

Te Kaunihera o Te Hku o Te Ika

AGENDA


Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting

Thursday, 24 April 2025

Time: 10:00 AM
Location: Council Chambers
Memorial Avenue
Kaikohe

Membership:

Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira – Deputy Chairperson
Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania
Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford
Cr Ann Court
Cr Felicity Foy
Cr Babe Kapa
Cr Penetaui Kleskovic
Cr Steve McNally
Cr Mate Radich
Cr Tāmati Rākena
Cr John Vujcich
Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

 COUNCIL COMMITTEE	Authorising Body	Mayor/Council
	Status	Standing Committee
	Title	Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Terms of Reference
	Approval Date	29 June 2023
	Responsible Officer	Chief Executive

Kaupapa / Purpose

The purpose of Te Kuaka Committee is to strengthen a Te Ao Māori perspective within Council decision-making across policies and strategies.

To perform his or her role effectively, each member must develop and maintain his or her skills and knowledge, including an understanding of the Committees' responsibilities, and of the Council's business, operations and risks.

Ngā Huānga / Membership

The Committee will comprise of Mayor and all Councillors as well as 12 iwi representatives nominated through Te Kahu o Taonui and Hapu representatives with a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

The Committee must appoint an Iwi/Hapu member as the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

Kahika/Mayor Moko Tepania

Harry Burkhardt - Chairperson

Hilda Halkyard-Harawira – Deputy Chairperson

Kōwhai/Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

John Vujcich

Ann Court

Babe Kapa

Felicity Foy

Mate Radich

Penetaui Kleskovic

Steve McNally

Tāmati Rākena

Kōrama / Quorum

The quorum at a meeting of the Committee is 7 members comprising of 5 FNDC representatives and 2 Te Kahu o Taonui members or Hapu representatives with a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Ngā Hui / Frequency of Meetings

The Committee shall meet bi-monthly.

Ngā Apatono / Power to Delegate

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

Ngā Herenga Paetae / Responsibilities

The Committees responsibilities are described below:

- Ensure that the work of Te Kuaka is carried out in a way that enhances the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of the Far North District
- Mahi ngātahi mā te huihui, wānanga Recommend to Council, aspects of importance to Māori for incorporation into the development of the Strategic documents (e.g. Te Ao Māori Framework, Annual Plan, Long Term Plan, District Plan)
- Manaaki To assist Council as appropriate in conducting and maintaining effective, good faith working relationships with the Māori community (e.g. Iwi Hapu Environmental Management Plans)
- Recommend to Council aspects that the Far North District Council could pursue to develop and or enhance Māori capacity to contribute to Council's decision-making processes.

Ngā Ture / Rules and Procedures

Council's Standing Orders and Code of Conduct apply to all meetings.

Far North District Council
Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting
will be held in the Council Chambers, Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe on:
Thursday 24 April 2025 at 10:00 AM

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1 KARAKIA TĪMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER**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 Committee 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.

3 NGĀ TONO KŌRERO / DEPUTATION

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

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

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

File Number: A5117867

Author: Amber Wihongi-Alderton, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee confirm the minutes of the meeting held 27 February 2025 as a true and correct.

1) BACKGROUND

Local Government Act 2002 clause 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) DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

The minutes of the meeting 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”.

Reason for the recommendation

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

3) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

There are no financial implications or the need for budgetary provision.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. 2025-02-27 Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Minutes - A5098125** [↓](#) 

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.

Compliance requirement	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 278.
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.	There are no implications on Māori in confirming minutes from a 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.	This report is asking for the minutes to be confirmed as true and correct record, any interest 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.

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes **Unconfirmed** 27 February 2025

**MINUTES OF FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY TE KUAKA - TE AO MĀORI COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MEMORIAL AVENUE, KAIKOHE
ON THURSDAY, 27 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 10:05 AM**

- PRESENT:** Chairperson Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford, Cr Felicity Foy (virtually), Cr Babe Kapa (virtually), Cr Penetaui Kleskovic, Cr Tāmati Rākena (virtually), Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives: Pita Tipene (Interim Deputy Chairperson), Katie Murray, Kipa Munro, Craig Hobson (virtually) George Riley,
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Phil Grimshaw (Kaitohutohu Taiao Senior Advisor – Te Kahu o Taonui), Kiri Hobson-Slone (Operations Manager – Te Kahu o Taonui), Kawiti Waetford (Kaiwhakawhiti Reo Language Interpreter)
- STAFF PRESENT:** Guy Holroyd (Chief Executive), Roger Ackers (Group Manager Planning & Policy), Charlie Billington (Group Manager Corporate Services), Tanya Proctor (Head of Infrastructure), Casey Gannon (Manager Civic Engagement & Education), Lawrence Wharerau (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Zena Tango (Team Leader Transaction Services), Carolyn Dudley (Team Leader Rating Services), (Aisha Huriwai (Manager – Democracy Services), Marlema Baker (Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee Coordinator)
- STAFF VIRTUAL:** Ruben Garcia (Group Manager Communications & Engagement) Piripi Rākena (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Rebecca Rowsell (Senior Solicitor)

1 KARAKIA - TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER

Chair Hilda Halkyard-Harawira commenced the meeting and Kawiti Waetford opened with a karakia.

Cr Penetaui Kleskovic provided the opening mihimihi.

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

2.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 2025/1

Moved: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira

Seconded: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee receive apologies from Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania and Crs Ann Court, Steve McNally and John Vujcich and that a leave of absence be granted.

CARRIED

3 NGĀ TONO KŌRERO / DEPUTATION

There were no deputations for this meeting.

4 NGĀ KŌRERO A TE KAHIKA / CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mihi to those who have passed on.
- Mihi to all representatives who are present.

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes **Unconfirmed** 27 February 2025

- Mihi to whaea Tapi in Auckland Hospital.
- Mihi to Kawiti Waetford for opening the meeting with a karakia.
- Mihi to matua Harry Burkhardt, former co-chair of Te Kahu o Taonui and Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee. We wish him the best and thank him for his work here on Te Kuaka.
- Mihi to Te Kahu o Taonui and Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa for the excellent work during Waitangi Week 2025. For all of us in the North Waitangi and Māngungu are very important.
- Waipoua Forest Fire – mihi to whanau in Te Roroa and Ngāti Whātua during this time.
- Mihi to Kipa Munro and acknowledge that we are waiting for the opening of the new kura and return of Kororipo Pā.
- Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Maori Framework was nominated for, and is a finalist for, the Human Resources New Zealand awards happening tonight in Te Raki Paewhenua Auckland. Mihi to Te Hono for the great work.
- Mihi to all Tai Tokerau groups attending Te Matatini 2025.
- The 180th Commemoration of the Battle of Kororāreka will take place on 11th March 2025 in Kororāreka Russell.
- Te Mauri o Te Wai - Community Open Day at Te Raupo (Rāwene Wastewater Treatment Plant) will take place on 1st March 2025.

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

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Agenda item 4.1 document number A5055237, pages 8 - 16 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/2

Moved: Pita Tipene Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

Seconded: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee confirm the minutes of the meeting held 11 December 2024 as a true and correct.

CARRIED

6 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

5.1 MATAURI X INCORPORATION PROGRESS UPDATE

Agenda item 5.1 document number A5085893, pages 17 - 18 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/3

Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

Seconded: Cr Penetaui Kleskovic

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Matauri X Incorporation Progress Update.

CARRIED

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes **Unconfirmed** 27 February 2025

5.2 WHENUA MĀORI - FREEHOLD LAND RATING RELIEF

Agenda item 5.2 document number A5060876, pages 19 - 21 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/4

Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

Seconded: Katie Murray - Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Whenua Māori - Freehold Land Rating Relief.

CARRIED

5.3 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Agenda item 5.3 document number A5055150, pages 22 - 28 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/5

Moved: Cr Penetaui Kleskovic

Seconded: Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Civic Engagement and Education Update.

CARRIED

George Riley (Te Kahu o Taonui) arrived 10:43 am

5.4 TE PAE O UTA ACTIONS – COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Agenda item 5.4 document number A4944061, pages 29 - 31 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/6

Moved: Pita Tipene - Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

Seconded: Cr Penetaui Kleskovic

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Te Pae o Uta Actions – Communications and Engagement Update.

CARRIED

5.5 TE PAE O UTA - TE AO MĀORI FRAMEWORK QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE

Agenda item 5.5 document number A5074629, pages 32 - 34 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/7

Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

Seconded: Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the Te Pae O Uta - Te Ao Māori Framework Quarterly Progress Update.

CARRIED

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes **Unconfirmed** 27 February 2025

5.7 TE KAHU O TAONUI UPDATE 1 JANUARY 2025 - 28 FEBRUARY 2025.

This report was provided under separate cover - Agenda item 5.7 document number A5089158, pages 5 - 11 refers – presented by Kiri Hobson-Sloane (Operations Manager – Te Kahu o Taonui).

Phil Grimshaw (Taiao Senior Advisor – Te Kahu o Taonui) also gave a verbal update on the progress of the Taiao Portal.

RESOLUTION 2025/8

Moved: Katie Murray - Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

Seconded: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Te Kahu o Taonui Update 1 January 2025 - 28 February 2025.

AMENDMENT

Moved: Cr Penetaui Kleskovic

Seconded: Katie Murray - Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee:

- a) receive the report Te Kahu o Taonui Update 1 January 2025 - 28 February 2025.
- b) and that Te Kuaka support a recommendation that Council, before 1 April 2025, direct the CE to dedicate at least 2 new FTE's in Te Hono to ensure:
 - i) development of Whenua Māori and
 - ii) streamlining and expediting the consenting process and facilitation between landowners and relevant stakeholders.
 - iii) and allocate a budget of \$700k per annum.

And:

- c) that Te Hono have their own General Manager at Senior Leadership Level.
- d) that Council make submissions to Central Government to support the removal of regulatory barriers to the cost of consenting and development of Whenua Māori.

CARRIED

The amendment became the substantive motion:

Moved: Cr Penetaui Kleskovic

Seconded: Katie Murray - Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee:

- a) receive the report Te Kahu o Taonui Update 1 January 2025 - 28 February 2025.
- b) and that Te Kuaka support a recommendation that Council, before 1 April 2025, direct the CE to dedicate at least 2 new FTE's in Te Hono to ensure:
 - a. Development of Whenua Māori and
 - b. Streamlining and expediting the consenting process and facilitation between landowners and relevant stakeholders.
 - c. and allocate a budget of \$700k per annum.

And:

- c) that Te Hono have their own General Manager at Senior Leadership Level.
- d) that Council make submissions to Central Government to support the removal of regulatory barriers to the cost of consenting and development of Whenua Māori.

CARRIED

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes **Unconfirmed** 27 February 2025

*Chair Hilda Halkyard-Harawira vacated the Chair and left the meeting 12:09 pm.
Interim Chairperson Pita Tipene (Te Kahu o Taonui) assumed the Chair.*

5.6 TE KUAKA- TE AO MĀORI COMMITTEE OPEN RESOLUTIONS UPDATE FEBRUARY 2025

Agenda item 5.6 document number A5055225, pages 35 - 35 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/9

Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford
Seconded: Cr Penetaui Kleskovic

That Te Kuaka – Te Māori Committee receive the report Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori February 2025 Open Resolution Report.

CARRIED

7 TE WĀHANGA TŪMATAITI / PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

RESOLUTION 2025/10

Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford
Seconded: Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives

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
6.1 - Confirmation of Previous Minutes	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	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
6.2 - Kauri Dam Decommissioned Public Work - Transfer of Land - Update	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

and that Kaiwhakawhiti Reo Language Translator Kawiti Waetford a remain in the public excluded part of the meeting.

CARRIED

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes **Unconfirmed** 27 February 2025

CONFIRMATION OF INFORMATION AND DECISIONS TO BE RELEASED IN PUBLIC

At the conclusion of the public excluded part of the meeting Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee confirmed the following decision be restated in the public meeting as follows:

PX Item 6.2 – Kauri Dam Decommissioned Public Works – Transfer of Land - Update

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSING PRAYER

9 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed with a karakia by Kawiti Waetford at 12:25 pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting held on 24 April 2025.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

5 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

5.1 ELECTION OF TE KUAKA TE AO MĀORI COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

File Number: A5146532

Author: Marlema Baker, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of the report is to explain the procedure for electing a committee Chairperson and to elect a Chairperson for Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee (Te Kuaka).

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council received notice that Harry Burkhardt resigned as Te Kahu o Taonui Chairperson.
- His role as Te Kuaka Chairperson is currently vacant.
- This report seeks to appoint a new committee Chairperson from Te Kahu o Taonui for the remainder of the triennium.
- Councillor Hilda Halkyard-Harawira will continue as Te Kuaka Deputy Chairperson.

RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee:

- use System B as the preferred voting system to elect a Chairperson.**
- elect _____ as Chairperson for the remainder of the triennium April 2025 to October 2025, in accordance with Standing Orders.**

1) BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting dated 15 December 2022, Council confirmed the structure of its Standing Committees, as a result Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee was established.

At the meeting held 8 August 2023 Te Kahu o Taonui Chairperson Harry Burkhardt was appointed as Te Kuaka Chairperson and Hilda Halkyard-Harawira was appointed Deputy Chair.

On 22 January 2025 Council received notice that Harry Burkhardt had resigned as Te Kahu o Taonui Chairperson. His resignation included stepping down from any roles and responsibilities he held, leaving the role of Te Kuaka Chairperson vacant.

A new committee Chairperson is required for the remainder of this triennium. In accordance with the committee's amended Terms of Reference, Te Kuaka must appoint an Iwi/Hapu member as the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson during a formal meeting and, since the Deputy Chairperson is Cr Halkyard-Harawira, the Chairperson must be one of the 12 iwi representatives nominated through Te Kahu o Taonui or a Hapu member whose Hapu has a signed MoU with Council.

2) DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Schedule 7, section 25 of the Local Government Act 2002 provides for the election of a Chairperson.

In accordance with Council Standing Orders 5.4 the Chairperson of a Committee shall be elected from amongst its members at its first meeting. When electing a Chairperson the Committee must resolve to use one of the following two voting systems as set out in Standing Orders 5.6.

Option 1

System A -

The candidate will be elected or appointed if he or she receives the votes of a majority of the members of the local authority or committee who are present and voting. This system has the following characteristics:

- a) there is a first round of voting for all candidates;*
- b) if no candidate is successful in the first round, there is a second round of voting from which the candidate with the fewest votes in the first round is excluded; and*
- c) if no candidate is successful in the second round, there is a third round, and if necessary subsequent rounds, of voting from which, each time, the candidate with the fewest votes in the previous round is excluded.*

In any round of voting, if two or more candidates tie for the lowest number of votes, the person to be excluded from the next round is resolved by lot.

Option 2

System B -

- a) requires that a person is elected or appointed if he or she receives more votes than any other candidate; and*
- b) has the following characteristics:*
 - (i) there is only one round of voting; and*
 - (ii) if 2 or more candidates tie for the most votes, the tie is resolved by lot.*

Option 2 is the recommended option. This is the system used by Council and Committees (if any) as per their Standing Orders.

Reason for the recommendation

To elect/appoint a Chairperson in accordance with Standing Orders as well as the Committee Terms of Reference, and also in alignment with the intent of valuing the contribution that our iwi/hapu partners bring to the Council decision-making table.

3) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

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

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Resignation Letter - Harry Burkhardt (Te Kahu o Taonui) Chairperson - A5095452** [↓](#) 

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.

Compliance requirement	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 report is 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.	Appointment and Remuneration of Directors for Council Organisations Policy #2117 Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee Terms of Reference Te Pae o Uta – Te Ao Māori Framework
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.	Districtwide views have not been sought as this is a Council governance decision.
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.	This report does not have any specific implications for Māori.
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 does not affect any persons identified by legislation.
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	There are no financial implications or budgetary provision required as a result of this report.
Chief Financial Officer review.	The Chief Financial Officer has not reviewed this report.



22 January 2024

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, tēnā tātou katoa

This letter is to inform you that Harry Burkhardt has made the difficult decision to step down from his role as Te Kahu o Taonui Lead Co-Chair, effective immediately. We express our deepest gratitude to Harry for his innovative leadership, integrity, and unwavering dedication to our kaupapa - *Me mahi tahi tātou mō te iwi te take*.

During this transition period until April 15th, existing Co-Chair Aperahama Edwards will oversee any portfolios chaired by Harry.

We value the collaborative partnerships formed and appreciate your continued relationships.

We will keep you updated on any further developments regarding the permanent Heamana position.

Nāku noa, nā

Kiri Sloane-Hobson
Amorangi – Operations Manager
Te Kahu o Taonui

5.2 REORUA TE KERIKERI

File Number: A5158118

Author: Lawrence Wharerau, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori

Authoriser: Jacine Warmington, Group Manager - Strategic Relationships

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Komiti with an update report on the progress of Te Kerikeri Reorua Strategy and its implementation to the end of March 2025.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is a summary and update of the Reorua Rautaki Agreement between Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia (TRONR) and Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika - Far North District Council (FNDC).

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee:

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

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

On June 1, 2023, TRONR and FNDC, launched a Rautaki Reorua / Bilingual Plan for Te Kerikeri (attached). The Rautaki Reorua is an agreement sponsored by Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs to create Te Kerikeri as a bilingual township. Other Reorua urban centres in Aotearoa include, but are not limited to, Ōtaki, Rotorua, Whakatāne and Whangārei.

The document has also been prepared within the context of the Māori Language Act 2016 and Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora and its two maihi: Te Maihi Karauna - The Crown Māori Language Strategy and Te Maihi Māori - the Māori Language Strategy for Aotearoa.

The Rautaki Reo/Bilingual Plan includes TRONR led priority actions and outcomes, FNDC led priority actions and outcomes as well as joint priority actions and outcomes.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

TRONR have provided a report on activities and initiatives achieved within their community and fulfilling their obligations within the Rautaki Reorua/Bilingual Plan for the period October 1st – 31st December 2024 (attached).

FNDC are well within the timelines and on target to complete FNDC-led and joint-led outcomes as expressed in each strategic focus point within the Rautaki Reorua/Bilingual Plan. These targets have been met mainly through the establishment of Te Pae o Uta adopted by FNDC September 2023 and implemented 1st of July 2024.

Internally, the main delivery of FNDC obligations noted in the strategic focus areas have been achieved through the implementation of Te Pae o Waho (TPoW). This is our Te Reo Māori and

Tikanga training programme for staff and contractors. This began with the establishment of our Kaiwhakangungu Reo in September 2024.

173 staff members have enrolled on our TPoW training programme. Completion rates vary as staff members schedules and priorities determine their availability to attend or not. There is an expectation that those enrolling achieve 80% attendance rate to complete their training obligations.

Those who do not achieve this level of attendance are encouraged to re-enrol to complete their attendance requirements.

Council staff met with Ngāti Rēhia and the community to wānanga the new name for this strategy. The new name is to be endorsed by Te Kuaka.

Attached also please find a copy of the Pou Tuarongo – Back of the Whare table included in the Kerikeri Rautaki Reorua between TRONR and FNDC with highlighted actions completed by and achieved by council.




TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

A name change is required to the strategy.

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

There are no financial implications in receiving this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. 2023 Kerikeri Rautaki Reo Final - A5158307 [!\[\]\(4695f05050b0d393767d0512587d4e50_img.jpg\)](#) 
2. Ngāti Rēhia Reorua update 31/12/2024 - A5158301 [!\[\]\(7528551b00a221bf92619f04e9b6fdc4_img.jpg\)](#) 
3. Pou Tuarongo - Back of the Whare table with highlighted actions by FNDC - A5142115 [!\[\]\(c54f4cb3d90acdac1abe98c1a1e231a3_img.jpg\)](#) 

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	Significance is low in endorsing and receiving this report
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Te Pae o Uta Ka Irihia Te Pae Tata
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 huge significance for the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa ward as it focusses entirely on outcomes within the Kerikeri area.
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.	The implications for Māori are significant. Extensive collaboration was undertaken with Ngāti Rēhia and the wider community in deciding this new name.
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 is a community wide proposal and will affect the outcomes of all within the wider Kerikeri area
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	There are no financial implications in endorsing this name change
Chief Financial Officer review.	The Chief Financial Officer as not reviewed this report.

KERIKERI REORUA

RAUTAKI REORUA 2023-2025

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia (TRONR) and the Far North District Council (FNDC) are excited to launch this Rautaki Reorua | Bilingual Plan for Kerikeri having signed a joint Memorandum of Understanding: 'Aotearoa Reorua – Kerikeri,' on 1 June 2023, acknowledging too Kerikeri's historical significance as a founding location where both te reo Māori and the English language were spoken and taught following the arrival of the first European settlers to the area.

This Rautaki Reorua is guided by the *Ngāti Rēhia Education Strategy (2018 – 2025)* which strives for everyone living, visiting, and associated with Te Riu o Ngāti Rēhia to have an understanding of their reo, tikanga and culture, and the Far North District Council's draft reo Māori and Tikanga Policy and its commitment to te Ao Māori highlighted in its *2021 – 2031 Long-term Plan, Te Pae Tawhiti*.

This document has also been prepared within the context of the Māori Language Act 2016 and Te Whare o te Reo Mauriora and its two maihi: Te Maihi Karauna - The Crown Māori Language Strategy and Te Maihi Māori - the Māori Language Strategy for Aotearoa.

Utilising Te Taura Whiri guidelines for language planning along with community development principles, this Rautaki has been built around four (4) Pou:

Pou Tuarongo

Kerikeri Reorua partners continuously strengthen their own reorua capacity and capability to help revitalise te reo Māori.

Pou Tokomanawa

Enhance the Mana / Status of te reo Māori in Kerikeri.

Pou Tāhū

Increase te reo Māori acquisition and learning opportunities.

Pou Mataaho

Grow the reorua kaupapa and share learnings with others.

The Pou engender eight (8) strategic goals from which priority actions and outcomes are identified to be led by Ngāti Rēhia and FNDC or Jointly. While one party may take the lead on ensuring delivery of actions the other will help when appropriate and, while not articulated, the plan assumes that most of the actions require the collaboration of others. As such, each Kerikeri Reorua partner may develop their own implementation plan detailing their own delivery of the agreed goals, actions and outcomes of this Rautaki.



