

Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika

AGENDA

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting

Thursday, 19 June 2025


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

Membership:

Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira
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



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

	Authorising Body	Mayor/Council
	Status	Standing Committee
COUNCIL 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.

Kahika/Mayor Moko Tepania

vacant - 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.

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 19 June 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

Requests for deputations have been received from Tauwhara Marae, Te Kōhanga Reo o Taurangi and Te Whiu Hapu regarding the tarsealing of Whakataha Road, Waimate North.

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

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

File Number: A5195822

Author: Marlema Baker, 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. Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee Minutes - 24 April 2025 - A5166888** [↓](#) 

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.

UNCONFIRMED

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes

24 April 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, 24 APRIL 2025 AT 10:00 AM**

PRESENT: Deputy Chairperson Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania, Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford, Cr Ann Court, Cr Felicity Foy, Cr Steve McNally, Cr Mate Radich, Cr Tāmati Rākena, Cr John Vujcich, Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro, Mane Tahere (online), Wallace Rivers (online), George Riley (online)

IN ATTENDANCE: Phil Grimshaw (Kaitohutohu Taiao Senior Advisor – Te Kahu o Taonui), Kawiti Waetford (Kaiwhakawhiti Reo Language Interpreter), Kiri Hobson-Slone (Operations Manager – Te Kahu o Taonui) (online)

STAFF PRESENT: Emma Healy (Chief of Staff), Charlie Billington (Group Manager - Corporate Services), Jacine Warmington (Group Manager - Strategic Relationships), Ruben Garcia (Group Manager - Delivery and Operations), Llani Harding (Pouhautu Te Hono), Casey Gannon (Manager Civic Engagement & Education), Tammy Wooster (Manager - Integrated Planning), Shayne Storey (Team Leader Policy & Bylaws), Marlema Baker (Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee Coordinator), Jude Campbell (Principal Advisor - Te Hono), Piripi Rākena (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Dena-Maree Hemara (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Lawrence Wharerau (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Aisha Huriwai (Manager - Democracy Services), Amber Wihongi-Alderton (Democracy Advisor)

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER

Deputy Chair Hilda Halkyard-Harawira commenced the meeting at 10:01AM and Kawiti Waetford opened with a karakia.

Te Kahu o Taonui Representative Kipa Munro was appointed Interim Co-Chairperson for this meeting.

Councillor Tāmati Rākena and Kipa Munro delivered opening mihi.

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

APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 2025/11

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Cr Tāmati Rākena

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee apologies from Te Kahu o Taonui Representatives Pita Tipene, Pita Lucas, Aperahama Edwards, Katie Murray and Toa Faneva and Councillors Babe Kapa, Mate Radich and Penetaui Kleskovic be accepted and a leave of absence granted.

CARRIED

3 NGĀ TONO KŌRERO / DEPUTATION

There were no deputations.

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Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes

24 April 2025

4 NGĀ KŌRERO A TE HEAMANA / CHAIRPERSON ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deputy Chairperson Hilda Halkyard-Harawira acknowledged ngā hunga mate, honouring those who passed recently. A mihi was extended to Councillor Ann Court, Ngāti Rēhia and the community for Te Puāwaitanga opening and Te Kahu o Taonui representatives were acknowledged.

Kahika Moko Tepania recognised Councillor Hilda Halkyard-Harawira as a recipient of the New Zealander of the Year Local Hero Award and recipient of Te Maruata Whanui Award for Contributions to Local Government, highlighting her numerous contributions to the community.

Councillor Tāmāti Rākena highlighted recent achievements and events, including Far North District Council's recognition as finalists at the Human Resources Institute of New Zealand awards for Te Pae o Uta and the 50th Anniversary of Te Tai Tokerau Kapa Haka Festival, acknowledging staff involved.

Upcoming ANZAC remembrance services were also acknowledged with a mihi to soldiers and Te Hokowhitu-a-Tū.

