1.1 + C.2 (if bed disturbed)	Depends - consent required if permitted activity conditions cannot be met	Permitted if diversion + bed disturbance conditions met; otherwise, consent required.
Vehicle crossings (culverts/bridges)	C.2	Depends - consent required if permitted activity conditions cannot be met	Structure in river/lakebed generally requires RC unless permitted under C.2 conditions.
Removal of riparian vegetation (upstream)	C.8 + C.4.1.4	Depends - consent required if permitted activity conditions cannot be met	Permitted only if vegetation + drain rules met; otherwise, RC.
Mangrove removal (CMA)	C.1 (coastal)	Yes	Consent generally required under CMA rules.
Stop bank repair/maintenance	C.4.1.3	No (if conditions met)	Routine work permitted; upgrades require RC.
Stop bank upgrades/new works	C.4 + C.2	Yes	New or upgraded structures require RC.
Overflow channels (diversions)	C.4.1.1	Usually yes	New diversions usually require RC; limited permitted pathways may apply if all C.4.1.1 conditions are met.
Silt removal + spoil disposal	C.4.1.4 + C.1 (CMA)	Depends - consent required if permitted activity conditions cannot be met	Permitted inland if conditions met; CMA requires RC.
Mechanical vegetation removal in drains	C.4.1.4 + C.8 + C.6	Depends - consent required if permitted activity conditions cannot be met	Mechanical control subject to permitted standards.
Chemical weed/vegetation control in drains	C.4.1.4 + C.8 + C.6	Depends - consent required if permitted activity conditions cannot be met	Chemical control subject to permitted standards.
Disposal of drain cleanings	C.4.1.9	No (if conditions met)	Must follow spoil placement/setback conditions.
Stock access control	C.8 + NES-Freshwater Stock Exclusion Regulations	No (if conditions are met)	Stock exclusion required; RC if rules not met.
Erosion control structures	C.2	Depends - consent required if permitted activity conditions cannot be met	Minor structures may be permitted; others require RC.

Discharge from farm drains	C.6	Depends - consent required if permitted activity conditions cannot be met	Permitted if discharge standards met; otherwise, RC.

Resource Consents Required for the Existing Motutangi Drainage Management and Maintenance Activities.

“CMA” = Coastal Marine Area

Note: Many scheme drains are artificial watercourses; however, all maintenance and drainage activities must still comply with the permitted activity rules and conditions of the Regional Plan for Northland.

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Appendix D – Operational Standards and Guidelines

Operational Standards and Guidelines for Land Drainage and Flood Control

1. Permitted Activities

Activities listed below may be permitted **only where all relevant Regional Plan rules and conditions are met**. Where permitted activity conditions cannot be met, resource consent is required.

1.1 Damming, Diversion, and Discharge of Water

- Must comply with C.4.1.9 Land Drainage and Flood Control General Conditions.
- Must not cause land subsidence or slumping that adversely affects structures or infrastructure on other properties.
- Discharge must occur within the same catchment where water would naturally flow.
- Discharge must not occur within catchments of Outstanding Lakes or dune lakes with high ecological value.
- New drains must not be constructed within 15 metres of existing wastewater disposal areas.

1.2 Covered RMA Activities

These activities are regulated under the following RMA sections and must be authorised by the Regional Plan, NES-Freshwater, or resource consent

- Land drainage (s9(2))
- Bed disturbance and deposition (s13(1))
- Damming/diversion of water (s14(2))
- Discharge of drainage water and sediment (s15(1))

Cultural and Ecological Considerations

Consideration of matters relating to tāngata whenua, taonga species, and fish passage (including tuna / eels) applies where:

- a resource consent is required under the Regional Plan for Northland; or
- permitted activity standards, conditions, or plan rules explicitly require consideration of these matters.

Routine maintenance activities undertaken as permitted activities, and fully compliant with applicable plan conditions, are not generally subject to formal matters of control, but will be carried out in a manner that avoids unnecessary environmental and cultural impacts.

2. Controlled Activities

2.1 Context

Some land drainage and flood control activities within established drainage schemes may be classified as controlled activities under the Regional Plan for Northland, where this is explicitly specified by applicable plan rules.
The controlled activity status of works does not arise solely from the historical establishment of a drainage district under earlier legislation, including the Local Government Act 1974 or the Land Drainage Act 1908.

2.2 Applicability

Controlled activity status applies only where:

- The activity is identified as a controlled activity under the Regional Plan for Northland; and
- All relevant conditions, matters of control, and standards specified in the plan are met.

Routine maintenance and operation of existing drainage scheme assets is generally provided for as a permitted activity under the Regional Plan, subject to compliance with all applicable conditions.

2.3 Works Outside Routine Maintenance

Where proposed works:

- extend beyond routine maintenance,
- involve new structures, upgrades, realignment, or significant bed disturbance,
- or occur in sensitive environments (including tidal reaches, wetlands, or mapped receiving environments),

the activity classification (permitted, controlled, or discretionary) must be confirmed with Northland Regional Council prior to works commencing.

2.4 Covered RMA Activities

- Maintenance outside lake/riverbeds (s9(2))
- Water take/diversion/damming (s14(2))
- Discharge of water/sediment (s15(1), s15(2A))

3. Discretionary Activities

Require resource consent and are subject to full assessment:

3.1 Includes

- New land drainage or flood control schemes
- New structures in or near water bodies
- Associated bed disturbance, deposition, water take/diversion/damming
- Discharge of sediment or water

3.2 Covered RMA Activities

- Land drainage/flood control works (s9(2))
- Structure use/placement in water bodies (s13(1))
- Water take/diversion/damming (s14(2))
- Discharge to water or land (s15(1), s15(2A))

4. General Conditions (C.4.1.9)

These apply to all permitted and controlled activities:

- Activities must not cause erosion, flooding, or adverse ecological effects.
- Structures must be maintained to prevent failure.
- Sediment control measures must be in place.
- Notification to council may be required for certain repairs or maintenance

5. Bylaw Compliance (Far North District Council)

- No planting, fencing, or construction within the access corridor required by the FNDC Land Drainage Bylaw or as otherwise approved by Council
- Private drain connections require council approval and plans.
- Obstructions (e.g., debris, vegetation) must be removed.
- Pollution of drains is prohibited.
- Stop banks and crossings require council approval.
- Damage to drainage assets must be reported and repaired by the responsible party.

6. RMA Duties and Restrictions

- Activities must avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse environmental effects, even if permitted
- Resource consent is required unless explicitly allowed by a plan or national standard.
- Noise, sediment, and water discharge must meet environmental standards.

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