AOTEAROA
REORUA

#AOTEAROAREORUA

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Rautaki Aro Tahī Strategic Focus 1	Pou Tuarongo – Back of the Whare Kerikeri Reorua partners continuously strengthen their own Reorua capacity and capability to help revitalise te reo Māori.			
Whāinga Tuatahi Goal 1	The partners' staff and leadership improve understanding, proficiency, and use of te reo Māori			
Whāinga Tuarua Goal 2	The partners develop and implement systems that weave bilingualism and te reo Māori into their respective services			
Whāinga Tuatoru Goal 3	The partners monitor and review their progress toward achieving their reorua goals and actions for Kerikeri			
	Ngā Arotau Priority Actions	Ngā Tukunga Outcomes	By 30 Jun 24	By 30 Jun 25
Ngāti Rēhia-led	Guide and support FNDC elected members to embrace reoruatanga and mātauranga Māori kia wāhi whakahirahira te reo Māori ai a Kerikeri	Ngāti Rēhia will be acknowledged as ahi kā and kaitiaki in Kerikeri. (FNDC) will gain intimate knowledge about Kerikeri, its history and its mana whenua.	*	*
	Support hapū members to become qualified translators	Ngāti Rēhia will grow its pool of reo Māori experts, who will be available for translation work in Kerikeri to ensure quality and correct dialect usage for all reo Māori in use.		*
FNDC-led.	Adopt te reo Māori and tikanga policy.	60% of FNDC staff will complete reo classes within three years of the reo Māori and tikanga policy being adopted. Te reo Māori will become normalised at FNDC.	*	
	Make reo Māori classes available to all staff.			
	Increase use of te reo Māori in all FNDC documents	Ngāti Rēhia will be acknowledged as ahi kā and kaitiaki in Kerikeri. FNDC staff knowledge and capability will grow and their engagement with hapū/ Māori will be enhanced.		*
	Develop a competency framework for Council and staff to influence and enhance Far North District Council's Māori responsiveness capabilities			
	Continue mātauranga Māori programme for elected members	Ngāti Rēhia will be acknowledged as ahi kā and kaitiaki in Kerikeri. FNDC will gain intimate knowledge about Kerikeri, its history and its mana whenua.	*	*
	Hold various Council hui at marae whenever possible			*
Jointly led.	Reoruatanga is incorporated into Long-term Plan/ Annual Plan cycles	Dedicated Council resource for ongoing Reorua projects in Kerikeri will be gained.	*	*
	Partners meet regularly to strengthen relationships/ build whanaungatanga and understanding of each other while overseeing Kerikeri's Reorua journey.	Partners will be consciously aware of the health and well-being of te reo Māori status in Kerikeri and have improved their relationship to identify and foresee any issues and overcome them together.	*	*
	Create a working group to lead Kerikeri Reorua - comprising of māngai from Ngāti Rēhia and FNDC, that is founded on core mutual principles.	Communication between the partners will be streamlined and sustainable Reorua activations for Kerikeri will be identified and implemented.	*	*
	Undertake a key stakeholder analysis by engaging with the community	Reorua activations in Kerikeri will reflect community needs, desires and interests	*	
	Review progress on the Rautaki	Rautaki remains fit for purpose	*	*

DRAFT

Rautaki Aro Rua Strategic Focus 2	Pou Tokomanawa – Heart of the whare Enhance the mana / status of te reo Māori in Kerikeri.			
Whāinga Tuawha Goal 4	Kerikeri Reorua partners show they value te reo Māori.			
Whāinga Tuarima Goal 5	Reoruatanga and Māoritanga are a key part of Kerikeri identity - kia Māori ake nei te āhua o Kerikeri			
	Ngā Arotau Priority Actions	Ngā Tukunga Outcomes	By 30 Jun 24	By 30 Jun 25
Ngāti Rēhia-led.	Establish wānanga to set a clear Reorua identity for Kerikeri	Kerikeri will be recognised as a town that treasures te reo Māori. Te reo o Ngāpuhi is the reo that is used, seen and heard in Kerikeri.	*	
	Provide ingoa Māori, and their meanings, for any new developments in Kerikeri as well as for existing public spaces		*	*
	Promote Ngāti Rēhia as the lead for any kaupapa reo Māori in Kerikeri		*	*
FNDC-led.	Encourage users of council spaces to make their event/ activation bilingual	The use of te reo Māori in Council spaces and places will be normalised.	*	*
	Make all council spaces and places Reorua	Council will be seen as a Reorua leader		*
Jointly led.	Establish a clear Reorua/ tangatarua look and feel for Kerikeri (Visually/aurally etc)	Māori identify will be enhanced in Kerikeri.		*

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Rautaki Aro Toru Strategic Focus 3	Pou Tāhū – Front of the whare More reo Māori acquisition and learning opportunities are available in Kerikeri.			
Whāinga Tuaono Goal 6	Kerikeri Reorua partners work together on shared Reorua projects and activations in Kerikeri			
Whāinga Tuawhitu Goal 7	Community leadership of te reo Māori initiatives continues to grow in Kerikeri			
	Ngā Arotau Priority Actions	Ngā Tukunga Outcomes	By 30 Jun 24	By 30 Jun 25
Ngāti Rēhia-led	Ngāti Rēhia will establish and lead a kaupapa Reorua that coincides with the changes of the seasons.	Increased use of reo Māori and kōrero tuku iho in the community – framed around the seasons. Once established, the kaupapa will be promoted and shared with other hapū to be led out across the Far North rohe.	*	*
	Develop dedicated Reorua and Ngāti Rēhia content to be broadcasted via platforms such as reo irirangi Māori, podcast and social media channels.	Te reo Māori, pūrākau and history will be normalised thanks to broadcasted and online mediums.		*
FNDC-led.	Active, annual planning by FNDC to develop and grow its suite of reo Māori and Reorua activities.	Increase of te reo Māori and Reorua events and kaupapa in the community.	*	*
	Promote Ngāti Rēhia events, programmes and classes.		*	*
Jointly led.	Undertake key stakeholder analysis	Community champions will be identified and supported to develop and lead Reorua activations in Kerikeri. Each year more community-led events and activations will be Reorua.	*	
	Utilise Maramataka to inform events and initiatives.	Te reo Māori will be championed i ngā wā me ngā wāhi katoa o Kerikeri.		*
	Encourage and support Kerikeri businesses to use te reo every day	Over time, all Kerikeri resident will be fluent in both English and Māori languages	*	*
	Create a wāhi reo Māori.		*	*

DRAFT

Rautaki Aro Wha Strategic Focus 4	Pou Mataaho – External to the whare / outward facing Grow the Reorua kaupapa and share learnings with others.			
Whāinga Tuawaru Goal 8	Kerikeri is a centre of Reorua excellence			
	Ngā Arotau Priority Actions	Ngā Tukunga Outcomes	By 30 Jun 24	By 30 Jun 25
Ngāti Rēhia-led	As needed, support other Reorua towns and cities.	Kerikeri will be recognised as a Reorua leader in Aotearoa and a founding centre where te reo Māori and English was learned in tandem following the arrival of the first European settlers to the township.	*	*
	Initiate discussions to develop a Ngāpuhi Reorua strategy across the Far North.	Collaboration opportunities to celebrate and promote Ngāpuhitanga and te reo o Ngāpuhi across the Far North District will be advanced.		*
FNDC-led.	Actively promote our strengths as a premier Reorua destination.	Kerikeri will be widely recognised as a Reorua destination of excellence		*
	Embed Kerikeri Reorua into our place brand.	Kerikeri identity will be synonymous with Ngāti Rēhiatanga and Reoruatanga.	*	*
	Build Reoruatanga into FNDC's Kerikeri documents i.e., Master Plan, Spatial Plan, Annual Plan.	Reoruatanga and Māoritanga and their importance in Kerikeri will be noticeably increased and will grow interest and buy-in from other towns and cities across the district.	*	*
Jointly-led.	Participate as a tuakana for other Reorua centres within FNDC and Ngāpuhi boundaries	Kerikeri will actively support the growth of Reoruatanga across Ngāpuhi rohe and the Far North district.	*	*
	Maintain and share (with other Reorua centres and/ or publicly) a corpus of newly translated words developed by the Kerikeri Reorua partners.	Kerikeri partners will have helped build te reo Māori corpus		*
	Encourage the use of te reo Māori by other public bodies which have dealings with Kerikeri.	All public bodies that deliver services to the Kerikeri public will: * Recognise Ngāti Rēhia as ahi kā and kaitiaki and will engage with Ngāti Rēhia at the outset of their interaction with the township * Be encouraged and supported to use te reo Māori in Kerikeri.		*

Pou Tuarongo

Pou 1: Kerikeri Reo partners continuously build their own reo capacity & capability.
Whāinga: As per hui

Actions	Outcomes	Y1/Y2?
Lead Reo team for PDC to develop a reo strategy. Kerikeri Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Support Reo team to become a reo team.	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Develop a reo strategy for reo team.	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Schools (Māori reo/whānau)	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?



Pou Tāhū

Pou 3: (Sharing is caring) More reo Māori and learning opportunities.
Whāinga: Community reo/whānau of reo Māori network.

Actions	Outcomes	Y1/Y2?
Hāpū-led: Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
FNDC-led: Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Jointly-led: Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?

Pou Tokomanawa

Pou 1: Enhance the mana/status of te reo Māori in Kerikeri.
Whāinga: Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).

Actions	Outcomes	Y1/Y2?
Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?



Pou Mataaho

Pou 4: Pou Mataaho
Whāinga: Establish Kerikeri as a reo Māori hub.

Actions	Outcomes	Y1/Y2?
Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?
Reo team will lead seasonal reo events each yr. (Quarterly). Develop a reo strategy for reo team. Schools (Māori reo/whānau).	Reo will be acknowledged as a key part of Kerikeri's identity.	Y1/Y2?



TE KERIKERI REORUA – SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

Period: 1 October – 31 December 2024

INTRODUCTION

Te Kerikeri Reorua continues to make significant progress in embedding te reo Māori within the community, businesses, and everyday life. This initiative, driven in partnership with FNDC, aligns with the Aotearoa Reorua Bilingual Towns and Cities programme and TRONR's commitment to strengthening Ngāti Rēhia's role as ahi kā and kaitiaki.

Over the past 6-months, TRONR has led a range of initiatives, from business engagement, public-facing language promotion, and cultural education programmes, to ongoing wānanga and bilingual resource development. This report summarizes key activities, learnings, and next steps.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Community & Public Engagement

- *Morning Karakia Sessions at Te Pou o Manako*
 - A daily karakia initiative (Monday–Friday at 8:30 AM) was established, inviting students, community members, and TRONR staff to start the day with reflection and connection.
 - This initiative strengthens whakawhanaungatanga while embedding te reo Māori into everyday practice.
 - Promotional materials developed to invite wider participation.
- *Te Ahurea Cultural & Historical Experience*
 - Ongoing promotion of Te Ahurea as a key educational and tourism site, with enhanced bilingual storytelling and guided experiences.
 - Development of Aotearoa NZ Histories School Packages, supporting kura and educators to experience place-based learning through te ao Māori.

2. Business & Organisational Engagement

- *Te Reo Māori Integration for Local Businesses*
 - TRONR has developed business-focused te reo Māori learning sessions, working with organisations like:
 1. **Turner Centre:** Hosted tailored Te Ao Māori training workshops, emphasizing language basics, cultural protocols, and historical insights.
 2. **Arvida Te Puna Waiora:** Provided Te Reo Māori classes to residents, with a focus on pronunciation, tikanga Māori, and everyday language use.
 - A tiered bilingual business programme is in development, including signage, phrase guides, and bilingual certification for participating businesses.

NGĀTI RĒHIA

- *Te Puna Waiora (Arvida) Contract*
 - A 10-week contract was formalised to deliver weekly kapa haka and Te Ao Māori sessions at Arvida Te Puna Waiora, fostering cultural connections and supporting bilingualism.
- 3. **Advocacy & Public Awareness**
 - *Treaty Principles Bill Submissions Workshops*
 - TRONR facilitated in-person and online wānanga to support community members in drafting and submitting their perspectives on the Treaty Principles Bill.
 - Sessions included a te reo Māori component, allowing participants to develop bilingual submissions.
 - *Public-Facing Bilingual Resources*
 - Designed bilingual flyers, posters, and educational materials promoting te reo Māori in daily life.
 - Developed online and social media campaigns to increase visibility and engagement with the kaupapa.

KEY LEARNINGS

- **Businesses Need Structured Support for Reo Integration**
 - Businesses are interested in te reo Māori usage but require clear pathways, training, and tailored resources.
 - The planned Bilingual Business Recognition Programme will provide tiered incentives, signage, and educational support.
- **Community Interest in Te Reo Māori Continues to Grow**
 - Daily karakia sessions, school engagement, and public events have demonstrated a high demand for structured reo Māori opportunities.
- **Sustained Engagement Requires Long-Term Planning**
 - TRONR and FNDC must ensure ongoing wānanga and bilingual activations remain a priority despite competing kaupapa.

RISKS AND MITIGATIONS

1. **Risk:** *Limited Capacity for Implementation*
 - **Mitigation:** Secure additional funding and leverage volunteer networks to expand project delivery.
2. **Risk:** *Uneven Business & Public Engagement*
 - **Mitigation:** Develop multi-platform communication to reach difference audiences (social media, in-person workshops, business incentives).
3. **Risk:** *Ensuring FNDC's Reorua Commitments Stay on Track*
 - **Mitigation:** Strengthen working group collaboration, ensuring FNDC's bilingual policy implementation aligns with Reorua goals.

NGĀTI RĒHIA

NEXT STEPS

1. **Formalise the “Bilingual Business Recognition” Programme**
 - Develop tiered membership (basic, intermediate, advanced) for businesses adopting te reo Māori in their services.
 - Provide bilingual signage, training sessions, and promotional support.
2. **Expand Te Reo Māori Workshops & Community Wānanga**
 - Roll out sector-specific wānanga (businesses, tourism, education).
 - Host community hui focused on public-facing bilingualism.
3. **Advance FNDC & TRONR Reorua Commitments**
 - Ensure FNDC's integral te reo Māori policy implementation remains a priority.
 - Support FNDC's staff training and bilingual communication initiatives.
4. **FNDC & Ngāti Rēhia Wānanga at Whitiara Marae**
 - Establish key areas of collaboration, policy alignment, and action planning.
5. **Further Digital & Social Media Integration**
 - Create an online hub for te reo Māori business resources.
 - Launch bilingual social media campaigns to normalise te reo use.

CONCLUSION

The past 6-months have demonstrated strong progress in embedding te reo Māori across businesses, community spaces, and public initiatives. The commitment of FNDC and TRONR will be crucial in ensuring sustained engagement and long-term success.

By strengthening business partnerships, increasing public visibility of te reo Māori, and formalising bilingual pathways, Te Kerikeri Reorua is well on its way to becoming a leading bilingual community in Aotearoa.

We look forward to continuing this mahi and formalising further commitments at the upcoming April wānanga.

Pou Tuarongo – Back of the Whare Kerikeri Reorua partners continuously strengthen their own Reorua capacity and capability to help revitalise te reo Māori.				
	Ngā Arotau Priority Actions	Status Update	Ngā Tukunga Outcomes	Status Update
FNDC-led.	Adopt te reo Māori and tikanga policy.	Adopted by council in Sept 2023	60% of FNDC staff will complete reo classes within three years of the reo Māori and tikanga policy being adopted. Te reo Māori will become normalised at FNDC.	The Te Reo and Tikanga Policy on final approval aimed for a 100% all of staff completion rate. FNDC continue to work towards this target
	Make reo Māori classes available to all staff.	Te Pae o Waho Te Reo and Tikanga Training delivered by our Kaiwhakangungu Reo was established during Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori 2024		
	Increase use of te reo Māori in all FNDC documents.	The Te Reo and Tikanga Policy adopted in Sept 2023 outlines the requirement for Level One headings across all FNDC documents. FNDC Teams are now implementing these requirements across our mahi		
	Develop a competency framework for Council and staff to influence and enhance Far North District Council's Māori responsiveness capabilities	Te Pae o Uta is now in place	Ngāti Rēhia will be acknowledged as ahi kā and kaitiaki in Kerikeri. FNDC staff knowledge and capability will grow and their engagement with hapū/ Māori will be enhanced.	As mana whenua in Te Kerikeri area, Ngāti Rēhia are recognised by FNDC as first port of call when considering consultation, guidance and other support to uplift the status of Ngāti Rēhia. This is further enhanced by the recent signing of Te Aro Manatu relationship agreement in December 2024
	Continue mātauranga Māori programme for elected members	The first mātauranga exchange between Ngāti Rēhia and council will be hosted at Whitiara marae, Te Tii Mangonui April 30 th . Elected members, senior leadership team and group managers have been invited to attend.	Ngāti Rēhia will be acknowledged as ahi kā and kaitiaki in Kerikeri. FNDC will gain intimate knowledge about Kerikeri, its history and its mana whenua.	As mana whenua in Te Kerikeri area, Ngāti Rēhia are recognised by FNDC as first port of call when considering consultation, guidance and other support to uplift the status of Ngāti Rēhia. This is further enhanced by the recent signing of Te Aro Manatu

				relationship agreement in December 2024
	Hold various Council hui at marae whenever possible	FNDC will accommodate all requests for hui if appropriate		
	Reoruatanga is incorporated into Long-term Plan/ Annual Plan cycles	No significant work has been progressed in this area	Dedicated Council resource for ongoing Reorua projects in Kerikeri will be gained.	Te Hono have dedicated resource to the Reorua strategy
Jointly led.	Partners meet regularly to strengthen relationships/ build whanaungatanga and understanding of each other while overseeing Kerikeri's Reorua journey.	Join hui are regularly attended. The Relationshipo has strengthened and can be seen in the open discussions and responsiveness from both apties	Partners will be consciously aware of the health and well-being of te reo Māori status in Kerikeri and have improved their relationship to identify and foresee any issues and overcome them together.	The evidence of increased business and public responses to Te Reorua o Te Kerikeri is evidenced in the attached report from Ngāti Rēhia.
	Create a working group to lead Kerikeri Reorua - comprising of māngai from Ngāti Rēhia and FNDC, that is founded on core mutual principles.	Te Hono continue to participate in all working group discussions alongside Ngati Rehia	Communication between the partners will be streamlined and sustainable Reorua activations for Kerikeri will be identified and implemented.	Ngāti Rēhia leadership and FNDC, led primarily by Te Hono, are in constant contact regarding matters affecting the streamlining and sustainability of Reorua status for the community of Kerikeri.
	Undertake a key stakeholder analysis by engaging with the community	This is a continuous and ongoing kaupapa	Reorua activations in Kerikeri will reflect community needs, desires and interests	FNDC are willing to support in any way possible
	Review progress on the Rautaki	Joint papers are presented through to Te Kuaka as updates	Rautaki remains fit for purpose	Continuous ongoing discussions continue to meet this requirement

Pou Tokomanawa – Heart of the whare Enhance the mana / status of te reo Māori in Kerikeri.				
	Ngā Arotau	Status Update	Ngā Tukunga	Status Update

	Priority Actions		Outcomes	
FNDC-led.	Encourage users of council spaces to make their event/ activation bilingual	FNDC utilise a Te Ao Maori lens in our mahi for eg <i>Tiaki Ngā Wai</i> water restrictions campaign.	The use of te reo Māori in Council spaces and places will be normalised. Council will be seen as a Reorua leader	There is a recognisable increase in the use of Te Reo Māori in FNDC places and spaces including the rebranding of our Council name and Logo.
	Make all council spaces and places Reorua.	FNDC are developing a District-Wide Reorua Strategy		
Jointly led.	Establish a clear Reorua/ tangatarua look and feel for Kerikeri (Visually/aurally etc)	Council work actively alongside Ngati Rehia to enable this objective for eg, Te Puāwaitanga Sports Complex - Waipapa, Proctor Library revamp	Māori identity will be enhanced in Kerikeri.	Council work actively alongside Ngati Rehia to enable this objective for eg, Te Puāwaitanga Sports Complex - Waipapa, Proctor Library revamp

Pou Tāhū – Front of the whare More reo Māori acquisition and learning opportunities are available in Kerikeri.				
	Ngā Arotau Priority Actions	Status Update	Ngā Tukunga Outcomes	Status Update
FNDC-led.	Active, annual planning by FNDC to develop and grow its suite of reo Māori and Reorua activities.	Te Pae o Waho, Te Pae Waiata have been developed to enable Reorua implementation across council	Increase of te reo Māori and Reorua events and kaupapa in the community.	Te Reo Māori and Reorua events are becoming more and more visible for eg, Te Ahuareka o Ngāti Hine, Te Tiriti Waitangi events (Waitangi, Māngungu and Kaitāia)
	Promote Ngāti Rēhia events, programmes and classes. The Pou	Staff are encouraged to further their Te Reo Māori journey by enrolling on Ngāti Rēhia led Te Reo Māori acquisition programmes outside of the Te Pae o Waho Te Reo Māori and Tikanga training offered by FNDC		
Jointly led.	Undertake key stakeholder analysis	Council are still working towards implementing this goal	Community champions will be identified and supported to develop and lead Reorua activations in Kerikeri. Each year more community-led events and activations will be Reorua.	Council are working towards this goal through the Matariki Puanga Awards scheduled for June
	Utilise Maramataka to inform events and initiatives.	Council meetings are currently scheduled according to the maramataka		
	Encourage and support Kerikeri businesses to use te reo every day	Council are still working towards implementing this goal	Te reo Māori will be championed i ngā wā me ngā wāhi katoa o Kerikeri. Over time, all Kerikeri resident will be fluent in both English and Māori languages	Council are still working towards implementing this goal
	Create a wāhi reo Māori.	Council are still working towards implementing this goal		

Pou Mataaho – External to the whare / outward facing

Grow the Reorua kaupapa and share learnings with others.				
	Ngā Arotau Priority Actions	Status Update	Ngā Tukunga Outcomes	Status Update
FNDC-led.	Actively promote our strengths as a premier Reorua destination.	Council are still working towards implementing this goal	Kerikeri will be widely recognised as a Reorua destination of excellence	Te Pātukurea Spatial plan outlines the aspirations of hapu alongside FNDC
	Embed Kerikeri Reorua into our place brand.	Te Pātukurea Spatial plan outlines the aspirations of hapu alongside FNDC	Kerikeri identity will be synonymous with Ngāti Rēhiatanga and Reoruatanga.	Te Pātukurea Spatial plan outlines the aspirations of hapu alongside FNDC
	Build Reoruatanga into FNDC's Kerikeri documents i.e., Master Plan, Spatial Plan, Annual Plan.	Te Pātukurea Spatial plan outlines the aspirations of hapu alongside FNDC	Reoruatanga and Māoritanga and their importance in Kerikeri will be noticeably increased and will grow interest and buy-in from other towns and cities across the district.	Te Pātukurea Spatial plan outlines the aspirations of hapu alongside FNDC
Jointly-led.	Participate as a tuakana for other Reorua centres within FNDC and Ngāpuhi boundaries	FNDC will develop a Reorua Strategy for the district taking Kerikeri Reoruas guidance and direction	Kerikeri will actively support the growth of Reoruatanga across Ngāpuhi rohe and the Far North district.	Council are still working towards implementing this goal
	Maintain and share (with other Reorua centres and/ or publicly) a corpus of newly translated words developed by the Kerikeri Reorua partners.	Council are still working towards implementing this goal	Kerikeri partners will have helped build te reo Māori corpus	Council are still working towards implementing this goal
	Encourage the use of te reo Māori by other public bodies which have dealings with Kerikeri.	Council are still working towards implementing this goal	All public bodies that deliver services to the Kerikeri public will: * Recognise Ngāti Rēhia as ahi kā and kaitiaki and will engage with Ngāti Rēhia at the outset of their interaction with the township * Be encouraged and supported to use te reo Māori in Kerikeri.	Council are still working towards implementing this goal

5.3 RATING RELIEF POLICY 2021 REVIEW

File Number: A5100885

Author: Shayne Storey, Team Leader - Policy & Bylaws

Authoriser: Roger Ackers, Group Manager - Planning & Policy

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is for Te Kuaka to consider the Rating Relief Policy 2021 review and recommend to Council that the policy continues with amendment.

WHAKARĀPOOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Under section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02) Council must have rates remission and rates postponement policies. This includes the requirement to adopt a policy on remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land. The Rating Relief Policy has been reviewed, which established that a policy is still the most appropriate way to address rating relief for the district.

The review identified that the following sections of the policy should continue without amendment:

- R21/02 – Unusable Land
- R21/04 – Community, Sports and Not-for-profit Organisations
- R21/05 – Properties Spanning Multiple Districts
- R21/07 – Remission of School Sewerage Charges
- R21/08 – Excess Water Charges
- R23/15 – Enabling Housing Development on Māori Freehold Land
- P21/01 – Land Subject to Protection for Outstanding Natural Landscape, Cultural, Historic or Ecological Purposes
- P21/04 – Transitional policy for the postponement of rates on farmland
- P21/05 – Residential Rates for Senior Citizens
- ML21/01 – Māori Freehold Land Not Used

Additionally, the review identified that the following sections of the policy should continue with amendment:

- ML21/02 – Māori Freehold Land used for the purposes of Papakainga or other housing purposes subject to occupation licenses or other informal arrangements
- R21/01 – Remission of Penalties
- R21/06 – Common-Use Properties
- R21/13 – Incentivising Māori Economic Development
- R21/14 – Treaty Settlement Lands
- P21/03 – Landlocked Land

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That the 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

Under section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02), Council must have rates remission and rates postponement policies. This includes the requirement to adopt a policy on remission and

postponement of rates on Māori freehold land and the discretion to adopt rates remission and rates postponement policies.

On 13 May 2021 (Resolution 2021/20) Council made the Rating Relief Policy under section 102 of the LGA02.

Under sections 108–110 of the LGA02, rates remission and / or postponement policies must be reviewed every 6 years via a consultation process that gives effect to the formal “Principles of Consultation” under section 82 LGA02. Council last reviewed the policy in September 2020 as part of the Long-Term Plan process.

The current policy is due for review no later than September 2026. On this basis, review of the Rating Relief Policy had been scheduled in the Policy & Bylaws Work Programme for the 2026-27 financial year. The current review has been brought forward at the request of elected members specifically to review the policies relating to Māori freehold land.

The current objectives of Council’s rating relief policy is to:

- provide a fair and equitable collection of rates from all sectors of the community
- provide an equitable system of rating remission and postponement for all sectors of the community
- recognise that there is a community benefit to provide rating relief to certain charitable and community organisations
- provide ratepayers with financial assistance where they might otherwise have difficulty meeting their obligations to pay rates
- align with Council's community outcomes and strategic priorities
- recognise that certain unoccupied, unused Māori Freehold Land may have conditions, ownership structures, or other circumstances which make it appropriate to remit or postpone rates for defined periods of time
- ensure consideration of Schedule 11 of the LGA 2002 (matters relating to rates relief on Māori Freehold Land).

The sections of the Rating Relief Policy have been reviewed collectively to ensure that any amendments to the policy are not progressed in isolation.

Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (TTWMA)

Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (TTWMA) is the primary legislation governing whenua Māori, including Māori Freehold Land. The preamble to that Act sets out the principles within which the whenua Māori framework operates.

Under section 102 LGA02 Rates Remissions Policies must support the principles set out in the preamble to TTWMA. All policies in the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy apply to whenua Māori freehold land unless stated otherwise and whenua Māori rates remission provisions in the policies have been developed against the backdrop of the TTWMA principles and the objectives outlined in Schedule 11 of the LGA02 (Matters relating to rates relief on Māori freehold land).

The objectives of rating relief in relation to Māori Freehold Land under Schedule 11 of LGA02 are:

- supporting the use of the land by the owners for traditional purposes
- recognising and supporting the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands
- avoiding further alienation of Māori freehold land
- facilitating any wish of the owners to develop the land for economic use
- recognising and taking account of the presence of wahi tapu that may affect the use of the land for other purposes

- recognising and taking account of the importance of the land in providing economic and infrastructure support for marae and associated Papakainga housing (whether on the land or elsewhere)
- recognising and taking account of the importance of the land for community goals relating to the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment
- the protection of outstanding natural features
- the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna
- recognising the level of community services provided to the land and its occupiers
- recognising matters related to the physical accessibility of the land.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / Summary of Review Findings and Options

Summary of Review Findings

Staff have reviewed each section of the policy individually, ten of which remain fit for purpose with no amendment recommended. However, staff recommend amendments to six of the sections to provide clarity, additional guidelines, conditions and criteria. Furthermore, staff recommend amendments to the Introduction and definitions of the policy to provide supplementary information.

The Review Research Report - Rating Relief Policies (Attachment 1) describes and discusses the review of the sixteen sections. An overview of the sections with review findings is outlined below.

R21/01 Remission of Penalties

The policy allows for the remission of penalties where the ratepayer has entered into repayment arrangements or there are reasonable grounds to remove the penalty. This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Staff have recommended minor changes to the policy to provide clarity regarding application criteria and conditions.

R21/02 Unusable Land

The policy provides rating relief to the owners of properties that have become unusable as a result of a natural disaster, and where the loss of the use of the property will result in financial hardship for the owner. This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

The policy outlines:

- potential financial assistance available for the community
- the conditions and criteria needed to receive rating relief

The policy review found the policy to be an appropriate mechanism for granting a remission of rates on land that has become indefinitely unusable as a result of a natural disaster and staff have recommended no substantive changes to the current policy.

R21/04 Community, Sports and Not-For-Profit Organisations

The policy:

- assists in the ongoing provision of community services and recreational opportunities that benefit Far North residents.
- recognises that there is a community benefit in providing assistance through rating relief to certain charitable and community organisations.

Staff have recommended no substantive changes to the current policy.

R21/05 Properties Spanning Multiple Districts

The policy recognises that some properties span multiple districts and ensures that only the portion of property within the Far North District is rated by the Far North District Council. This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

A review found that the policy states that rates will be remitted on any portion of a property of the Far North District that spans other districts. Staff have recommended no substantive changes to the current policy.

R21/06 Common-Use Properties

Section 20 of the LGRA 02 requires that multiple rating units be treated as one rating unit if they are:

1. Owned by the same person or persons; and,
2. Used jointly as a single unit; and,
3. Contiguous or separated only by a road, railway, drain, water race, river or stream.

This policy expands on the provisions of the Act and provides for commercial operations to be treated as one rating unit to assist economic development in the district. This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- To enable the Council to act fairly and equitably with respect to the imposition of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)¹ and applicable targeted rates on 2 or more separate rating units that are contiguous, separately owned and used jointly for a single residential, commercial or farming use.
- To deal equitably with the imposition of the UAGC and applicable targeted rates on 2 or more separate rating units that have resulted from a subdivision to facilitate the development of the district.

The review found that the policy is an appropriate mechanism to fairly and equitably impose the UAGC and to encourage development in urban areas. Staff recommend minor changes to the policy to provide clarity regarding conditions and criteria.

R21/07 Remission of School Sewerage Charges

The Council recognises that schools may be disproportionately charged for sewerage services where there are a higher number of toilets in relation to the actual number of students enrolled in schools. This policy ensures that schools are equitably charged for sewerage services.

The review found that the policy gives appropriate guidance to ensure schools are equitably charged for sewerage services. Staff have recommended no substantive changes to the current policy.

R21/08 Excess Water Charges

Council may allow for the reduction of water charges in certain circumstances where a leak or damage to a ratepayer's water supply system has resulted in excessive water rates.

The policy:

- ensures standardised procedures are in place to assist ratepayers who have excessive water rates due to a fault (leak) in the internal reticulation serving their rating unit

¹ This is a fixed charge applied to each separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a property, irrespective of the value of a property. It's used to pay for general council services including roads, wastewater and stormwater systems, libraries, parks and reserves. The purpose of a UAGC is to ensure that all property owners or ratepayers provide a minimum contribution to fund services that benefit the whole community.

- incentivises ratepayers to regularly check their water meter and maintain their internal water reticulation ensuring that consumers retain responsibility for the maintenance of their private reticulation.

The review has established that the policy is an appropriate mechanism for a reduction of excess water charges under certain circumstances. Staff recommend no substantive changes are made to the current policy.

R21/13 Incentivising Māori Economic Development

Council recognises that there is a need to incentivise economic development on Māori Freehold Land. Enabling and incentivising Māori economic development through the remission of rates may see direct economic and social benefits to landowners and generate a return on the land. It may also provide benefits to Council by way of future rates contributions as the venture grows and becomes sustainable.

The policy aims to:

- provide incentives for Māori landowners to develop Māori Freehold Land for economic use.
- enable owners to develop an economic base and to assist with the subsequent payment of rates.

The review found the policy is an appropriate mechanism to provide incentives for the development of Māori Freehold Land and enable economic development. However, staff recommend minor changes to clarify and refine the conditions and criteria of the policy.

R21/14 Treaty Settlement Lands

Council recognises that post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs), which are formed to receive properties returned as a part of Treaty of Waitangi settlements, will require time to develop strategic plans, restore protections, and complete necessary works for cultural and commercial redress properties. These properties can be classed as General Title, which means that the rating relief policies for Māori Freehold Land do not apply to all of these properties. This policy has been developed to enable a similar approach to be applied to rating relief on all post-settlement lands.

The review found that a policy is the most appropriate form to recognise that Treaty Settlement lands may have unique circumstances which make rates remission appropriate. However, staff recommend minor changes to clarify and refine the conditions and criteria of the policy.

R21/15 Enabling Housing Development on Māori Freehold Land

The Local Government Rating Act 2002 S114A requires Council to recognise that there is a need to enable housing development on Māori Freehold Land. Enabling housing development through the remission of rates will see direct social benefits to landowners, as well as to Council from future rates contributions.

The review has established that the policy is an appropriate mechanism to enable housing development on Māori Freehold Land through the remission of rates. No substantive changes are recommended by staff.

P21/01 Land Subject to Protection for Outstanding Natural Landscape, Cultural, Historic or Ecological Purposes

The Far North District Council recognises that certain rateable land within the district is protected for outstanding natural landscape, cultural, heritage, or ecological purposes.

The policy aims to provide rating relief to landowners who have reserved lands that have particular outstanding natural landscape, cultural, historic or ecological values for future generations. This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

The review has established that the policy is an appropriate mechanism to provide rating relief to landowners of Outstanding natural Landscapes for Cultural, Historic or Ecological Purposes. No substantive changes are recommended by staff.

P21/03 Landlocked Land

The Property Law Act 2007 enables owners of landlocked properties to take legal action in order to gain reasonable access to their property.

Ratepayers may be unable to take action under these provisions of the Property Law Act due to their financial circumstances.

This policy has been prepared to cover the exceptional circumstances and will only be applied after all other avenues for access have been explored by the owner.

The review has established that the policy is an appropriate mechanism to provide rating relief to those who do not have access to their land and are financially unable to take legal action through the Property Law Act 2007. However, staff recommend minor changes to clarify and refine the conditions and criteria of the policy.

P21/04 Transitional policy for the Postponement of Rates on Farmland

This policy is to address the rating of farmland that previously received a rate- postponement value pursuant to Section 22 of the Rating Valuations Act.

The intention is to provide rates relief for the owners of farmland who previously received rating relief whose land values were increased beyond that of other farmland in the district because of the potential use to which the land could be put for residential, commercial, industrial, or other non-farming development.

The Policy is restricted to those farms which are owner operated, and the owners live on and operate the farm as a personal business. The policy specifically excludes those farms which are held as investment properties where the owners live outside the district.

The review has established that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to provide transitional rating relief to subject to increased land values due to proximity to coastal and/or urban development. Staff recommend no substantive changes to this policy.

P21/05 Residential Rates for Senior Citizens

This policy provides senior citizens with the option of postponing their rates to be paid until a sale of the rating unit takes place, or, in the event that they pass away, until the settlement of their estate. This will relieve elderly people of potential financial hardship, and enhance the quality of their lives, including the ability to remain in their home longer with limited income.

The review has established that the policy is an appropriate mechanism to relieve elderly people of potential financial hardship, enhance the quality of their lives and enable them to remain in their homes longer with limited income. Staff recommend no substantive changes to this policy.

ML21/01 Māori Freehold Land Not Used

2021 amendments to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 mean that unused Māori Freehold Land is legally non-rateable, so is not charged rates except those related to water supply, sewerage, and rubbish collection.

This policy applies to remissions on land that remains unused/unoccupied following the granting of a licence to occupy from the Māori Land Court or recognition of an informal arrangement to occupy. Because a licence to occupy or an informal arrangement does not create a separate rating unit, any unused /unoccupied land remaining does not automatically become "non- rateable".

The review has confirmed that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to provide remissions for portions of Māori Freehold land not occupied or used. No substantive changes are recommended by staff

ML21/02 Māori Freehold Land Used for Purposes of Papakainga or Other Housing Purposes

Council recognises that the potential imposition of multiple UAGCs or other non-service-related charges can act as a disincentive to Māori seeking to occupy Māori Freehold Land for housing purposes. Council seeks to put in place processes to assist Māori to establish papakāinga or other housing on Māori Freehold Land.

The policy allows residents of Māori Freehold land with occupation licenses or other informal arrangements to pay their portion of rates in respect of the land that they occupy by allowing for the remission of multiple UAGCs and other charges, on separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit where these are covered by occupation licenses, or other informal arrangements.

Staff have identified several areas of the policy that require amendment to clarify and refine the conditions and criteria of the policy.

Options**Option One: Continue the Rating Relief Policy 2021 with amendment (recommended option)**

Continuing the Rating Relief Policy 2021 with amendment will provide clarity, additional guidelines and criteria, as well as including specific reference to both the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 and the objectives of rating relief in relation to Māori Freehold Land under Schedule 11 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Provides clear guidelines, definitions and additional conditions for rating relief	None identified
Includes reference to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993	
Streamlines requirements and processes	

Option Two: Continue without amendment

The Rating Relief Policy 2021 will remain in place with no changes.

Advantages	Disadvantages
None identified	Existing policy is unclear
	Does not recognise Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993
	Prohibitive requirements will remain in place

Next Steps

If Council agrees with the recommendations, a new form of the Rating Relief Policy will be drafted and presented to Te Kuaka and Council in June. If Council approves the proposed draft, public consultation will take place for four weeks from 4 July-1 August, with verbal submissions to follow, giving effect to the formal "Principles of Consultation" under section 82 LGA2002. It is anticipated that the analysis of submissions will be completed, and the final draft of the policy will be presented to Te Kuaka and Council in August.

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

The cost of continuing the policy with amendment will be met from existing operation budgets.

ĀPITI HANGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. Review Research Report - Rating Relief Policies - A5148913 [↓](#) 
2. rating-relief-policies-2021-31 - A4684953 [↓](#) 



HE ARA TĀMATA
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Research Report

Review of Rating Relief Policy 2021

1 Purpose

To describe and discuss the review of the Rating Relief Policy 2021.

2 Context and Situation

Under section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA02), Council is required to adopt a variety of funding and financial policies to provide predictability and certainty about its sources and levels of funding. This includes the requirement to adopt a policy on remission and postponement of rates on Māori freehold land and the discretion to adopt rates remission and rates postponement policies.

Under sections 108 – 110 of the LGA02, rates remission and / or postponement policies must be reviewed every 6 years via a consultation process that gives effect to the formal "Principles of Consultation" under section 82 LGA02. Council made the Rating Relief Policies on 13 May 2021 (Resolution refers 2021/20). The current policies were last reviewed in September 2020 as part of the Long Term Plan process and are due for review no later than September 2026.

On this basis, review of the Rating Relief Policies had been scheduled in the Policy Work Programme for the 2026-27 financial year. The current review has been brought forward at the request of elected members specifically to review the policies relating to Māori freehold land.

The current objectives of Council's rating relief policies are to:

1. Provide a fair and equitable collection of rates from all sectors of the community.
2. Provide an equitable system of rating remission and postponement for all sectors of the community.
3. Recognise that there is a community benefit to provide rating relief to certain charitable and community organisations.
4. Provide ratepayers with financial assistance where they might otherwise have difficulty meeting their obligations to pay rates.
5. Align with Council's community outcomes and strategic priorities.
6. Recognise that certain unoccupied, unused Māori Freehold Land may have particular conditions, ownership structures, or other circumstances which make it appropriate to remit or postpone rates for defined periods of time.
7. Ensure consideration of Schedule 11 of the LGA 2002 (matters relating to rates relief on Māori Freehold Land).

3 Objectives

3.1 Purpose of review

The current review of the Rating Relief Policy has been brought forward, specifically to review policy sections relating to Māori freehold land. However, given that the policy is due for review no later than September 2026, it was decided a holistic approach would be undertaken and all sections of the Rating Relief Policy 2021 would be reviewed concurrently. This would also aid in conserving Council resources.

3.2 Review objectives

1. Review the rates remission policy as per the requirements of section 109-110 LGA02 having regard to both the preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (TTWMA) and Schedule 11 of the LGA02 (Matters relating to rates relief on Māori freehold land).
2. Consider if the rates remission policy should be amended, revoked, or continue without amendment.

3.3 Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993

Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (TTWMA) is the primary legislation governing whenua Māori, including Māori Freehold Land, the preamble to that Act sets out the principles within which the whenua Māori framework operates.

Under section 102 LGA02 Rates Remissions Policies must support the principles set out in the preamble to TTWMA. All policies in the Rates Remission and Postponement Policy apply to whenua Māori freehold land unless stated otherwise and whenua Māori rates remission provisions in the policies have been developed against the backdrop of the TTWMA principles and the objectives outlined in Schedule 11 of the LGA02 (Matters relating to rates relief on Māori freehold land) .

To enhance recognition of the requirements of TTWMA and the Schedule 11 of the LGA02 the Introduction to the Policies should include specific reference to both the:

Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 to

- recognise whenua Māori as a taonga tuku iho of special significance to Māori,
- promote the retention of whenua Māori in the hands of its owners, their whanau, and their hapū,
- to protect wahi tapu, and
- to facilitate the occupation, development, and utilisation of whenua Māori for the benefit of its owners, their whanau, and their hapū.

objectives of rating relief in relation to Māori Freehold Land under Schedule 11 of the LGA02

- supporting the use of the land by the owners for traditional purposes:
- recognising and supporting the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands:
- avoiding further alienation of Māori freehold land:
- facilitating any wish of the owners to develop the land for economic use:
- recognising and taking account of the presence of wahi tapu that may affect the use of the land for other purposes
- recognising and taking account of the importance of the land in providing economic and infrastructure support for marae and associated Papakainga housing (whether on the land or elsewhere)
- recognising and taking account of the importance of the land for community goals relating to the preservation of the natural character of the coastal environment
- the protection of outstanding natural features
- the protection of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna
- recognising the level of community services provided to the land and its occupiers
- recognising matters related to the physical accessibility of the land.

4 Review of the Rating Relief Policy 2021 sections

Staff have reviewed each section individually.

R21/01 Remission of Penalties

Council's role relating to remission of penalties

Penalties are charged where rates instalments are not paid by the due date. Council recognises the economic hardship faced by some ratepayers. This policy provides for the remission of rates penalties on the grounds of financial hardship.

Purpose of current policy section

To allow for the remission of penalties where the ratepayer has entered into repayment arrangements or there are reasonable grounds to remove the penalty.

This policy section applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Review of policy section

The section follows best practice in that it:

- provides ratepayers with financial assistance where they might otherwise have difficulty meeting their obligation to pay rates
- aligns with Council's community outcomes and strategic priorities

Staff have identified issues with clarity regarding application criteria and conditions.

R21/02 Unusable Land

Council's role relating to unusable land

Council recognises that natural disasters can cause land to become unusable for a long period of time. This policy addresses the issue of land that had been made unusable by a natural disaster and endeavors to alleviate financial hardship to the ratepayer by providing for remission of rates.

Purpose of current policy section

To provide rating relief to the owners of properties that have become unusable as a result of a natural disaster, and where the loss of the use of the property will result in financial hardship to the owner

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Review of policy section

The section outlines:

- potential financial assistance available for the community
- the conditions and criteria needed to receive rating relief

The policy section provides an appropriate mechanism for granting a remission of rates on land that has become indefinitely unusable as a result of a natural disaster.

Staff have established no substantive changes to the current policy section are necessary.

R21/04 Community, Sports and Not-For-Profit Organisations

Council's role

Community and voluntary groups provide facilities to enhance and contribute to the wellbeing of the residents of the Far North. This policy provides rating relief for those organisations that operate for the benefit of the community. This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Purpose of current policy section

- To assist in the ongoing provision of community services and recreational opportunities that benefit Far North residents.

- To recognise that there is a community benefit in providing assistance through rating relief to certain charitable and community organisations.

Review of policy section

The policy section:

- aligns with our strategic direction of people & culture
- contributes to the well-being of our communities

This section provides an appropriate mechanism to manage the ongoing support of community services and recreational opportunities that benefit the community.

Staff have identified that no substantive changes to this policy section are needed.

R21/05 Properties Spanning Multiple Districts

Council's role

There are a small number of rating units situated across the boundary line between the Far North District and other districts. These properties incur rates from both councils. This policy provides an equitable method of assessing rates for those properties.

Purpose of current policy section

To recognise that some properties span multiple districts, and to ensure that only the portion of property within the Far North District is rated by the Far North District Council.

This policy section applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Review of policy section

The policy section states that rates will be remitted on any portion of a property of the Far North District that spans other districts.

The policy provides an appropriate mechanism to manage the situation of rating units situated in multiple districts. This provides an equitable method of assessing rates for these unique situations. Staff have not identified any substantive changes that are needed for this section.

R21/06 Common-Use Properties

Council's role

Section 20 of the LGRA 02 requires that multiple rating units be treated as one rating unit if they are:

1. Owned by the same person or persons; and,
2. Used jointly as a single unit; and,
3. Contiguous or separated only by a road, railway, drain, water race, river or stream.

This section expands on the provisions of the Act and provides for commercial operations to be treated as one rating unit to assist economic development in the district.

This section applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Purpose of current policy section

- To enable Council to act fairly and equitably with respect to the imposition of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC)¹ and applicable targeted rates on 2 or more separate rating units that are contiguous, separately owned and used jointly for a single residential, commercial or farming use.

¹ This is a fixed charge applied to each separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a property, irrespective of the value of a property. It's used to pay for general council services including roads, wastewater and stormwater systems, libraries, parks and reserves. The purpose of a UAGC is to ensure that all property owners or ratepayers provide a minimum contribution to fund services that benefit the whole community.

- To deal equitably with the imposition of the UAGC and applicable targeted rates on 2 or more separate rating units that have resulted from a subdivision to facilitate the development of the district.

Review of policy section

The policy provides an appropriate mechanism to fairly and equitably impose the UAGC and to encourage development in urban areas.

Staff have identified issues with clarity regarding conditions and criteria.

R21/07 Remission of School Sewerage Charges

Council's role

The Council recognises that schools may be disproportionately charged for sewerage services where there are a higher number of toilets in relation to the actual number of students enrolled in schools. This policy ensures that schools are equitably charged for sewerage services.

Purpose of current policy section

To ensure equitable rating of educational establishments by providing relief for sewerage charges.

Review of policy section

The section provides an appropriate mechanism to manage remission of school sewerage charges. Staff have determined no changes to this section are necessary.

R21/98 Excess Water Charges

Council's role

Council may allow for the reduction of water charges in certain circumstances where a leak or damage to a ratepayer's water supply system has resulted in excessive water rates

Purpose of current policy section

- ensure standardised procedures are in place to assist ratepayers who have excessive water rates due to a fault (leak) in the internal reticulation serving their rating unit
- incentivise ratepayers to regularly check their water meter and maintain their internal water reticulation ensuring that consumers retain responsibility for the maintenance of their private reticulation

Review of policy section

The review has established that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism for a reduction of excess water charges under certain circumstances and no substantive changes are needed.

R21/13 Incentivising Māori Economic Development

Council's role

Council recognises that there is a need to incentivise economic development on Māori Freehold Land. Enabling and incentivising Māori economic development through the remission of rates may see direct economic and social benefits to landowners and generate a return on the land. It may also provide benefits to Council by way of future rates contributions as the venture grows and becomes sustainable.

Purpose of current policy section

The section aims to:

- provide incentives for Māori landowners to develop Māori Freehold Land for economic use.
- enable owners to develop an economic base and to assist with the subsequent payment of rates.

Review of policy section

The review found the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to provide incentives for the development of Māori Freehold Land and enable economic development. However, staff have identified minor changes that would help to clarify and refine the conditions and criteria of the policy section.

R21/14 Treaty Settlement Lands

Council's role

Council recognises that post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs), which are formed to receive properties returned as a part of Treaty of Waitangi settlements, will require time to develop strategic plans, restore protections, and complete necessary works for cultural and commercial redress properties. These properties are often General Title, which means that the rating relief policies for Māori Freehold Land do not apply to all of these properties. This policy has been developed to enable a similar approach to be applied to rating relief on all post-settlement lands.

Purpose of current policy section

To recognise that lands acquired as part of a Treaty settlement process may have particular conditions or other circumstances which make it appropriate to remit rates.

Review of policy section

The review found that the policy section provides an appropriate mechanism to recognise that Treaty Settlement lands may have unique circumstances which make rates remission appropriate. However, staff identified minor issues with clarify, and refinement of the conditions and criteria of the policy section are needed.

R21/15 Enabling Housing Development on Māori Freehold Land

Council's role

The Local Government Rating Act 2002 S114A requires Council to recognise that there is a need to enable housing development on Māori Freehold Land. Enabling housing development through the remission of rates will see direct social benefits to landowners, as well as to Council from future rates contributions.

Purpose of current policy section

To provide a remission for Māori landowners to enable the development of housing opportunities on Māori Freehold Land.

Review of policy section

The review has established that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to enable housing development on Māori Freehold Land through the remission of rates. No issues with the current section of the policy were found.

P21/01 Land Subject to Protection for Outstanding Natural Landscape, Cultural, Historic or Ecological Purposes

Council's role

The Far North District Council recognises that certain rateable land within the District is protected for outstanding natural landscape, cultural, heritage, or ecological purposes.

Purpose of current policy section

To provide rating relief to landowners who have reserved lands that have particular outstanding natural landscape, cultural, historic or ecological values for future generations.

This policy section applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Review of policy section

The review has established that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to provide rating relief to landowners of outstanding natural landscapes for cultural, historic or ecological purposes. No substantive issues were identified.

P21/03 Landlocked Land

Council's role

The Property Law Act 2007 enables owners of landlocked properties to take legal action in order to gain reasonable access to their property, however, this can be a costly legal process

Ratepayers may be unable to take action under these provisions of the Property Law Act due to their financial circumstances.

This policy section has been prepared to cover exceptional circumstances and will only be applied after all other avenues for access have been explored by the owner.

Purpose of current policy section

To provide rating relief to ratepayers where their land has no reasonable access, and the ratepayer cannot afford to take action through the Property Law Act 2007.

Review of policy sections

The review has established that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to provide rating relief to those who do not have access to their land and are financially unable to take legal action via the Property Law Act 2007. However, staff identified with clarify regarding the conditions and criteria of the policy.

P21/04 Transitional policy for the Postponement of Rates on Farmland

Council's role

The Transitional policy was adopted to address the rating of farmland that previously received a rates- postponement value under the Rating Valuations Act 1998.

The intention is to provide rates relief for the owners of farmland who previously received rating relief whose land values were increased beyond that of other farmland in the district because of the potential use to which the land could be put for residential, commercial, industrial, or other non-farming development.

The section is restricted to those farms which are owner operated, and the owners live on and operate the farm as a personal business. The section specifically excludes those farms which are held as investment properties where the owners live either outside the district.

Purpose of current policy section

To provide rating relief to farmers subject to increased land values due to proximity to coastal and/or urban development where rating relief was previously available under the provisions of repealed legislation and/or previous versions of this policy.

Review of policy section

The review has established that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to provide transitional rating relief to subject to increased land values due to proximity to coastal and/or urban development. No issues were identified with the current section of the policy.

P21/05 Residential Rates for Senior Citizens

Council's role

This policy provides senior citizens with the option of postponing their rates to be paid until a sale of the rating unit takes place, or, in the event that they pass away, until the settlement of their estate. This relieves elderly people of potential financial hardship, and enhances the quality of their lives, including the ability to remain in their home longer with limited income.

Purpose of current policy section

To positively contribute to the quality of life for senior citizens by postponing rates payable.

Review of policy section

The review has established that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to relieve elderly people of potential financial hardship, enhance the quality of their lives and enable them to remain in their homes longer with limited income. No issues were identified with the current policy section.

ML21/01 Māori Freehold Land Not Used

Council's role

2021 amendments to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 mean that unused Māori Freehold Land is legally non-rateable, so is not charged rates except those related to water supply, sewerage, and rubbish collection.

This section applies to remissions on land that remains unused/unoccupied following the granting of a licence to occupy from the Māori Land Court or recognition of an informal arrangement to occupy. Because a licence to occupy or an informal arrangement does not create a separate rating unit, any unused /unoccupied land remaining does not automatically become "non- rateable".

Purpose of current policy section

To provide the ability to grant remission for the portions of land not occupied or used that result from the granting of a licence to occupy or an informal arrangement for use on part of a Māori Freehold rating unit.

Review of policy section

The review has confirmed that the policy provides an appropriate mechanism to provide remissions for portions of Māori Freehold land not occupied or used. No issues with the current policy section were identified by staff.

ML21/02 Māori Freehold Land Used for Purposes of Papakainga or Other Housing Purposes

Council's role

Council recognises that the potential imposition of multiple UAGCs or other non-service-related charges can act as a disincentive to Māori seeking to occupy Māori Freehold Land for housing purposes. Council seeks to put in place processes to assist Māori to establish papakāinga or other housing on Māori Freehold Land.

Purpose of current policy section

This section allows residents of Māori Freehold land with occupation licenses or other informal arrangements to pay their portion of rates in respect of the land that they occupy by allowing for the remission of multiple UAGCs and other charges, on separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit where these are covered by occupation licenses, or other informal arrangements.

Review of policy section

Staff have identified several issues with areas of the policy that may require amendment to clarify and refine the conditions and criteria of the policy.

5 Conclusion

The Rating Relief Policy sections have been reviewed collectively to ensure that any amendments to the sections are not progressed in isolation.

The Rating Relief Policy 2021 review has identified areas for improvement relating to the introduction of the policy, definitions, and seven of the sixteen policy sections. The policy should be amended to ensure it reflects Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (TTWMA), which is the primary legislation governing whenua Māori, including Māori Freehold Land, and addresses the issues identified with the Rating Relief Policy 2021. An updated policy will ensure equitable and transparent rating relief outcomes throughout the Far North District.

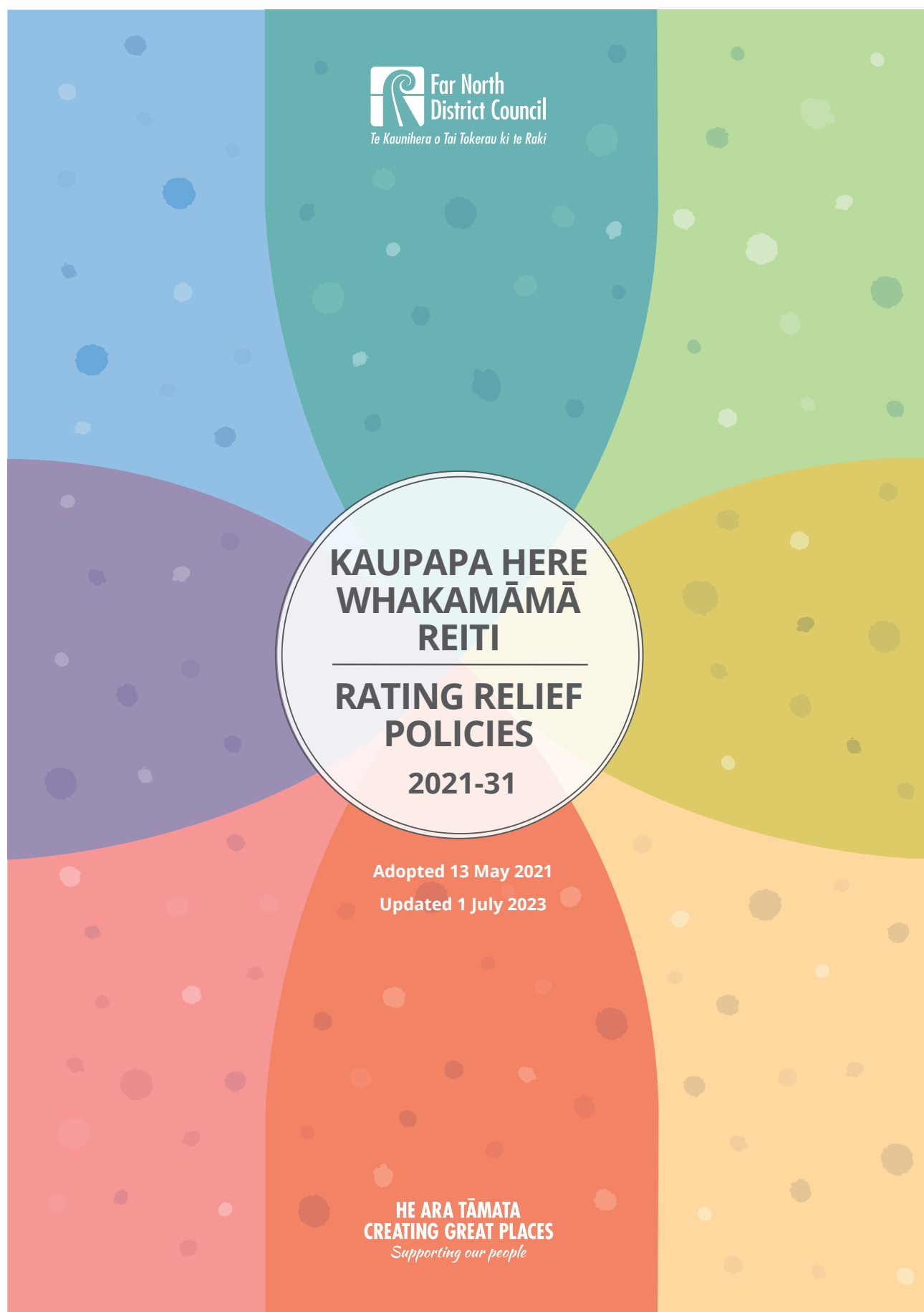


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Introduction

Section 102 (2e) of the LGA 02 requires councils to adopt a policy for the remission and postponement of rates on Māori Freehold Land. In the development of these policies, Council has considered Schedule 11 of the LGA 02 and recognises that the nature of Māori land is different to General Title Land.

Section 102(3) of the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 02) provides that a council may adopt a rates remission policy and a postponement policy. This policy addresses both the remission and postponement of rates.

The objectives of Council's rating relief policies are to:

1. To provide a fair and equitable collection of rates from all sectors of the community.
2. Provide an equitable system of rating remission and postponement for all sectors of the community;
3. To recognise that there is a community benefit in providing assistance through rating relief to certain charitable and community organisations.
4. Provide ratepayers with financial assistance where they might otherwise have difficulty meeting their obligations to pay rates;
5. Align with Council's community outcomes and strategic priorities;
6. Recognise that certain unoccupied Māori Freehold Land not used may have particular conditions, ownership structures, or other circumstances which make it appropriate to remit or postpone rates for defined periods of time; and
7. Ensure consideration of Schedule 11 of the LGA 02 (matters relating to rates relief on Māori Freehold Land).

Making an application? This is what you need to know:

1. All applications under these policies must be made in writing, signed by the owner/ratepayer or relevant approved person, and accompanied by any required supporting documentation. After an application has been submitted, further documentation may be requested. In that event, the applicant will be notified accordingly.
2. As provided for in section 88 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA 02), a postponement fee may be calculated and added to the postponed rates.
3. The basis of calculating the postponement fee is included in each year's Funding Impact Statement, which can be found in the Long Term or Annual Plan for that year.
4. The owner(s) of the property must provide proof of eligibility which will be confirmed with relevant Council information.
5. Where a property or part of that property is sold within the period of remission or postponement, Council has the right to recover the rates remitted or postponed for the applicable period. This may apply to the whole property or only to that portion of the portion that has been sold.
6. Council may require further information from the applicant if deemed necessary to process the application.
7. Council reserves the right to inspect the use of a property, where appropriate, for application assessment and to confirm compliance with policy criteria from time to time.
8. Any decision made by Council under this policy is final. Remissions or postponements granted under previous policies will remain in force as per those policies.
9. Applications may be made for a remission or postponement of rates in circumstances which are not included in the separate policy category sections set out below. These are known as "outside of policy" applications. Council's authority is restricted by the provisions of the LGRA 02. For that reason, all such applications "outside of policy" must be in writing, and accompanied by sufficient detail and documentation to support a decision by Council.
10. Council is under no obligation to approve any applications that do not comply with the established policies and Council's decision on the matter is final.
11. Council's decision whether to grant or deny an application for remission or postponement of rates will be based upon:
 - a. The application itself; and,
 - b. All supporting documents submitted by the applicant; and,
 - c. Any relevant information and/or documentation held in Council's records.
12. Except where otherwise indicated, Council reserves the right to grant or deny any and all applications for remission or postponement of rates under these policies.

Definitions

For the purpose of these policies, words used in the singular include the plural, and words used in the plural include the singular.

ARREARS means unpaid rates as at 30 June of the rating year prior to application.

COMMERCIAL is defined by the land use code attributed to the property, the property has a liquor licence or by the fact that the entity buys and sells goods and services on a for profit basis.

COUNCIL means the Far North District Council and includes any person or agent authorised by the Far North District Council.

FARM BLOCK means the definition attributed to the land by the Valuer General, with an area of 20 hectares up to 50 hectares, by the valuer and not the standard definition of a farming block.

INTERNAL RETICULATION means all pipe reticulation from the meter to the house or property (known as the "private side of the meter")

LANDLOCKED LAND means a piece of land to which there is no reasonable access

LIFESTYLE BLOCK means the definition attributed to the land by the Valuer General, with an area of 1 hectare up to 20 hectares, by the valuer and not the standard definition of a lifestyle block.

MĀORI FREEHOLD LAND has the same meaning as defined in Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 Part VI section 129(2)(a).

NATURAL DISASTER has the same meaning as in the Earthquake Commission Act 1993.

NEW USER is a person that has not been previously identified in Council's Rates Information Database as being responsible for the rates on the land.

OCCUPIED means a formal right by occupation order or informal right by licence to occupy Māori Freehold Land, or other arrangements are in place and are exercised.

OCCUPIER means a person, persons, organisation, or business entity that is using a rating unit or portion of a rating unit under a lease, license or other formal agreement for a specified period of time.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL LANDSCAPE refers to any largely unmodified landscape with characteristics and qualities that amount to being conspicuous, eminent or remarkable. These landscapes are afforded protection through the Resource Management Act 1991 as a matter of national importance.

PAPAKĀINGA means the use of Maori multiple owned land, Maori ancestral land or land within the meaning of Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993 by a (the) shareholder(s) for (a) dwelling place(s).

POSTPONEMENT means an agreed delay in the payment of rates for a certain time, or until certain defined events occur.

PRIVATE FINANCIAL PROFIT means that the owner or ratepayer receives direct financial benefit from any profit generated by the entity. Profit that is directed to charitable purposes rather than to an individual or individuals is not deemed to be private financial benefit.

RATEPAYER includes, under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, either the owner of the rating unit or a lessee under a registered lease of not less than 10 years, which provides that the lessee is required to be entered into the Rating Information Database as the ratepayer.

REASONABLE ACCESS in relation to land, means physical access for persons or services of a nature and quality that is reasonably necessary to enable the owner or occupier of the land to use and enjoy the land for any purpose for which it may be used in accordance with any right, permission, authority, consent, approval, or dispensation enjoyed or granted under the Resource Management Act 1991.

REMISSION means that the requirement to pay the rate levied for a particular financial year is forgiven in whole or in part.

STATUTORY LAND CHARGE means a charge registered against a Certificate of Title of a property by someone who has a financial interest in the property, such as debt or part ownership.

TREATY SETTLEMENT LANDS means any land which has been returned to Māori ownership in a Treaty Claims Settlement, or land which may have been purchased from Treaty settlement monies to replace land which could not be returned because it is in private ownership.

UNIFORM ANNUAL GENERAL CHARGE (UAGC) is a type of rate levied by Council. It is a fixed charge, or an amount that stays the same regardless of the value of the property. The UAGC is the same amount for all ratepayers across the District.

USED includes use for the purposes of any residential occupation of the land, or any activity for business or commercial purposes, including lease agreements, or storage of equipment, stock or livestock.

R21/01 – Remission of Penalties

Background

Penalties are charged where rates instalments are not paid by the due date. Council recognises the economic hardship faced by some ratepayers. This policy provides for the remission of rates penalties on the grounds of financial hardship.

Policy Objective

To allow for the remission of penalties where the ratepayer has entered into repayment arrangements or there are reasonable grounds to remove the penalty.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statement

Council may remit rates penalties where the application provides a reasonable reason for remission.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Applications will be considered if:
 - a. The applicant has a previous good record of payment and on-time payments of all rate instalments within the last two years; or
 - b. The rating unit has a new owner who has not received notice of the current invoice due date; or
 - c. A request is made on compassionate grounds; or
 - d. The ratepayer has entered into a Rates Easy Pay agreement and has maintained the arrangement to clear their outstanding rates for a period of 6 months.
2. If there is no cost to Council i.e. where, as an action of Council's revenue recovery process, the remission of penalty results in immediate full payment of arrears.

R21/02 - Unusable Land

Background

Natural disasters can cause land to become unusable for a long period of time. This policy addresses the issue of land that had been made unusable by a natural disaster.

Policy Objective

To provide rating relief to the owners of properties that have become unusable as a result of a natural disaster, and where the loss of the use of the property will result in financial hardship to the owner.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statement

Council may grant a remission of rates on land that has become indefinitely unusable as a result of a natural disaster.

Conditions and Criteria

1. The applicant must set out in detail the nature of the natural disaster that has caused the land to be unusable.
2. The application must outline the steps that the owner has taken, or will take, to return the land to a usable state. If this is not possible, the application must state why.
3. The application must be supported by a report from a Registered Engineer or other similarly qualified expert setting out the reasons why the land has become, and will remain, unusable. .
4. The maximum term for the remission of rates will be 5 years. At the end of that period, if the land remains unusable a further application will be required, including a statutory declaration that confirms that the conditions of the original expert's report remain unchanged, this must be confirmed in writing by the expert.
5. The applicant will be required to sign an agreement that any remission will be cancelled immediately if the land is returned to a usable state.

R21/04 - Community, Sports and Not-for-profit Organisations

Background

Community and voluntary groups provide facilities to enhance and contribute to the wellbeing of the residents of the Far North. This policy provides rating relief for those organisations that operate for the benefit of the community.

It is of note that the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 provides for a 100% non-rateability of land owned or used by certain categories of charitable and community organisations. In addition, a 50% non-rateability is provided in respect of land owned or used by organisations for sports or any branch of the arts, except where these organisations operate a club licence under the Sale of Liquor Act. For more details on the rateability of this type of land refer to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, 1st schedule, Parts 1 and 2.

Policy Objectives

1. To assist in the ongoing provision of community services and recreational opportunities that benefit Far North residents.
2. To recognise that there is a community benefit in providing assistance through rating relief to certain charitable and community organisations.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statements

1. Council may remit up to 100% of the rates, providing the entity does not qualify for other financial support, payable on land owned or used by any entity which has, as its principal purpose and function, the provision of social housing, free access to family counselling, or, assessment, counselling and in-patient treatment for people with alcohol, drug and mental health related problems and that is a Registered Charitable Organisation or IRD approved donee organisation. Council may remit 50% of the rates payable on land owned or used by an entity, (society or association or persons, whether incorporated or not) for the purpose of providing benefit to Far North residents through:
 - a. the promotion of recreation, health, education, or instruction for the benefit of residents or any group of residents of the district; or
 - b. Land that is owned or used by, or in trust of any society or association or persons, to run a camping ground for the purpose of recreation, health, education or instruction, for the benefit of residents of the district.
2. This policy will apply for a period of three years unless the applicant's circumstances change. At the end of the three-year period, a new application will be required.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Relevant financial information must accompany all applications. This includes:
 - a. statement of organisation objectives
 - b. full financial accounts
 - c. information on activities and programmes
 - d. details of membership or clients.
2. No remission will be given on land on which a licence under the Sale of Liquor Act is held.
3. No remission will be given on land where any person or entity receives private financial profit from the activities carried out on the land. All income earned by ratepayers and entities receiving a remission under this policy must be spent on reasonable salaries, wages and other costs reasonably related to its community, sports, or not-for-profit purposes.
4. Land used for an activity which is commercial in nature does not qualify for rates remission. For example an "op-shop" does not qualify for rating relief under this policy.

R21/05 - Properties Spanning Multiple Districts

Background

There are a small number of rating units situated across the boundary line between the Far North District and other districts. These properties incur rates from both councils. This policy provides an equitable method of assessing rates for those properties.

Policy Objective

To recognise that some properties span multiple districts, and to ensure that only the portion of property within the Far North District is rated by the Far North District Council.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statement

Rates will be remitted on any portion of a property outside of the Far North District.

Conditions and Criteria

If there is a dwelling on the portion of the property within the Far North District:

- no portion of the Uniform Annual General Charge will be remitted; and
- the land value-based rate will continue to be remitted on the portion outside of the Far North District.

R21/06 Common-Use Properties

Background

Section 20 of the LGRA 02 requires that multiple rating units be treated as one rating unit if they are:

1. Owned by the same person or persons; and,
2. Used jointly as a single unit; and,
3. Contiguous or separated only by a road, railway, drain, water race, river or stream.

This policy expands on the provisions of the Act and provides for commercial operations to be treated as one rating unit to assist economic development in the district.

The circumstances where an application for a remission of charges will be considered are:

- A residential dwelling and associated garden and ancillary buildings where the property occupies at least two rating units and those rating units are used jointly as a single property
- A farm that consists of a number of separate rating units that are either contiguous or are located within a 2 kilometre radius
- A commercial, retail, or industrial business that operates from more than 1 rating unit where those rating units are contiguous and are used jointly as a single property
- A subdivision for the period that the individual lots continue to be in the ownership of the original developer and remain vacant. This provision has a maximum term of 3 years in respect of all charges excluding those that are set to fund utility services such as stormwater, wastewater and water supplies.

Policy Objectives

1. To enable Council to act fairly and equitably with respect to the imposition of the UAGC and applicable targeted rates on 2 or more separate rating units that are contiguous, separately owned and used jointly for a single residential, commercial or farming use.
2. To deal equitably with the imposition of the UAGC and applicable targeted rates on 2 or more separate rating units that have resulted from a subdivision to facilitate the development of the district.

a dwelling and the other unit(s) considerable development which proves that the rating units are being used as one. E.g. House/dwelling on one rating unit and or garden and garage on the other rating unit.

In the case of a farm/lifestyle property, be owned by the same owner, or be leased for a term of not less than 10 years, to the same ratepayer who uses the rating units jointly as a single farm. The owners of each of the individual rating units must confirm in writing that their unit/s is being jointly used as a single farming operation

In the case of a subdivision, commercial or residential development, be owned by the original developer who is holding the individual rating units pending their sale or lease to subsequent purchasers or lessees and is vacant. This remission is limited for a term of 3 years for all charges and will be calculated from 1 July in the year that the rates were first remitted.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Conditions and Criteria

Applications under this policy must be in writing, signed by the ratepayer and must comply with the conditions and criteria set out below.

1. The rating units must be contiguous, or in the case of a farm, must be situated within a radius of 2 kilometers from the primary property.
2. The rating units must:
 - a. In the case of a residential/lifestyle property, be owned by the same ratepayer who uses the rating units jointly as a single residential property. In the case of residential rating units where two or more separately owned rating units are owned by an individual and/or trust and are contiguous but the ownership is not an exact match, the rating units will be considered as one. For this to apply one unit must have

It should be further noted that the remission under this clause does not extend to sub-sequent purchasers.

3. The applicant must provide sufficient evidence as is necessary to prove that the properties are being jointly used as a single property and Council's decision on the matter is final.
3. Council reserves the right to determine that any specific targeted charge will be excluded from this policy.

R21/07 – Remission of School Sewerage Charges

Background

The Council recognises that schools may be disproportionately charged for sewerage services where there are a higher number of toilets in relation to the actual number of students enrolled in schools. This policy ensures that schools are equitably charged for sewerage services.

Policy Objective

To ensure equitable rating of educational establishments by providing relief for sewerage charges.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statements

Where the nominal number of pans is less than the actual number of pans, sewage charges will be remitted on those pans that make up the difference between the two.

Conditions and Criteria

1. This policy applies to those educational establishments specified in Schedule 1, clause 6 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.
2. The nominal pan number will be calculated as one pan per 20 students/staff members or part thereof.
3. The policy does not apply to schoolhouses occupied by a caretaker, principal or staff
4. The number of students in an educational establishment is the number of students on its roll on 1 March of the year immediately before the year to which the charge relates.
5. The number of staff in an educational establishment is the number of full time teaching equivalent (FTTE) staff and full time equivalent (FTE) administration staff employed by that educational establishment on 1 March of the year immediately preceding the year to which the charge relates.

R21/08 - Excess Water Charges

Background

From time to time water consumers experience a loss as a result of leaks or damage to their water supply system. It is the normal practice for the consumer to be responsible for the maintenance of the reticulation from the water meter to the property and to account for any consumption of water supplied through the meter.

Council has taken the view that some consumers may experience an occasional water leak without them being aware of the problem. Therefore, they have decided that it would be reasonable to allow for a reduction in charges to these consumers in certain circumstances.

Policy Objectives

1. To standardise procedures to assist ratepayers who have excessive water rates due to a fault (leak) in the internal reticulation serving their rating unit
2. To incentivise ratepayers to regularly check their water meter and maintain their internal water reticulation ensuring that consumers retain responsibility for the maintenance of their private reticulation.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statements

1. Council may provide a full remission of excess water charges to the ratepayer once every 10 years where a leak in the internal reticulation of that property has resulted in water loss.
2. Council may provide a 50% remission of excess water charges to the ratepayer in the case of a separate leak on that property within 10 years following the grant of a first application.
3. The 10 year period will restart at zero if the property is sold and there is a new owner/ratepayer.

Conditions and Criteria

1. All applications must be made in writing and signed by the owner(s) of the property. Where a property is managed by a property management company (agent), instructions to act on behalf of the owner must be in place for the agent to act.
2. Applications made under this policy must be received by Council within six months of the first notification to the ratepayer by Council of a possible leak.
3. Meter readings will be taken after the application has been received to ensure all leaks have been repaired.
4. Proof of repairs to the internal reticulation must accompany the application. This may be in the form of a detailed written report or an invoice for repairs from a currently registered plumber, or a report from Council's service contractor.
5. Repairs carried out by the ratepayer must be peer reviewed by a currently registered plumber and a report provided to confirm that the repair is suitable and to current standards.
6. Excess water charges resulting from any other leaks within the 10 year period are not eligible for remission.
7. The maximum relief that will be provided will be the difference between the normal consumption and the actual water consumption for that period.

NOTE: The "normal consumption" will be calculated from three meter readings outside of the leak period for the property concerned.

R21/13 - Incentivising Māori Economic Development

Background

Council recognises that there is a need to incentivise economic development on Māori Freehold Land. Enabling and incentivising Māori economic development through the remission of rates may see direct economic and social benefits to landowners generating a return on the land, as well as to Council from future rates contributions, as the venture grows and becomes sustainable.

Policy Objectives

1. To provide incentives for Māori land owners to develop Māori Freehold Land for economic use.
2. To enable owners to develop an economic base and to assist with the subsequent payment of rates.

Scope

This policy applies to Māori Freehold Land only.

Policy Statement

Council will remit rates on Māori Freehold Land for the purposes of incentivising economic development.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Council will remit rates under this policy on an eight-year sliding scale as follows:
 - Years 1-3 - 100% remitted
 - Year 4 - 90% remitted
 - Year 5 - 80% remitted
 - Year 6 - 60% remitted
 - Year 7 - 40% remitted
 - Year 8 - 20% remitted; and
 - Year 9 - 0% remitted

Remission will apply from 1 July in the year of application.

2. The land, or portion of the land, for which relief is sought must be considered suitable for development and confirmed as currently not used or economically viable in its current state.
3. Applications must be accompanied by a business case which must include a cashflow analysis for at least 3 years.
4. A meeting with Council staff will be required to determine any other necessary documentation.
5. Key considerations by Council will include:
 - a. Suitable professional advice has been obtained;
 - b. there is a suitable management structure in place;
 - c. appropriate financial arrangements for the development of the land have been made;
 - d. suitable monitoring and reporting systems have or will be established; and
 - e. realistic financial projections and cash flows have been provided.
6. Each application will be submitted to Council for review and assessment. The decision of Council to approve or not approve is final.
7. Upon approval, an annual report and financial statements on the development must be submitted to Council within 3 months of the end of the entity's financial year.
8. If the development on which the remission is based does not proceed or is unable to meet the requirements to achieve a viable economic return, the remission will cease at the end of the rating year in which this is identified.

R21/14 - Treaty Settlement Lands

Background

Council recognises that post-settlement governance entities (PSGEs), which are formed to receive properties returned as a part of Treaty of Waitangi settlements, will require time to develop strategic plans, restore protections, and complete necessary works for cultural and commercial redress properties. These properties can be classed as General Title, which means that the rating relief policies for Māori Freehold Land do not apply to all of these properties. This policy has been developed in recognition of these circumstances.

Policy Objective

To recognise that lands acquired as part of a Treaty settlement process may have particular conditions or other circumstances which make it appropriate to remit rates.

Scope

This policy applies only to Treaty Settlement Lands and will retrospectively apply to any settlements prior to 1 July 2018.

Policy Statement

Council will agree to remit rates on Treaty Settlement Lands subject to the criteria set out below.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Before remission of rates may come into effect, Council must receive an appropriate and satisfactory application supported by sufficient documentation.
2. The applicant must provide proof that the land which is the subject of the application is Treaty Settlement Land.
3. Returned lands that were non-rateable under the previous ownership will receive a full rates remission for a period of three years.
4. Where returned lands are commercial redress properties and are not used, Council will grant a 50% remission for a period three years.
5. Where the returned lands are commercial redress properties and meet the criteria as outlined in the Incentivising Māori Economic Development Policy, Council will remit rates on an eight-year sliding scale as follows:
 - Years 1-3 - 100% remitted
 - Year 4 - 90% remitted
 - Year 5 - 80% remitted
 - Year 6 - 60% remitted
 - Year 7 - 40% remitted
 - Year 8 - 20% remitted; and
 - Year 9 - 0% remitted

R23/15 - Enabling Housing Development on Māori Freehold Land

Background

The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 S114A requires Council to recognise that there is a need to enable housing development on Māori Freehold Land. Enabling housing development through the remission of rates will see direct social benefits to landowners, as well as to Council from future rates contributions.

Policy Objective

To provide a remission for Māori landowners to enable the development of housing opportunities on Māori Freehold Land.

Scope

This policy applies to Māori Freehold Land only and can be applied to any number of dwellings on a site. It will not apply to service connections, which will remain payable if the property is connected to Council reticulation.

Policy Statement

Council will remit rates on Māori Freehold Land for the purposes of enabling housing development.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Council will remit rates under this policy on an eight-year sliding scale as follows:
 - Years 1 - 3 - 100% remitted
 - Years 4 - 5 - 75% remitted
 - Year 6 - 50% remitted
 - Year 7 - 25% remitted
 - Year 8 - 0% remitted

Remission will apply from 1 July in the year of application.
2. The land, or portion of the land, for which relief is sought must be considered suitable for development and apply and be granted a resource consent.
3. Applications must apply for and be granted a building consent and a code of compliance certificate upon completion.
4. Notification of the above consents and certifications must be made to the Council rates team to ensure the continuation of the remission.
5. A meeting with Council staff will be required to determine any other necessary documentation.
6. Key considerations by Council will include:
 - a. Suitable professional advice has been obtained.
 - b. Appropriate financial arrangements for the development of the land have been made.
7. Each application will be submitted to Council for review and assessment. The decision of Council to approve or not approve is final.
8. If the development on which the remission is based does not proceed or is unable to meet the requirements to be compliant with the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Building Act 2004, the remission will cease at the end of the rating year in which this is identified.

P21/01 - Land Subject to Protection for Outstanding Natural Landscape, Cultural, Historic or Ecological Purposes

Background

The Far North District Council recognises that certain rateable land within the District is protected for outstanding natural landscape, cultural, heritage, or ecological purposes.

Policy Objectives

To provide rating relief to landowners who have reserved lands that have particular outstanding natural landscape, cultural, historic or ecological values for future generations.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statements

1. Council may **remit** rates on land subject to protection for outstanding natural landscape, cultural, historic or ecological purposes under the formal protection agreements listed in 2 a) through 2 g) of the conditions and criteria of this policy.
2. Council may **postpone** rates on land subject to protection for outstanding natural landscape, cultural, historic or ecological purposes under the formal protection listed in 2 h and i) of the conditions and criteria of this policy.

- h. A covenant for conservation purposes under section 27 of the Conservation Act 1987.
- i. A covenant for conservation purposes approved under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (or Historic Places Act 1993)

3. The rating unit or portion of the rating unit that is the subject of the application must not be in use. For the purposes of this Policy, the definition of person actually using land is taken from the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. It means a person who, alone or with others: –
Leases the land; or
Does 1 or more of the following things on the land for profit or other benefit:
 - i. Resides on the land
 - ii. Depastures or maintains livestock on the land
 - iii. Stores anything on the land
 - iv. Uses the land in any other way.

NOTES:

Notwithstanding the above, work undertaken to pre-serve or enhance the features covenanted on the land, including weed control, will not impact the “unused” status of the land

The removal of traditional medicinal tree and plant material by tangata whenua for personal use will not constitute actual use of the land.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Applications must be supported by a copy of the formal protection agreement and a Management Plan detailing how the values of the land are to be maintained, restored, and/or enhanced.
2. The land must be subject to a formal protection agreement as set out below:
 - a. An open space covenant under section 22 of the Queen Elizabeth the Second National Trust Act 1977; or
 - b. A conservation covenant under section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977; or
 - c. A Nga Whenua Rahui kawenata under section 77A of the Reserves Act 1977; or
 - d. A declaration of protected private land under section 76 of the Reserves Act 1977; or
 - e. A management agreement for conservation purposes under section 38 of the Reserves Act 1977; or
 - f. A management agreement for conservation purposes under section 29 of the Conservation Act 1987; or
 - g. A Māori reservation for natural, historic, or cultural conservation purposes under sections 338 to 341 of the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (Māori Land Act 1993); or
5. Where the entire rating unit is the subject of the application, the remission or postponement of rates will apply to all rates levied on the property.
6. The protected and unprotected portions of the rating unit will be separately valued and assessed as separate parts pursuant to Section 45 (3) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002. In these instances, the remission or postponement of rates will only apply to the protected portion of the rating unit. It should be noted that these separate parts will not constitute separately used or inhabited parts for rating purposes and a full set of UAGC and other charges will be assessed against the part of the rating unit that is being used
7. Any remission or postponement granted under this policy will become effective on 1 July in the rating year following the submission of the application.
8. Any remission or postponement of rates on the land will be cancelled immediately in the event that the land ceases to be protected under a formal protection agreement. Postponed rates that have not been remitted will be repayable in the event that

the covenant conditions and the Management Plan objectives are breached in the sole opinion of the Council, whose decision is final.

Specific Conditions and Criteria for Postponement of Rates

1. After a term of ten years, the postponed rates for the first year of the covenant period will be remitted. After this, one additional year of the postponed rates will be remitted each year, so that a maximum of ten years of postponed rates are held against the land at any given time.
2. Upon expiration of the covenant or other agreement, any rates that are postponed against the land at that time, which have not been remitted under paragraph 1 above, will become due.
3. The repayment of postponed rates will not be required as a result of a change of ownership, provided that the land continues to comply with all criteria.
4. Council will not seek repayment of postponed rates where future postponement is revoked due to Council changing its criteria for postponement.

P21/03 - Landlocked Land

Background

The Property Law Act 2007 enables owners of landlocked properties to take legal action in order to gain reasonable access to their property.

landlocked land means a piece of land to which there is no reasonable access.

reasonable access, in relation to land, means physical access for persons or services of a nature and quality that is reasonably necessary to enable the owner or occupier of the land to use and enjoy the land for any purpose for which it may be used in accordance with any right, permission, authority, consent, approval, or dispensation enjoyed or granted under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Ratepayers may be unable to take action under these provisions of the **Property Law Act due to their financial circumstances**.

This policy has been prepared to cover the exceptional circumstances and will only be applied after all other avenues for access have been explored by the owner.

Policy Objectives

To provide rating relief to ratepayers where their land has no reasonable access and the ratepayer cannot afford to take action through the Property Law Act 2007.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title land and Maori Freehold Land.

Policy Statement

Any owner who has purchased land knowing that it is land locked and no access is possible will not qualify for remission under this policy.

Council may postpone rates on landlocked land where there is no reasonable access as defined in the Property Law Act 2007.

Conditions and Criteria

1. The land must be landlocked as defined in Section 326 of the Property Law Act 2007. **The application must state why access cannot be obtained through procedures set forth in Part 6, Subpart 3, of the Property Law Act 2007.**
2. The application must include a legal assessment that details how the land meets the definition in the Property Law Act 2007 and why access cannot be obtained through the legal channels identified in that Act.
3. The maximum term for the postponement of rates for landlocked property is three years. If the land remains landlocked at the end of that period, postponed rates will be remitted, and a new application will be required.
4. The owner must advise Council if the status of the land changes, if access is obtained, or if any person commences to use the land. If the land ceases to be landlocked during the period of the postponement, any rates postponed will be remitted at the end of the three year period, provided that the owner keeps the rates up to date for the remainder of the three year period.
5. The owner must agree to a statutory land charge being entered on the Certificate of Title, in relation to Maori Freehold land, this will be an agreement in the form of a statutory declaration only.
6. As provided for in the legislation, a postponement fee will be added to the postponed rates.
7. The repayment of postponed rates will not be required merely because of a change of ownership of the land provided that the change has not arisen from the sale of the property and provided that the land continues to comply with the criteria of this policy.

P21/04 - Transitional policy for the postponement of rates on farmland

Background

This transitional policy statement has been prepared to address the rating of farmland that previously received a rates-postponement value pursuant to Section 22 of the Rating Valuations Act.

That section of LGA, which has now been repealed, provided for rates relief for the owners of farmland whose values were increased beyond that of other farmland in the district because of the potential use to which the land could be put for residential, commercial, industrial, or other non-farming development.

A number of proper ties in the Far North received these farmland postponement values because their values were significantly enhanced because of their proximity to high valued urban or coastal areas.

This transitional policy provides Council with the ability to continue to provide rating relief to certain proper ties that were receiving a postponement of rates prior to the introduction of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, and that qualified after that date under policy P04/04, which has now been repealed.

This Transitional Policy is restricted to those farms which are owner operated, where the owner is a natural person and/ or is a company where the owners live on and operate the farm as a personal business. The policy specifically excludes those farms which are held as investment properties where the owners, corporate or otherwise, live either outside the district.

Effect of rates postponement values

The postponed portion of the rates for any rating period shall be the amount equal to the difference between the amount of the rates for that period calculated according to the postponement value of the rating unit an amount of the rates that would be payable for that period if the rates were calculated on the basis of its actual value.

The amount of the rates for any rating period so postponed shall be entered in the rate records and will be included in or with the rates assessment issued by Council in respect of the rating unit.

Any rates so postponed will, so long as the property continues to qualify for rates postponement, be remitted at the expiration of 10 years from the date at which the postponement was granted.

Each year a postponement fee will be added to the outstanding balance and will become part of the rates postponed on the rating unit pursuant to Section 88(3) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Policy Objective

To afford rating relief to farmers who had previously been receiving this form of rating relief under the provisions of repealed legislation and/or previous versions of this policy, where Council believes that it is in the interest of the district to maintain a postponement of rates to reduce the incidence of coastal development.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Council will not accept any new applications under this policy.

Conditions and Criteria

1. This policy provision only applies to those rating units which previously qualified for a postponement of rates under policy P04/04, which was repealed on 30 June 2006, and which continues to be owned by the same ratepayer/s who owned it at that date.
2. For the purposes of this transitional policy, the definition of qualifying farmland has been revised as follows:
 - a. Farmland means land which is used principally or exclusively for agricultural, horticultural, or pastoral purposes but excludes land that is used for forestry, lifestyle, or farm park type purposes.
 - b. The farming operation must provide the principal source of revenue for the owner of the land, who must be the actual operator of the farm and who must reside on the land.
 - c. The area of the land that is the subject of the application must be not less than 50 hectares.
3. The proper ties that are the subject of this policy will be identified and the rates postponement values determined by Council's Valuation Service Provider and will:
 - exclude any potential value, at the date of valuation, that the land may have for residential use or for commercial, industrial, or other non-farming use; and will preserve uniformity and equitable relativity with comparable parcels of farmland, the valuations of which do not contain any such potential value.
4. No objection to the amount of any rates postponement value determined under this policy will be accepted by Council (other than where the objector proves that the rates postponement value does not preserve uniformity with existing roll values of comparable parcels of land having

- no potential value for residential use, or for commercial, industrial, or other non-farming use).
5. The Postponement Value will be reviewed after each triennial revaluation and the revised value will be advised to the ratepayer. At that time Council will seek the advice of its valuation service provider as to whether they believe that the land continues to be actively farmed and qualifies under the terms of this policy provision. Council reserves the right to ask the owner to provide evidence showing that the land continues to operate as a farm.
 6. The owner must agree to a statutory land charge being entered on the Certificate of Title of the farmland before receiving a postponement of rates.
 4. Subject to the land continuing to qualify for the special postponement value, any rates postponed under this policy will be remitted at the expiration of 10 years from the date on which they were assessed.

Termination and repayment of postponed rates

All rates that have been postponed under this policy and have not been remitted become due and payable immediately on:

1. The land ceasing to be farmland;
2. The interest of the owner is passed over to, or becomes vested in, some person or other party other than;
 - a. the owner's spouse, son or daughter; or
 - b. the executor or administrator of the owner's estate.
3. Where only part of the land is disposed of then only part of the postponed rates will become immediately repayable. The amount repayable will be calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$\frac{A \times C}{B}$$

Where:

A – is the difference between the rateable value and rates special value of the balance of the land retained by the person who was the occupier on the date on which the rates postponement value was entered on the valuation roll; and

B – is the difference between the rateable value and the special value of the whole of the land immediately before the date of the vesting of that interest in that other person.

That special value shall be specially redetermined if, because of a general revaluation of the district in which the land is situated, the special value appearing on the valuation roll is no longer directly related to the rateable value on the date of the vesting; and

C – is the total amount of the rates postponed immediately before the date of vesting. In all cases the amount of the rates to be repaid will be not less than 20% of the value of the total amount of rates currently postponed.

P21/05 – Residential Rates for Senior Citizens

Background

The payment of rates for senior citizens on a limited income can affect their quality of life. This policy provides senior citizens with the option of postponing their rates to be paid until a sale of the rating unit takes place, or, in the event that they pass away, until the settlement of their estate. This will relieve elderly people of potential financial hardship, and enhance the quality of their lives, including the ability to remain in their home longer with limited income.

Policy Objective

To positively contribute to the quality of life for senior citizens by postponing rates payable.

Scope

This policy applies to General Title Land. Council does not consider the application of this policy appropriate for Māori Freehold Land; because of the nature of Māori Freehold Land, Council does not consider it appropriate to charge postponed rates to the land.

Policy Statements

Council may postpone rates for ratepayers whose primary income is the New Zealand Superannuation Scheme. Any postponed rates will be postponed until:

- a. The settlement of the ratepayer's estate following their death; or
- b. The ratepayer ceases to be the owner or occupier of the rating unit; or
- c. The ratepayer ceases to use the property as their primary residence; or
- d. The accrued charges exceed 80% of the rateable value of the property (postponed rates will remain due for payment only on death, sale, or the date specified by Council); or
- e. A date specified by the Council.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Postponement under this policy will only apply to ratepayers who are:
 - a. eligible to receive the New Zealand Superannuation Scheme, which is, or will be, their primary income; or
 - b. on a fixed income. This is defined as "an income from a pension or investment that is set at a particular figure and does not vary like a dividend or rise with the rate of inflation".
2. The rating unit must be used by the ratepayer as their primary residence. This includes, in the case of a family trust owned property, use by a named individual or couple.
3. The ratepayer must not own any property that may be used:
 - a. as a holiday home or rental property; or
 - b. for commercial activities, such as farming or business.
4. People occupying a unit in a retirement village under a licence to occupy must have the agreement of the owner of the retirement village before applying for postponement of the rates payable on their unit.
5. If a property is still under a mortgage, a written and signed approval must be obtained from the Mortgagee as part of the application. This is because the payment of postponed rates will have priority over mortgage payments.
6. Properties that are the subject of a reverse mortgage are not eligible for rating relief under this policy.
7. Council has the right to decline rates postponement for a property that is in a known hazard zone. This is to minimise any risk of loss to Council.
8. Postponed rates will be registered as a statutory land charge on the rating unit title, meaning that Council will have first claim on the proceeds of any revenue from the sale or lease of the rating unit.
9. If rates are postponed, the ratepayer will still be responsible for the amount of rates equal to the maximum rebate available under the central government Rates Rebate Scheme for the current rating year. Council is able to assist applicants for the Rates Rebate Scheme. If the ratepayer is not eligible for a rates rebate, they will still be responsible for paying this amount, and will be required to enter into a payment arrangement to cover this portion.
10. Council will charge an annual administrative fee on postponed rates.
11. The postponed rates or any part thereof may be paid to Council at any time
12. The property must be insured at the time the application is granted and must be kept insured. Evidence of this must be produced annually.
13. Senior citizens for whom rates are being postponed under this policy must promptly inform Council of any substantial change in their financial status which might affect their eligibility for such postponement.

ML21/01 - Māori Freehold Land Not Used

Background

Following amendments to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 that come into force 1 July 2021 this policy will apply only to land that remains unused/unoccupied following the granting of a licence to occupy from the Maori Land Court or recognition of an informal arrangement to occupy. The creation of a licence to occupy or an informal arrangement does not create a separate rating unit therefore any unused /unoccupied land remaining (referred to as "the balance of land") does not automatically fall under the amendment to the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 to make unused/unoccupied land "non-rateable".

Occupation licenses are generally used to define a specific area of Māori Freehold Land that the licensee can occupy for the purposes establishing a dwelling. At the termination of the license, the dwelling has to be removed or transferred to the owners of the land.

Informal arrangements are where a person occupies an area of Māori Freehold Land for a period of time; however, has no formal agreement and no rights to permanent occupation.

Policy Objectives

To provide the ability to grant remission for the portions of land not occupied or used that result from the granting of a licence to occupy or an informal arrangement for use on part of the rating unit.

Scope

This policy applies only to Māori Freehold Land and will apply from 1 July in the year of application.

Policy Statement

Council may, upon application from the owners, authorised agents of the owners, or Council itself acting for the owners, agree to remit the rates relating to the balance of land created by a licence to occupy or informal arrangement for a period not exceeding three years.

Conditions and Criteria

1. The balance of land must not be used by any person – for the purposes of this policy land will be defined as "used" if any person, alone or with others carries out any of the following activities on the land as set out in section 96 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 -
 - a. leases the land; or does one or more of the following things on the land for profit or other benefit:
 - b. resides on the land
 - c. depastures or maintains livestock on the land
 - d. stores anything on the land
 - e. uses the land in any other way
2. Council will have the sole judgment on whether or not to grant the application and may seek such additional information as they may require before making their final decision.
3. If the land comes under use at any point, it will no longer receive remission of rates under this policy.

ML21/02 - Māori Freehold Land used for the purposes of Papakainga or other housing purposes subject to occupation licenses or other informal arrangements

Background

The Far North District Council recognises that occupation licenses, or other informal arrangements, only provide an interim or temporary right to occupy part or all of an area of Māori Freehold Land. This right is only available to the licensee, or informal occupier and does not create an interest that can be transferred or bequeathed as part of an estate.

This form of occupation is different to an occupation order, which provides a permanent right to occupy an area of land and can be passed on to future generations.

Occupation licenses are generally used to define a specific area of Māori Freehold Land that the licensee can occupy for the purposes establishing a dwelling. At the termination of the license, the dwelling has to be removed or transferred to the owners of the land.

Informal arrangements are where a person occupies an area of Māori Freehold Land for a period of time; however, has no formal agreement and no rights to permanent occupation.

The occupier of land that is the subject of an occupation license or informal agreement is generally not required to pay any rental to the owners of the land, i.e. it is not a commercial arrangement.

There is a willingness of occupiers of land that is the subject of these types of arrangements to pay rates in respect of the area of land that they occupy. However, there is a concern that these "parts" may become liable for the UAGC and other non-service-related charges assessed on the basis of a separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit.

This policy statement has been prepared to address these issues. It recognises that papakainga and similar housing on Māori Freehold Land are generally occupied by members of owner's families and no rentals are payable.

The policy is consistent in effect to the treatment of multiple housing on general title land, where the separate parts are occupied on a rent-free basis by members of the owner's family.

To assist the occupiers pay the rates of the parts of a rating unit that are the subject of occupation licenses, Council will issue a separate rate assessment for each part as set out in Section 45 (3) and (4) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002.

Policy Objectives

1. To put in place processes to allow the residents with occupation licenses or other informal arrangements to pay their portion of rates in respect of the land that they occupy.
2. To assist Māori to establish papakāinga or other housing on Māori Freehold Land.
3. To assist Māori to establish an economic base for future development.

Scope

This policy applies only to **Māori Freehold Land**.

Policy Statement

The Far North District Council recognises that the imposition of multiple UAGCs or other non-service-related charges might act as a disincentive to Māori seeking to occupy Māori Freehold Land for housing purposes.

Council will consider applications for the remission of multiple UAGCs and other charges, with the exception of those that are set for the provision of utilities such as water, sewerage etc., in respect of separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit where these are covered by occupation licenses, or other informal arrangements.

Conditions and Criteria

1. The part of the land concerned must be the subject of a licence to occupy or other informal arrangement for the purposes of providing residential housing for the occupier on a rent-free basis.
2. The area of land covered by each arrangement must have a separate valuation issued by Council's valuation service providers and will be issued with a separate rate assessment pursuant to Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 Section 45 (3).
3. The occupier must agree to pay any rates assessed in respect of the part or division of the rating unit that is the subject of the application.
4. No portion of the service charges for utilities will be remitted.
5. Council reserves the right to cancel the remission on the portion of a rating unit upon which rates remain unpaid for a period of more than one month after the due date (due date can apply to the instalment date or an agreed payment plan).
6. Uniform Annual General Charges and other charges on the land will remain in remission so long as the occupation continues to comply with the conditions and criteria of this policy.

REVOKE - ML21/03 - New Users of Māori Freehold Land

Background

The Far North District Council recognises that significant rate arrears due to the challenges of multiple ownership can act as a disincentive to any new use of Māori Freehold Land where a New User could become responsible for the payment of any existing arrears of rates and penalties on the land. This policy has been developed to encourage use of Māori Freehold Land in these circumstances.

Policy Objective

To remove the barrier of rate debt for New Users to be able to use or develop the land.

Scope

This policy applies only to Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statement

Council may postpone the arrears of rates on Māori Freehold Land subject to the land being continuously used by a New User and that person agreeing to pay the rates while they are using the land.

Conditions and criteria

1. The person proposing to use the land must be a New User.
2. Where land has recently moved from multiple ownership to sole ownership, the sole owner will be treated as a New User.
3. Council has the sole discretion as to whether or not to grant the application and may seek additional information before making its final decision.
4. The New User using the land must, upon approval of the application, keep the current and future rates up to date for as long as they continue to use the land.
5. If the current and future rates are not paid within one month of the due dates, or subject to an agreed payment plan, Council reserves the right to reapply the postponed rates to the land.
6. Postponed rates will remain as a charge on the property for a period of six years from the date on which the rate was assessed, after which time they will be remitted.

Proposed Policies for Revocation

Background

Section 109 of the LGA 02 provides for a remission or postponement policy to be revoked. The following policies have been reviewed and are proposed to be revoked for the reasons outlined below.

REVOKE – Now covered by accounting policies: Wastewater Charges on Government Funded Subsidy Schemes

Background

From time to time, Central Government establishes funds to assist the development of wastewater schemes in communities that might not otherwise be able to afford it. The Government subsidy assists in the capital costs of a scheme. This policy ensures that the benefit of the Government subsidy is passed on to ratepayers **in those communities that are of greatest need**.

Policy Objectives

1. To comply with the requirements of Government Funded Subsidy Schemes.
2. To ensure that ratepayers in those communities of greatest need receive a benefit from the subsidy in the form of reduced charges.

Scope

This policy applies to both General Title and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statement

The Far North District Council will provide a remission for the capital portion of the wastewater charge for new schemes funded by Government Subsidy where the

deprivation index of that community is seven or higher.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Where the policy applies, Council will automatically grant the remission to the rate accounts that qualify.
2. The remission will only apply to the capital portion of each year's rate and is only available to existing properties and their owners at the time that the relevant wastewater scheme became operational.
3. The remission will terminate 10 years after the date at which the sewerage scheme became operational.
4. Where a qualifying property is subdivided, any new rating units that are created over and above the original single rating unit will not be eligible for this remission.

Rationale for revocation – this issue is now addressed by the change to accounting policies from 1 July 2020.

REVOKE - New Users of Māori Freehold Land

Background

The Far North District Council recognises that significant rate arrears due to the challenges of multiple ownership can act as a disincentive to any new use of Māori Freehold Land where a New User could become responsible for the payment of any existing arrears of rates and penalties on the land. This policy has been developed to encourage use of Māori Freehold Land in these circumstances.

Policy Objective

To remove the barrier of rate debt for New Users to be able to use or develop the land.

Scope

This policy applies only to **Māori Freehold Land**.

Policy Statement

Council may postpone the arrears of rates on Māori Freehold Land subject to the land being continuously used by a New User and that person agreeing to pay the rates while they are using the land.

Conditions and criteria

1. The person proposing to use the land must be a New User.
2. Where land has recently moved from multiple ownership to sole ownership, the sole owner will be treated as a New User.
3. Council has the sole discretion as to whether or not to grant the application and may seek additional information before making its final decision.
4. The New User using the land must, upon approval of the application, keep the current and future rates up to date for as long as they continue to use the land.
5. If the current and future rates are not paid within one month of the due dates, or subject to an agreed payment plan, Council reserves the right to reapply the postponed rates to the land.
6. Postponed rates will remain as a charge on the property for a period of six years from the date on which the rate was assessed, after which time they will be remitted.

Rationale for revocation – any arrears can now be written off by the CE under S90 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 prior to a new user taking over a rating unit.



6 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

6.1 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION UPDATE

File Number: A5119317

Author: Casey Gannon, Manager - Civic Engagement and Education

Authoriser: Jacine Warmington, Group Manager - Strategic Relationships

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee with an update on Far North District Council (FNDC) Civic Engagement and Education (CEE) work programme.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

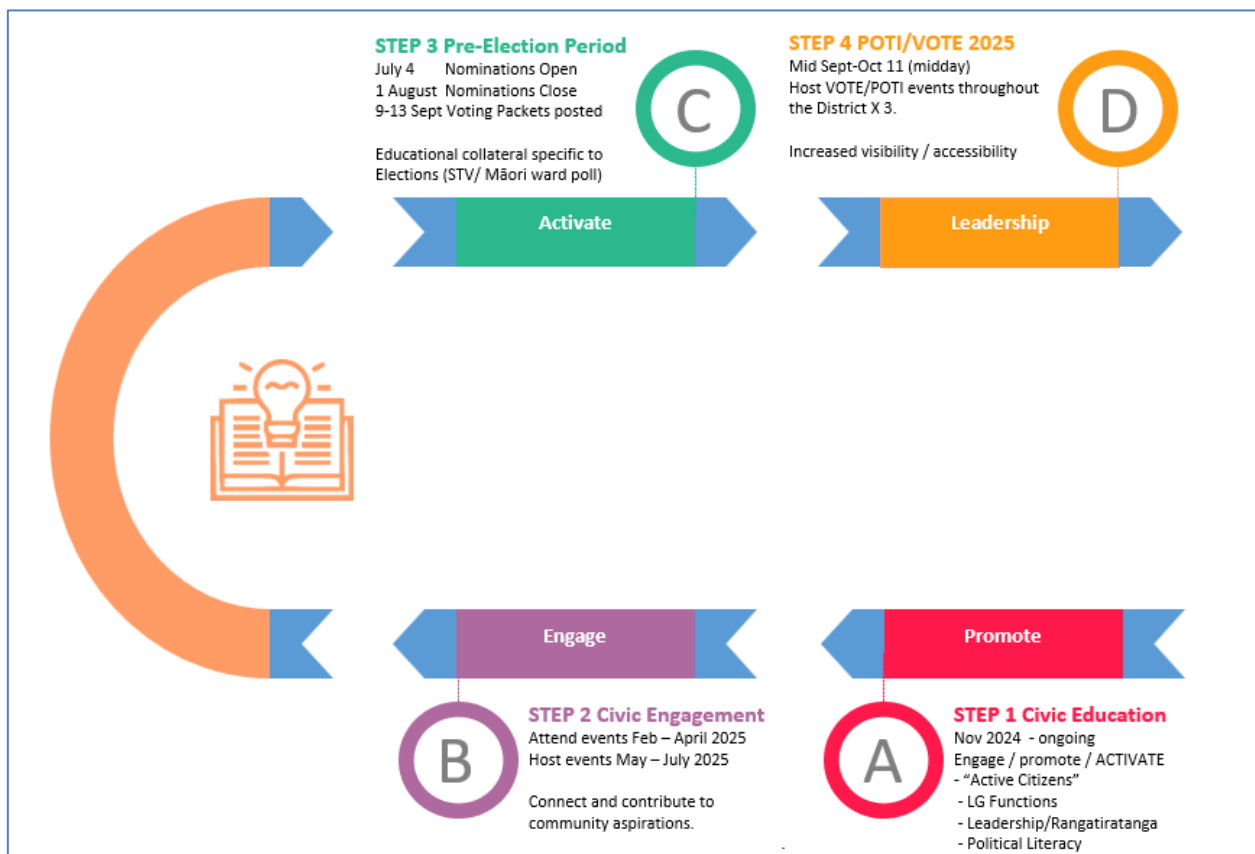
The CEE work programme is a phased approach which initially focuses on local government elections in 2025 but will extend beyond that as civic engagement and education expand throughout the district.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Civic Engagement and Education Update.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee received a report 27 Feb 2025 which provided a high-level overview of the CEE work programme. This report provides a further update on the progress of the work programme.



- We are currently in PHASE B – Civic Engagement
 - Feb 22 Kaitāia A&P Show
 - March 14 Haititai Marangai Marae
 - March 21 Heartlands – Hokianga Health (monthly)
 - March 28-30 Te Āhuareka o Ngāti Hine Festival
 - March 29 Pawarenga Festival
 - April 7 Roma Marae
 - April 8 Oakridge Retirement Village (bi-monthly)
 - April 9 Te Tai Tokerau Secondary School Nationals
 - April 28 Te Hiku – Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

Community engagement continues throughout the district in collaboration with the Electoral Commission and multiple teams throughout Far North District Council dependent on active consultation periods.

Future engagements to be organised:

- Takiwā (hapū group) hui in Kaikohe, Hokianga, Pipiwai and Whangaroa
- Rangatahi (youth) engagement
 - alternative education programmes delivered by Ngāti Hine
 - taiao/whenua (environment/land) programmes in collaboration with Northland Regional Council currently running in Te Hiku
 - rangatahi connected to all four wards committed to innovative rangatahi led initiatives to share civic education
- Pasifika engagements
- Multi-ethnic engagements
- Café pop ups (district wide)

To stay informed about 2025 Local Government Elections key dates and relevant information visit:

[Far North District Council - Local Elections 2025](#)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| ○ Update/change/choose enrolment details | before 11 July 2025 |
| ○ Candidate nominations open | 4 July 2025 |
| ○ Candidate nominations close | 1 August 2025 |
| ○ Candidates announced | 8 August 2025 |
| ○ Voting opens | 9 September 2025 |
| ○ Voting closes | 11 October 2025 (midday) |
| ○ Final results announced | 14 October 2025 |

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

An “early and often” engagement approach has proven to be an acceptable form of engagement as it builds and strengthens relationships allowing Manager-Civic Engagement and Education to “meet people where” both physically and interest level. Gauging level of interest and understanding previous participation levels leads to a starting point to making local government relevant.

The main message in Phase B-Civic Engagement is to encourage active participation. While this is an election year – it is important for all of our communities to understand that local voice is what informs the decision-making process once those candidates are elected.

As we move into Phase C-Pre-Election Period the focus of CEE work programme will include additional resources to prepare potential candidates and manage expectations of candidates and voters.

Civic Education during Pre-Election Period includes but not limited to:

- Candidate Handbook (available from May)
- Far North District Council Pre-Election Report (June/July)
- Candidate Evening event (Kaikohe 25 June) in collaboration with Northland Regional Council
- Webinar (date TBD) in collaboration with all four councils in Te Tai Tokerau
- LGNZ online portal free to public (date TBD)

A strong desire from community leaders to activate their respective communities during this election year has been indicated by, iwi, hapū, marae, multiple sport codes, local and regional business, Pasifika and multi-ethnic communities. Exciting initiatives led by youth are in development as is the use of AI to facilitate engagement which we hope will activate the 47% of eligible enrolled voters who are not voting.

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

There are no financial implications.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.2 WHENUA MĀORI - FREEHOLD LAND RATING RELIEF

File Number: A5151433

Author: Zena Tango, Team Leader - Transaction Services

Authoriser: Charlie Billington, Group Manager - Corporate Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee (Te Kuaka) on the progress made to date by the Whenua Māori Working Group (the Working Group).

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Working Group was established to ensure Far North District Council (FNDC) provides ongoing support to Māori Freehold Landowners
- The Working Group has committed to taking a holistic approach with cross-Council collaboration and community engagement to achieve key outcomes of reducing debt levels, clarifying rating information, reducing barriers to land use and development, stimulating regional growth, and enhancing understanding of Whenua Māori.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Whenua Māori - Freehold Land Rating Relief.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The following is an outline of actions that have been completed since the 27 February 2025 report.

Actions completed	Start date	End date
Learning and development training plan Whenua Māori for working group & others involved in engagement plan	01/05/24	01/11/24
Geospatial mapping: Basemap loaded and operational (<i>received by 30/12/24 due to vendors health issues this has added additional delays</i>) Verbal update provided in February hui due to key staff being on annual leave.	01/05/24	19/08/24
In progress	Start date	End date
Review of existing rating relief policies	01/05/24	WIP
Commence engagement. (<i>have extended the end date to 30 June 2025</i>)	30/09/24	30/06/25
Data analysis utilising geospatial mapping to review the balance of 2,501 accounts (<i>We had data corruption previously, they have been resolved but vendors health issues have added additional delays, now expected to commence 01/11/24. Revenue Recovery are currently reviewing these accounts manually</i>).	27/09/24	30/06/25
Next steps	Start date	End date
Build layers to utilise geospatial mapping for data analysis (<i>We had data corruption previously; they have been resolved but vendors health issues have added additional delays. To be completed by 30/12/2024</i>) Verbal update provided in April hui.	13/09/24	30/12/24

The Working Group aims to have materially completed its review of accounts by the end of the 2024/2025 rating year, with future reviews to be completed annually.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Property Reviews

A total arrears balance of \$926,077.69 for 236 properties, has been written off since the working group was established. \$329,215.69 of the above are the Chief Executive (CE) write-offs which have been processed this rating year. We currently have 2 CE write-off applications to be processed.

Revenue Recovery are manually reviewing 2501 rate accounts due to the ongoing delays of the geo-spatial mapping tool. As of 7 April 2025, the team had reviewed 297 accounts. From this data 197 accounts need further investigation.

				Payment				
Review	Contact details	Used	Current	arrangements	Remission	Living	GT	
YES		218	245	178	183	63	257	10
NO		66		119	114	207	6	287
Needs more information		13	52	0	0	27	34	0
Total		297	297	297	297	297	297	297

Marae visits

Four Marae hui have been held to date with the latest being at Roma Marae on the 7th April. These hui were attended by staff, elected members, Te Kooti Whenua Māori and Te Puni Kokiri. Consensus so far has been welcoming and has provided us with valuable insight on what we can do better, this helps inform us on what to include in future marae hui. Elected members and staff who have attended these hui are also given an opportunity to provide feedback. Currently we are awaiting confirmation of dates and times for the below marae:

Day	Date	Marae	Time
Friday	30 May 2025	Pakanae Marae	TBC
Saturday	7 June 2025	Te Tii Marae (14 June backup date)	TBC

Calendar invites have been sent to elected members. Communications have been distributed to external stakeholders and partners via email, and the information has been added to our website and social media channels.

It is proposed that the FNDC Multimedia Strategy & Communications Advisor attend a Marae and make a short film of the day.

Cultural events

Members of the working group attended Waitangi Day and Te Āhureka o Ngāti Hine festival at Ōtiria to promote the Whenua Māori Marae Hui and provide information on Whenua Māori. The working group are looking at attending the Tai Tokerau Kapahaka Festival this week in Opononi.

Updates

Verbal updates of any changes since the date the report was submitted, will be provided by the team during the committee meeting.

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

Provision is made for doubtful debts in relation to the arrears owed to council.

Impact on financial performance is expected to be limited as aged balances are provided for under the doubtful debt provision, which offsets the amount written off within the rating year.

Financial implications are relevant to the engagement plan as budget is required to fund this activity.

ĀPITI HANGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.3 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UPDATE

File Number: A5162537

Author: Llani Harding, Pouhautū Te Hono - Manager - Te Hono

Authoriser: Jacine Warmington, Group Manager - Strategic Relationships

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To update Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee (Te Kuaka) on the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) roadshow and relationship hui/meetings with Council's Iwi and some hapū partners.

WHAKARĀPOPO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Far North District Council (FNDC) Elected Members and Chief Executive (CE) Guy Holroyd have begun discussions/kōrero with Iwi and Hapū partners to refresh the relationships.
- A number of hui/meetings have been held across the district achieving the first step in extending our partnerships and forming the basis for strong relationships moving forward.
- These have been quite successful and well attended and supported by Group Managers and staff of Council.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Memorandum of Understanding Update

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

CEO Guy Holroyd expressed a desire to review FNDC's existing MOU agreements with Iwi/Hapū partners. A roadshow was programmed whereby council representatives could meet kanohi ki te kanohi with partners.

Council staff and elected members have met with most iwi/hapū who have existing MOUs or relationship agreements with Council. Slow progress on some MoUs are the result of scheduling issues across Council and iwi/hapū.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION

Kahika Moko and CEO Guy Holroyd have undertaken another layer of engagement on the MOUs. Ensuring all Iwi CEs and Iwi Chairs are aware of the commitments that Council endeavour to make as outcomes of the roadshow hui that were attended in 2023 and 2024.

Since the initiation of the roadshows, one MOU has been signed formally alongside Council with Ngāti Rēhia. A follow on from this signing is the commitment of Elected Members and Senior Leadership Team in attending a Marae hui and Whanaungatanga day alongside Ngāti Rēhia. This hui is set for Wednesday 30 April 2025.

Continuous communication has been sent by Te Hono staff, via emails and phone calls, to follow up on roadshow outcomes. Council staff are still awaiting further actions and initiations to be concluded.

In December 2024, Te Kahu o Taonui offered to support Council staff with the development of an MOU Implementation Plan. Staff worked alongside Te Kahu o Taonui specialists to develop this plan.

The purpose of the implementation plan is to support Council staff in ensuring that MOUs when signed by council, have thorough, robust, internal systems and processes in place to set up the MOUs for success.

NEXT STEPS

For Te Kuaka to review the attached MOU Implementation plan and provide advice to Council staff on its effectiveness for ensuring MOUs are successful.

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

There are no financial implications.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. MOU Implementation Plan - A5162981 [↓](#) 

Memorandum of Understanding Implementation Plan

Phase	Objectives	Action Steps	Status
1. Preparation	Ensuring a Framework is developed for Elected Members and staff to support integrated implementation across Council	Framework for Implementation established under Goal 1 of Te Pae o Uta	Completed
2. Research	Ensuring key levers of legislation and policy are referenced providing clear direction for staff and Elected Members on integrated implementation		In progress
3. Engagement	Ensuring Socialisation of these agreements are distributed through Governance and Operations to embed the desired aspirations and key programmes of work through Council	Workshops are provided to all Elected Members to understand obligations and to facilitate the building of relationships within each MOU	In progress
4. Operationalising	Ensuring there is appropriate Induction processes in place for staff to help develop understanding of these key agreements	Workshops are provided to all staff to understand obligations, and their relevance to report writers where applicable, whilst facilitating the building of relationships within each MOU Reinstitute the "Implications to Māori section within Council reports	In progress
4a. Learning and Development	Ensuring there is appropriate access to information for staff at all times	Information shared with staff during inductions, onboarding and on request from Te Hono	
4b. Systems and Processes	Ensuring there are key processes in place to further support staff on their implementation journey (i.e.) through Pro Map and other internal systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pro Map system updated by staff MOU accounted for in LTP/AP budgets MOU Implementation Plan captured within Strategic Priorities work programmes 	In progress
5. Feedback and Learning	Ensuring there are key feedback opportunities for Iwi into the MOU design and delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff report quarterly through the CE on learnings taken from the MOU implementation 	To be developed

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Kuaka report tabled quarterly • Quarterly surveys from Iwi and Hapu • Data collection – attendance at Hui, Committee Hui 	
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6.4 TE PAE O UTA - TE AO MĀORI FRAMEWORK QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE

File Number: A5135703

Author: Llani Harding, Pouhautū Te Hono - Manager - Te Hono

Authoriser: Jacine Warmington, Group Manager - Strategic Relationships

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide a progress update on Te Pae o Uta.

WHAKARĀPOOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Progress on Te Pae o Uta framework initiatives:
 - Te Reo and Tikanga Policy – Ka Irihia Action plan
 - Te Rōpū Tupuwanawana (Te Rōpū) – Te Pae o Uta steering group
 - Te Pae o Uta dashboard and reporting
 - Te Pae o Waho
 - Te Pae Waiata
 - Kōrero Mai te Reo App
 - Far North Holdings (CCO)
 - Awards

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the Te Pae O Uta - Te Ao Māori Framework Quarterly Progress Update.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The Far North District Council (FNDC) adopted the Te Pae o Uta Framework in the Council hui (resolution 2023/8 dated 7 September 2023). The overall principles for council in respect of the Te Pae o Uta are to:

- Recognise He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī (Declaration of Independence) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) as the founding covenants of Te Tai Tokerau and Aotearoa respectively;
- Acknowledge the importance of relationships both tangible and intangible e.g. Ngā Atua, Whenua, Mauri ō Te Wai, Taiao (Oranga Taiao, Oranga Tangata);
- Focus on the pursuit of excellence in the Te Ao Māori space;
- Valuing Te Ao Māori requires staff to understand key Māori concepts and practices;
- Acknowledge kōrero tuku iho at FNDC by recognising iwi and hapū kōrero.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Implementation of Te Pae o Uta is progressing well, across the organisation.

Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans (IHEMPs)

Council continues to work alongside Iwi and Hapū to develop MOUs. FNDC recently signed a MOU with Ngāti Rēhia. A further three MOUs/Mana Whakahono are progressing well with an aim to have these signed prior to July 1st, 2025. Kōrero has been elevated through the Chief Executive (CE) and Kahika to discuss MOUs with Iwi CEs and Chairs.

IHMP applications for the 2025 funding round have now closed. Council received two completed applications for funding. These applications are currently being reviewed by Te Hono staff for completeness and will advise hapū directly of outcome.

With the inclusion of a Climate Adaptation focus within IHMPs, Te Hono are also working alongside the Climate Action & Resilience team and external consultants, to support hapū through the development of their plans.

Te Rōpū Tupuwanawana (Te Rōpū)

Te Rōpū has now been established to help lead and guide FNDC staff through the implementation of Te Pae o Uta. The purpose of Te Rōpū is to oversee Te Pae o Uta implementation, review progress and encourage continuous improvement. Te Rōpū is made up of staff representatives from each group. The Chief Executive is the sponsor. Te Rōpū last met on the 7th of March to confirm the application for the Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards.

Te Pae o Uta Dashboard and Reporting

Te Hono have continued to provide 6-weekly check-ins with staff on their committed goals for each department.

Staff have committed to 155 goals towards achieving the goals of Te Pae o Uta.

Te Pae o Uta is also captured in the bi-annual Staff engagement survey asking staff, “*I see how my team contributes to Te Pae o Uta goals (Te Ao Māori Framework for FNDC)*”. In the most recent survey (February 2025) the overall score was 7.1, a 0.5-point improvement since 2 June 2024.

The following dashboard provides a snapshot of progress:

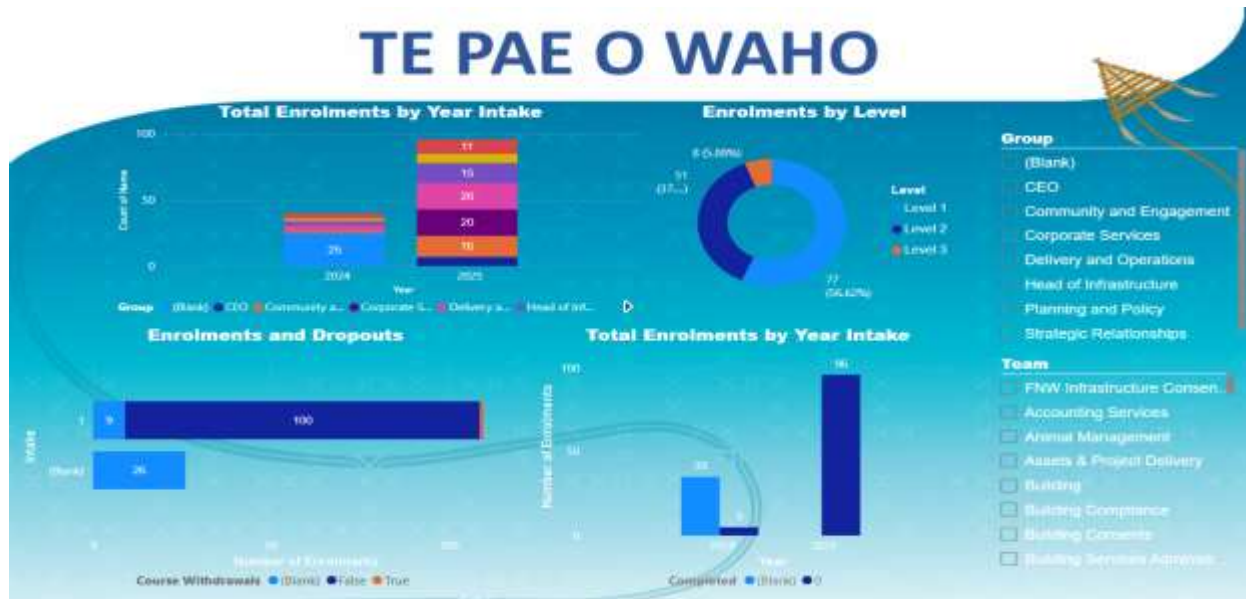


Te Pae o Waho

The second cohort began in February 2025. There are currently 96 staff enrolled on this cohort completing Levels 1-3, online and across 3 locations: Monday - online, Tuesday - Te Ahu, Wednesday – Kaikohe, and Thursday – Kerikeri.

Feedback received from staff include: “I love my Mondays as I know I have Te Pae o Waho”, “I’m really enjoying Eli as a Kaiako - he’s cool and makes the lessons fun and engaging”.

Current enrolments:



The success of the Strategic Leadership Team's (SLT) learning journey can be seen through Group Manager's confidence and commitment in reciting pepeha and karakia at people leader and all staff meetings.

Te Pae Waiata

Waiata lessons have been combined with Te Pae o Waho classes. Te Pae Waiata booklets are available to staff as hardcopies and to download using QR codes.

At the most recent all staff meeting (March) Te Hono staff lead the teaching of Waiata-ā-ringā (action song). The positive feedback received means that future all staff meetings will continue to include a Waiata session.

Kōrero Mai te Reo

Kōrero Mai te Reo is FNDC's cultural competency app designed by staff on a platform designed by Kiwa Digital. The app has been active 2010. The purpose of the app is to enable consistent learning and understanding by staff utilising various channels. Staff can continue to learn outside any formal class, using the app which makes it convenient. The app is publicly available and can be downloaded via App Store or Google Play.

The app is currently being refreshed to align with Te Pae o Uta, Te Pae o Waho, Te Pae Waiata and to reflect new FNDC logo and name.

Far North Holdings (FNHL)

Incorporating Te Pae o Uta into FNHL business as usual remains a key focus. At a recent workshop with elected members to review FNHL's draft 2026 Statement of Intent (SOI) clear signals from elected members are that Te Pae o Uta must be given consideration in any future SOIs. For FNDC to be an organisation that is genuine in its actions to cultivate our partnerships with Iwi/Hapū, FNHL must be included.

Awards

Applying for appropriate awards for the Te Pae o Uta - Te Ao Māori Framework is important to provide recognition of the framework's innovative and culturally grounded approach to guiding and improving FNDC's responsiveness and inclusiveness of Te Ao Māori across the organisation for

improved decision-making, Māori well-being and success. Awards can validate the value of integrating Te Ao Māori principles into organisational practices, encouraging respect for and adherence to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and He Whakaputanga.

Additionally, recognition through awards enhances the framework's visibility, fostering collaboration and investment in Māori-led initiatives. It acknowledges the mahi of those involved, inspiring others to prioritise culturally responsive frameworks while strengthening the identity, mana, and aspirations of Māori communities.

Awards that have been applied for:

- Oct 2024 - Human Resources New Zealand (HRNZ) Mana Tangata - Emerging or Leader Māori HR Award. *"The Award is for individuals/organisations who have implemented significant programmes that involve integrating Māori cultural values and tikanga into their practices including HRM policies. Entry into this Award category requires demonstration of tangible improvement in outcomes for Māori in the workplace".*

FNDC was a finalist for this award, and Councillors Rākena and Halkyard-Harawira attended the awards evening alongside Te Hono and People & Capability staff. Unfortunately, the award went to another finalist, but the awards process was described as a good learning experience.

- March 2025 - Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards – "Te Tohu Waka Hourua (the Double Canoe) – the Buddle Findlay Award for Excellence in Māori-Council Partnerships" category. The award application was submitted to Taituarā, and the awards ceremony will be held at the Taituarā Gala Dinner in June 2025 where winners will be announced.

Future Awards to be investigated:

- Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori - Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (2025)
- Super Local Awards (2025)

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

Activities are undertaken within existing group budgets.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.5 NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI / MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO MĀORI

File Number: A5136455

Author: Llani Harding, Pouhautū Te Hono - Manager - Te Hono

Authoriser: Jacine Warmington, Group Manager - Strategic Relationships

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide the Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee (Te Kuaka) with quarterly updates on Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Te Kuaka is committed to ensuring that the work of the Committee is carried out in a way that enhances the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of the Far North District and assist Council as appropriate in conducting and maintaining effective, good faith working relationships with the Māori community.
- Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori are raised at Council meetings and/or by the Kahika/Mayor and Councillors, Te Kahu o Taonui Iwi Representatives or members of the public. This report serves as a mechanism to provide Te Kuaka Committee with quarterly updates on those matters.

TŪTOHUNGĀ / RECOMMENDATION

That the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The purpose of Te Kuaka is to strengthen a Te Ao Māori perspective within Council decision making across policies and strategies. The committee responsibilities include:

- Ensure that the work of Te Kuaka is carried out in a way that enhances the social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of the Far North District
- Mahi ngātahi mā te huihui, wānanga – recommend to Council, aspects of importance to Māori for incorporation into the development of the Strategic documents (e.g., Te Ao Māori Framework, Annual Plan, Long Term Plan, District Plan)
- Manaaki – to assist Council as appropriate in conducting and maintaining effective, good faith working relationships with the Māori community (e.g., Iwi Hapu Environmental Management Plans)
- Recommend to Council aspects that the Far North District Council could pursue to develop and or enhance Māori capacity to contribute to Council's decision-making processes.

This report, Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori, serves as a mechanism to provide Te Kuaka with updates on current kaupapa / matters pertaining to Māori.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGĀ / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

It is said that language is the life force of Māori mana. Ko te reo te mauri o te mana Māori. We acknowledge and celebrate the numerous achievements we have made together. This includes:

Te Hiku Ward:

Haititai Marangai Whenua Māori Roadshow: Whatuwhiwhi Engagement

The Whenua Māori Roadshow was held in Whatuwhiwhi, hosted at Haititai Marangai Marae and engaged successfully with local hapū. Key highlights of the event included robust community participation, collaboration with local stakeholders, and a strong emphasis on culturally appropriate practices.

This initiative fostered meaningful partnerships, improved communication, and achieved impactful outcomes for all participants. Over 10 staff and elected members attended the roadshow hui, contributing to its success.

Ōruru Valley Ngā Wāhi Rongonui Māori Cultural (MC) Heritage Pilot Project

The Ōruru Valley Ngā Wāhi Rongonui MC Heritage Pilot project hui was held to reignite and complete the engagement process. The Project is at Phase 4, focusing on contacting landowners and preparing for the launch of the project's website. The site will include FAQs and drone footage to identify sites of significance.

Project team includes:

- Nicola Griffin - Senior Communications & Engagement Advisor
- Nicole Wooster - Executive Assistant to Group Manager Planning & Policy
- Sid Katyare - Spatial Information Analyst
- Theresa Burkhardt - Senior Policy Planner

Moringaehe Update

The Moringaehe Management Committee will be confirmed shortly, with the committee's management work to follow, including maintenance of the project's goals and vision in collaboration with local hapū and mana whenua leaders.

This project will be led by the Group Manager Delivery and Operations.

Signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

Preparations for the commemoration of the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Day are in progress for the Kaitiāia event scheduled on 28 April 2025. This event will be hosted by local Iwi and Hapū with FNDC staff and elected members expected to attend on the day.

Kaitiāia Urban Stormwater Network

The water-related initiatives continue to move forward, including the Kaitiāia Urban Stormwater Network Resource Consent Application Renewal. There has been improved engagement and responses from both the council and local hapū members regarding these initiatives.

A hui is scheduled for 2 April alongside hapū to discuss further works on the Kaitiāia project.

Safety Cameras Collaboration with NZTA

A collaboration with New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is underway to implement average speed safety cameras at Kaitiāia-Awaroa Road. This initiative aims to improve road safety, enhance traffic monitoring, and reduce accidents, benefiting both local communities and visitors. A communications campaign was developed in collaboration with the Community and Engagement team focused on identifying champions within the target community. Champions included the Pukepoto School principal and local police. The aim is to engage well-known local identities to explain the project and its safety aims, and to foster a greater sense of community pride and involvement.

Link attached for video footage: [Kaitāia-Ahipara Road - Average Speed Cameras - March 2025](#)

Engagement Hui with Kaitāia Digital Hub

An engagement hui was held with the Kaitāia Digital Hub to discuss digital inclusion, technology access, and opportunities for local development. The hui focused on fostering collaboration to improve digital literacy and empower the community, through enhanced technological resources and skills, around Councils' Te Pae o Uta framework and how council can increase community knowledge about Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika (FNDC) and its role within the community.

Engagement Hui with Te Rarawa Kaimahi

A hui was held to engage with local workers and stakeholders with the aim of strengthening relationships, aligning community goals, and ensuring that the workforce is well-supported through collaborative efforts that reflect the needs and aspirations of Te Rarawa.

Bay of Islands – Whangaroa Ward:

Te Taumata – Te Kura Reo o Te Tai Tokerau (Te Taumata)

Ka tū tēnei wānanga hei te - 19 ki te 23 Hanuere, 2025. Mā ngā uri o Te Tai Tokerau. This event took place on the 19th to 23rd of January and was hosted by ngā iwi me ngā hapū o Whaingaroa, one of Councils' treaty partners. It is a Te Reo Māori event for descendants of Te Tai Tokerau and brings together experts in Te Reo Māori who teach over 200 participants across the week. Attendees are fully immersed in Te Ao Māori for the duration of the event. Council staff attend the pōwhiri.

Waitangi/Paihia/Opua Water Treatment Plant

Council staff met with Ngāti Kawa and Ngāti Rāhiri representatives and Stellar project management to advance relocation of the water plant next to Haruru Falls Bridge, Haruru. Re-engaging with Ngāti Kawa and Ngāti Rāhiri hapū has been crucial in getting momentum behind the relocation project.

Infrastructure Services at FNDC have now appointed a dedicated project manager to see the kaupapa through. Terms of references have been shared with hapū and discussions are being had regarding forming a hapū working group.

Ngāti Rēhia Matauranga Māori Exchange

Discussions were initiated with Ngāti Rēhia for the mātauranga exchange hui to be hosted at Whitiara marae, Te Tii Mangonui 30 April. This meets the objectives of Te Aro Manatu Relationship Agreement that Council has with Ngāti Rēhia.

Ngāti Te Ara and Ngāti Kōpaki

Ngāti Te Ara and Ngāti Kōpaki representatives requested a hui to discuss formalising a relationship agreement with council.

Staff met with collective members of these Moerewa hapū to outline the process of creating a relationship agreement along with a workplan to prioritise required maintenance, service requests and other avenues they could utilise to complete these works.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

In the weeks leading up to Waitangi Week 2025, staff engaged with several agencies including the Waitangi National Trust, The Waitangi Organising Committee, Police and Emergency Services regarding ongoing preparations to support Waitangi Week activities.

FNDC was highly visible in their delivery of support across Waitangi Week. From occupying the taumata, to providing shuttle and transportation services, to kaikaranga and information stalls.

Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa

Staff met with Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa (TROW) to share and discuss the objectives of Te Pae o Uta. TROW have also provided a draft of their Mana Ōrite Relationship Agreement, cover letter and workplan. Risk analysis and legal consideration of these documents are underway.

Te Āhuareka o Ngāti Hine

Te Āhuareka o Ngāti Hine hosted at Ōtiria Marae from March 28 - 30 was another success for hapū and whānau of Ngāti Hine a Hineamaru. Sports, cultural events and whakawhanaungatanga won the day and FNDC were able to provide support as well as being present during the celebrations

Kaikohe-Hokiangā Ward:**Inspiring Rangatahi**

Te Hono staff supported Kahika Tepania at an event designed for young people to hear from local role models in their hāpori (region) and to learn about different job types, why people enjoyed working in these roles, and what challenges they faced along the way.

Outcomes of this hui were evidenced in the engagement and excitement of rangatahi on the day, many of whom went on to enquire directly with Council about the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs program.

Māngungu Signing of Te Tiriti Commemoration 185 years

This event took place at the Māngungu Mission on 12 February 2025 and saw a proud display of Mana Māori Motuhake for the people of Hokiangā. Council supported Iwi and Hapū in acknowledging the historic importance of remembering the 64 rangatira who signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi 185 years ago.

Approximately 300 people attended with iwi and hapu sharing stories about the history of the area and of the Chiefs who signed. Elected members were also invited to speak on the day.

Te Raupo Rāwene Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)

Rawene received an upgrade to its ailing WWTP through the delivery of an Electrocoagulation machine. The community held an open day on 1 March in Rāwene. Representatives from council were in attendance to support the event along with Te Mauri o Te Wai as the kaupapa leaders and drivers for this engagement with the community.

Engagement Hui

Council's Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori staff are holding roadshow/engagement hui with Kohanga Reo, Kura, NGO (Non-government organisation) and takiwā throughout April, May and June of 2025.

The intention is to present Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Māori Framework and provide an understanding of the commitment council has to enhancing staff capabilities in Te Ao Māori as well as deliver information on services provided by Council.

Roadshow/engagement hui will target smaller entities and organisations like marae, whanau trusts, kohanga and kura who play a pivotal role in providing council with grass roots feedback on the services we provide. The outcomes is to provide council with a mechanism to plan and develop work programmes that meet the needs of our community.

Opononi/Ōmāpere WWTP Plant (WWTP)

Staff are in the process of engagement for the Opononi/Ōmāpere WWTP Community Group to discuss the discharge of water to land as part of the consent conditions. Hapū in the area will be included in the engagement alongside Te Rūnanga ā Iwi ō Ngāpuhi and Te Rūnanga ō Te Rarawa.

Te Tai Tokerau Festival 2025

On the 9th – 10th April elected members and council staff participated in the celebration of the 50th Jubilee for Te Tai Tokerau Secondary Schools Kapahaka Festival, hosted by Opononi Area School. Staff also supported elected members at the pōwhiri which involved over 500 people from across the district. This was an excellent opportunity to engage with rangatahi, locals and communities from across the district.

Northland Regional Council, the Electoral Commission and a number of council departments provided information stalls on subjects such as Whenua Māori Rating Relief, Local Waters Done Well consultation, Annual Plan consultation, Civic Education and Engagement and answered general enquiries relating to council kaupapa.

Council, through its Community Boards, also contributed funding towards the event. Council and Community Board logos were included in Te Tai Tokerau Festival collateral, including signage for the event. Additionally, Te Hono staff, the Roding Team and event organizers worked collaboratively on a traffic management plan alongside Kia Tupato who are external consultants.

The event was a huge success and Council involvement created excellent visibility and garnered over 200 engagements at the Council tent including kōhanga reo, secondary school students, Iwi representatives, hapu kaikorero and members of the public.

PĀNGĀ PŪTEA ME NGĀ WĀHANGĀ TAHUA / FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGETARY PROVISION

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

ĀPITI HANGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.6 TE KUAKA - TE AO MĀORI COMMITTEE OPEN RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

File Number: A5119668

Author: Amber Wihongi-Alderton, Democracy Advisor

Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee (Te Kuaka) with an overview of outstanding Committee decisions.

WHAKARĀPOOTO 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 Te Kuaka – Te Māori Committee receive the report Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Open Resolution Report as at 15 April 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 Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee 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 Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee with an overview of outstanding decisions from 29 June 2023.

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 Resolutions Report as at 15 April 2025 - A5161269 [↓](#) 

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 12:11:05 pm Date From: 1/01/2020 Date To: 10/04/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 7/09/2023	Te Pae o Uta - Te Ao Māori Framework	RESOLUTION 2023/8 That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee a) recommend that Council approve the Te Pae o Uta – Te Ao Māori Framework, and b) authorises the Chief Executive to make minor changes to the Te Pae o Uta – Te Ao Māori Framework to correct grammatical or spelling errors, or formatting. CARRIED	14 Feb 2024 Te Pae o Uta is currently in the Design stages of Implementation and will be ready for staff roll out by 1 July. 05 Apr 2024 Te Pae o Uta is now operative. Te Hono continue to implement the framework through Council and will continue to provide updates to Te Kuaka bi-monthly 21 Jun 2024 A Te Pae o Uta update has been included in the 27 June 2024 Te Kuaka agenda. 26 Jul 2024 A Te Pae o Uta update has been included in the September 2024 Te Kuaka agenda. 22 Oct 2024 A Te Pae o Uta update will come to the December Committee meeting. 11 Feb 2025 Te Pae o Uta is operative. A report will be tabled at each Te Kuaka meeting providing updates on progress. 03 Apr 2025 Te Pae o Uta is operative. A Report will be tabled at each Te Kuaka meeting providing updates on progress. 15 Apr 2025 Te Pae o Uta is operational, and this action is complete. As update reports are a standing item at each Te Kuaka meeting, it is recommended that this action be closed.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 7/09/2023	Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Policy	RESOLUTION 2023/7 That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee a) recommend that Council approve the Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Policy. And b) authorises the Chief Executive to make minor changes to the Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Policy to correct grammatical or spelling errors, or formatting. CARRIED	14 Feb 2024 The Te Reo and Tikanga Policy is currently in action and Te Hono are supporting staff to implement via Te Pae o Uta guidance and support. A number of immediate actions have been made to implement this policy including the development of Ka Irihia and its supporting Implementation plan to be workshopped in December. 05 Apr 2024 The Te Reo and Tikanga Policy is currently operative in council. Ka Irihia has been developed and will have a supporting implementation plan. 21 Jun 2024 A post-meeting workshop will be held after the 27 June 2024 Te Kuaka meeting regarding the Te Reo Māori Action Plan and followed with a report on the 22 August Te Kuaka agenda.

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 12:11:05 pm Date From: 1/01/2020 Date To: 10/04/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			<p>26 Jul 2024 Jude Campbell and Llani Harding (Te Hono) facilitated workshop after the 27 June 2024 Te Kuaka meeting and also sought feedback from Committee members who were not present. A report on Te Reo Māori Action Plan is included in the September 2024 Te Kuaka agenda.</p> <p>21 Oct 2024 The Te Reo and Tikanga Policy is currently in action and Te Hono are supporting staff to implement via Te Pae o Uta guidance and support.</p> <p>21 Oct 2024 The Te Reo and Tikanga Policy is currently operative in council. Ka Irihia has been developed and will have a supporting implementation plan.</p> <p>11 Feb 2025 The Te Reo and Tikanga Policy is currently operative in council. Ka Irihia has been developed and has a supporting implementation plan to be workshopped in April</p> <p>03 Apr 2025 Ka Irihia workshop will be carried forward to June.</p> <p>15 Apr 2025 The Te Reo and Tikanga Policy is operational, and the original action is complete. Ongoing supporting work will continue accordance with the policy, and there is a separate item relating to Ka Irihia. It is recommended that this action be closed.</p>
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 28/11/2023	Review of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Council, and Iwi and Hapu	<p>RESOLUTION 2023/14</p> <p>That the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee;</p> <p>a) receive this report and</p> <p>b) endorse the approach of developing a Charter of Understanding outlining Councils broader approach to partnership, with specific Memorandum of Partnerships (MoPs) attached and tailored to Iwi and Hapū partners.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	<p>05 Apr 2024 The MOU review is in operation. CE has completed 9 out of 13 face to face hui with Iwi. An MOU update will be provided at each Te Kuaka meeting.</p> <p>21 Jun 2024 A series of MoU hui have been scheduled in June & July. An update report will be included in the September 2024 Te Kuaka Agenda.</p> <p>22 Oct 2024 An MOU update report will be provided to the Committee in December.</p> <p>28 Nov 2024 An update report is included in the 11 December 2024 agenda.</p>

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 12:11:05 pm Date From: 1/01/2020 Date To: 10/04/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			11 Feb 2025 An update report will be provided to Te Kuaka in April. 03 Apr 2025 An update on progress is provided within the Te Pae o Uta quarterly report.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 28/11/2023	Ratings Relief Policy Amendments	RESOLUTION 2023/13 That the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee: a) receive the report Ratings Relief Policy Amendments b) request staff review implementation of Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 to decrease rating debt and report back to Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 22 February 2024. CARRIED	05 Apr 2024 An update on the Staff workshop will be provided at the 22nd April Te Kuaka meeting. 18 Jun 2024 The Whenua Māori - Freehold Land Rating Relief - Information Report will be included in the Te Kuaka 27 June 2024 agenda. 21 Jun 2024 A report titled: Whenua Māori - Freehold Land Rating Relief is included in the 27 June Te Kuaka agenda. 03 Sept 2024 Action reassigned to Tango, Zena by Baker, Marlema - Please update where this action item is currently tracking for the purpose of the open resolutions report. Thank you 05 Sept 2024 An updated Whenua Māori – Freehold Land Rating Relief report will be included in the September 2024 agenda. 22 Oct 2024 An update will be provided in an information report for the 31 October meeting agenda. 27 Nov 2024 Marae visits have been confirmed for November/December 2024, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 November 2024 - Waipuna Marae, Panguru – completed. 16 December 2024 - Otiria Marae, Moerewa, , Roma Marae, Ahipara - Rescheduled to 2025 date pending. Regular reports are provided to Te Kuaka at each meeting, the next report will be included in the 1 December 2024 agenda. 20 Feb 2025 An update will be provided in an information report for the 27 Feb 2025 meeting agenda.

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 12:11:05 pm Date From: 1/01/2020 Date To: 10/04/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			03 Apr 2025 An update report will be provided to the committee at the next meeting 24 April 2025.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 25/09/2024	Taiao Portal Update	RESOLUTION 2024/35 That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the Taiao Portal Update Report and seek to maintain and support its development specifically with regards to Resource Consent (RC) data sharing and to support Te Kahu o Taonui socialising Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans and Treaty Settlements with Council's Resource Consents Team. CARRIED	16 Oct 2024 No further update at this stage. 13 Nov 2024 Note from Phil Grimshaw (Te Kahu o Taonui), It was raised at the 31 October 2024 meeting that as part of the Taiao Portal Update provided on 25 September 2024, Te Kahu o Taonui offered a resource to work alongside Te Hono to support developing an Implementation Template for MoUs and IHEMPs (and Treaty Settlements as part of the RC process). This will be followed up by the Manager of Te Hono. 27 Nov 2024 On 14 November 2024 Te Hono and the Te Kuaka Coordinator met with Phil Grimshaw – (Kaitohutohu Taiao Senior Advisor Te Kahu o Taonui) to discuss the development of an Implementation plan for MoUs, IHEMPs and any Treaty Settlement. Progress is ongoing and Te Hono will continue to work through the design of this framework for Te Kuaka. 20 Feb 2025 An update will be provided in the April 2025 meeting agenda. 15 Apr 2025 Staff have sought an update from Te Kahu o Taonui. a verbal report/update is expected at the 24 April 2025 Te Kuaka meeting.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 25/09/2024	Te Reo and Tikanga Policy - Ka Irihia Te Reo Māori Action Plan	RESOLUTION 2024/34 That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive and endorse Te Reo and Tikanga Policy - Ka Irihia Te Reo Māori Action Plan. CARRIED	22 Oct 2024 An Implementation plan towards Ka Irihia will be workshopped in December. 2 Apr 2025 Ka Irihia will be workshopped in April. 15 Apr 2025 It has been determined that the implementation plan for Ka Irihia can be developed internally by Council staff. A briefing paper will be shared with the Committee for feedback on this approach.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 31/10/2024	Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē Variation to Speed Limits	RESOLUTION 2024/16 That Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee recommend to Council that Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki Interim Speed Management Plan is amended to include 30 kilometre per hour	13 Nov 2024 The Committee asked that the name of the Te Kaunihera o Tai Tokerau ki te Raki Interim Speed Management Plan be changed to Te Kaunihera or Te Hiku o Te Ika Interim Speed Management Plan. This has been allocated to Elizabeth Stacey (Senior Road Safety & Traffic Engineer) to follow up.

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 12:11:05 pm Date From: 1/01/2020 Date To: 10/04/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
		speeds 200 metres either side of the following beach access points: a) Hukatere Access; b) Te Wakatehāua Access; and c) Kauēparāoa Access. CARRIED	28 Nov 2024 The change of name will be requested at the same time as the variation to existing speed limit. Will advise committee of NZTA response 21 Feb 2025 Change has been submitted to NZTA for certification, awaiting confirmation. 15 Apr 2025 A change request was submitted to NZTA in February 2025 however no response has been received. Staff will follow up with NZTA and the Speed Management team.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 11/12/2024	1 Wharo Way, Ahipara & Pohutukawa Tree and Te Puna o Kupenuku Updates	The amendment became the substantive motion RESOLUTION 2024/32 That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee a) receive the report 1 Wharo Way, Ahipara & Pohutukawa Tree and Te Puna o Kupenuku Updates, and b) that the CEO formalises a written agreement and resourcing for Ngā Hapū o Ahipara to maintain Moringaehe reserve.	11 Feb 2025 1 Wharo Way Ahipara - Quotes received for the plaque, wording still a working progress. Plaque will need to be placed on a rock or stand. Awaiting design approval for Reserve Sign. Looking at alternative security as Bollards are not appropriate for the site due to underground services. MOU for co-management being drafted., Te Puna o Kupenuku - Quaterly hui to be held with Te Puna O Kupenuku in March. No further information in regard to a long term lease or ownership of the buildings has been received at this time. 04 Apr 2025 A plaque concept and wording and rocks as security have been discussed with hapu and fndc are awaiting approval to implement. No updates in regard to Te Puna O Kupenuku.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 11/12/2024	Regional Deal Te Tai Tokerau Northland	RESOLUTION 2024/26 That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee a) agree to establish a Regional Deals Steering Committee to ensure the principles of Te Kuaka, in alignment with Te Tiriti and working with iwi and hapu partners are upheld. CARRIED RESOLUTION 2024/27	17 Feb 2025 On 12 December 2024 Council resolved the following; That Council: a) Endorse the preparation of a Regional Deal proposal for submission to central government., b) Agrees to collaborate with the other three local authorities, Kaipara District Council (KDC), Whangārei District Council (WDC), and Northland Regional Council (NRC) as a single "region" for the purpose of the Regional Deal., c) Approves Northland Inc as the lead organisation responsible for coordinating the development of the Regional Deal proposal, with support from all four councils, d) Approves the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee as the governance entity overseeing the development of the proposal,

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Officer:		Printed: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 12:11:05 pm Date From: 1/01/2020 Date To: 10/04/2025	
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee			
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
		b) agree that the Chair of the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee be the spokesperson of the Regional Deal programme on behalf of the region. CARRIED RESOLUTION 2024/28 c) note the Regional Deal proposal. CARRIED RESOLUTION 2024/29 d) do not support central government regional deals framework. CARRIED	<p>e) Approves the amendment to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Terms of Reference as provided in Attachment 4 of this agenda item.,</p> <p>f) Agrees that the Chair of the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee be the spokesperson of the Regional Deal programme.</p> <p>The Northland Councils confirmed their intention to submit a light touch proposal by Northland Inc submitting a registration on behalf of the Councils before 18 December 2024., An Operational Working Group made up of staff from all four Councils and Northland Inc worked on the content of the Light Touch Proposal over December 2024 and January 2025., The Joint Regional Economic Development Committee has meetings on 31 January 2025 and then again on 21 February 2025 to review the content of the proposal and then approval proposal prior to the proposal submission due date of 28 February 2025.</p> <p>24 Mar 2025 On 28 February Northland, on behalf of the Northland Councils, submitted the Northland Lite Touch Proposal - Igniting Northland's Potential to The Department of Internal Affairs. Northland Inc now awaits the assessment of this proposal by the Governments Infrastructure Investment Committee against the other 17 applications. A decision on the first regional deal is due in May 2025 with two more deals due to be agreed to in 2026.</p> <p>15 Apr 2025 Details of Northland's Lite Touch Proposal for a Regional Deal was made available to the public by Northland Inc via a press release on 1 April 2025. Staff of all Councils and Northland Inc are preparing options for the composition of a negotiation team on behalf of Northland.</p>
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 11/12/2024	District wide Tangata Whenua partnership and governance and confirming structure to support the District Wide Spatial and Open Space strategies	<p>The amendment became the substantive motion.</p> <p>RESOLUTION 2024/25</p> <p>That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee approve:</p> <p>a) the District Wide Kaupapa Framework for Tangata Whenua partnership and governance for District Wide Spatial and Open Spaces strategies.</p>	<p>29 Jan 2025 Have requested support from the Te Hono department to help set up the approved framework. Awaiting outcomes of the work Te Hono will do to initially set up the Steering group for the two projects.</p> <p>25 Mar 2025 Te Hono department is facilitating the setting up of this group, we have been advised that we will receive an update on 28 March.</p>

<div>Division: Committee: Officer:</div> <div>Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee</div>			<div>Printed: Tuesday, 15 April 2025 12:11:05 pm</div> <div>Date From: 1/01/2020</div> <div>Date To: 10/04/2025</div>
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
		<div>b) the terms of reference as specified in Attachment C for the Kaupapa Steering Rōpū overseeing the District Wide Spatial and Open Spaces Strategies.</div> <div>c) Throughout the District Wide Kaupapa framework to amend references to giving effect to Te Pae o Uta to give effect to He Whakaputanga, Te Tiriti and Te Pae o Uta</div> <div>CARRIED</div>	<div>04 Apr 2025</div> <div>Sufficient steering group members were confirmed on 4 April and Te Hono is now supporting staff and the members to have the first hui. The date of this hui has yet to be set.</div>

- 7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSING PRAYER**
- 8 TE KAPINGA HUI / MEETING CLOSE**