5 TE WHAKAAETANGA O NGĀ MENETI O MUA / CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**5.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Agenda item 4.1 document number A5117867, pages 8 - 15 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/12

Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford

Seconded: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

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

CARRIED**6 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS****6.1 ELECTION OF TE KUAKA TE AO MĀORI COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON**

Agenda item 5.1 document number A5146532, pages 16 - 19 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/13

Moved: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira

Seconded: George Riley - Te Kahu o Taonui Representative

That Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee **LEAVE TO LIE the Election of Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee Chairperson until Te Kahu o Taonui have had opportunity to wananga this item at their meeting in May.**

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes

24 April 2025

6.2 REORUA TE KERIKERI

Agenda item 5.2 document number A5158118, pages 20 - 37 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/14

Moved: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro

Seconded: Cr Tāmati Rākena

That 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 mōhiohio 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.

CARRIED

6.3 RATING RELIEF POLICY 2021 REVIEW

Agenda item 5.3 document number A5100885, pages 38 - 80 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/15

Moved: Cr Tāmati Rākena

Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

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

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

CARRIED

7 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

7.1 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION UPDATE

Agenda item 6.1 document number A5119317, pages 81 - 83 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/16

Moved: Cr Tāmati Rākena

Seconded: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro

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

CARRIED

UNCONFIRMED

Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes

24 April 2025

7.2 WHENUA MĀORI - FREEHOLD LAND RATING RELIEF

Agenda item 6.2 document number A5151433, pages 84 - 86 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/17

Moved: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro

Seconded: George Riley – Te Kahu o Taonui Representative

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Whenua Māori – Freehold Land Rating Relief.**CARRIED***At 11:16 AM Te Kahu o Taonui Representative Mane Tahere left the meeting.**At 11:49 AM the meeting was adjourned and resumed at 12:03 PM.*

The Deputy Chairperson announced an additional item, Te Kahu o Taonui Update

7.3 TE KAHU O TAONUI UPDATE

Additional Item received the day of the meeting which could not be delayed.

RESOLUTION 2025/18

Moved: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro

Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive Te Kahu o Taonui Update report circulated prior to the meeting.**CARRIED****7.4 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING UPDATE**

Agenda item 6.3 document number A5162537, pages 87 - 90 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/19

Moved: Cr Tāmāti Rākena

Seconded: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Memorandum of Understanding Update.**CARRIED****7.5 TE PAE O UTA - TE AO MĀORI FRAMEWORK QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE**

Agenda item 6.4 document number A5135703, pages 91 - 94 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/20

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro

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

Page 4

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Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting Minutes

24 April 2025

7.6 NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI / MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO MĀORI

Agenda item 6.5 document number A5136455, pages 95 - 99 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/21

Moved: Cr Tāmāti Rākena

Seconded: Interim Chairperson Kipa Munro

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

CARRIED

7.7 TE KUAKA - TE AO MĀORI COMMITTEE OPEN RESOLUTIONS UPDATE

Agenda item 6.6 document number A5119668, pages 100 - 107 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/22

Moved: Cr John Vujcich

Seconded: Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui Representative

That Te Kuaka – Te Māori Committee receive the report Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Open Resolution Report as at 15 April 2025.

CARRIED

7.8 LOCAL WATERS DONE WELL - UPDATE

Supplementary Agenda item 6.7 document number A5162872, pages 4 - 29 refers

RESOLUTION 2025/23

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania

Seconded: George Riley Te Kahu o Taonui Representative

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Local Waters Done Well - Update.

CARRIED

8 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 1.20pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Ordinary Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting held on 19 June 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 leaving the current role of Te Kuaka Chairperson 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.
- Te Kahu o Taonui has informed Council staff that Pita Tipene is their preferred appointee. He will be supported by Wallace Rivers.

RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee:

- uplift the report: Election of Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee Chairperson, which was left to lie at the meeting held on 24 April 2025.**
- 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 [!\[\]\(c7f0c876d08aeffda268ba5edc280983_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(688faafe333a2f882e9c0baf56b3b531_img.jpg\)](#)

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 AMENDED RATING RELIEF POLICY DRAFT - PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION

File Number: A5198783

Author: Shayne Storey, Team Leader - Policy & Bylaws

Authoriser: Roger Ackers, Group Manager - Planning & Policy

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

That Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee (Te Kuaka) recommend that Council approve the amended rating relief policy draft for consultation.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO 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 current Rating Relief Policy (Attachment 1) was due for review no later than September 2026. The review has been brought forward at the request of elected members.
- On 8 May 2025, Council resolved that the Rating Relief Policy should continue with amendment (2025/46, refers)
- A proposal for an amended Rating Relief Policy, including a draft of the amended policy, is in Attachment 2.
- Financial modelling has not been undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposed rating policy amendments on rates income. This is primarily due to the lack of reliable data to inform any assumptions.
- Council must now decide whether to approve the Proposal and proceed with public consultation.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee recommend that Council:

- a) adopts the proposal in attachment 2 to be released for public consultation to meet the requirements of section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.**
- b) approves, the period for making written submissions on the proposal will be a minimum of 4 weeks.**
- c) delegates authority to the Mayor to decide on the date of oral presentation/s of submissions.**
- d) authorises the Chief Executive to make any necessary minor drafting or presentation amendments to the proposal to correct errors or omissions, or to reflect the decisions made by the Council prior to final publication and public release.**

1) 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.

The current policy was due for statutory review no later than September 2026. The review has been brought forward at the request of elected members, specifically to review the policies relating to

Māori freehold land. However, the Policy was reviewed collectively to ensure that any amendments to the policy were not progressed in isolation.

Staff reviewed the Policy and identified amendments were required to provide clarity, as well as additional guidelines, conditions and criteria.

On 8 May 2025, Council resolved that the Rating Relief Policy should continue with amendment (2025/46, refers).

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Summary of the review

The review of the policy identified amendments were required to provide clarity, as well as additional guidelines, conditions and criteria. Staff also recommended amendments to the Introduction of the policy to provide supplementary information and 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. Additionally, staff recommended incorporating definitions into the relevant sections of the policy, which would provide further clarification.

The current objectives of Council's rating relief policy are 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).

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 papakāinga 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.

Financial Impacts

Financial modelling has not been undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposed rating policy amendments on rates income. This is primarily due to the lack of reliable data to inform any assumptions. In particular, staff are unable to estimate how many ratepayers may be eligible or interested in applying for the amended remission criteria.

For example, an investigation would need to be undertaken to identify the number of papakāinga within the District. There is not currently an existing mechanism to collect this data. The timeframe and additional resources required for this type of study is unknown.

A draft of the amended policy can be found in the proposal document (Attachment 2). Council staff teams from Te Hono, Corporate Services, Community & Engagement, Legal Services and Policy & Planning have been involved in the drafting of the amended Policy.

Form and Content

The majority of the proposed amendments are administrative or technical in nature and are intended to correct legal inaccuracies, inconsistent language, grammatical errors, or provide clarification around the intent of the Policy. The proposed substantive amendments may be summarised as follows:

Introduction

- Insert reference to the TTWMA 1993 Preamble as a guiding principle
- Insert full recitation of Schedule 11 LGA02 to include the objectives of rating relief in relation to Māori Freehold Land.

Definitions

- The definition section has been deleted. If necessary, the definition has been incorporated into the body of the relevant Policy.

R21/01 Remission of Penalties

- Conditions and Criteria, clause 1a - delete reference to “on time payments” as no longer applicable
- Conditions and Criteria, clause 1c - clarify that compassionate grounds are not restricted to “financial” issues
- Conditions and Criteria, clause 1d - insert reference to deceased estates subject to probate due to potential financial hardship occurring.

R21/02 — Remission on Land Unusable due to Natural Disaster

ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY

- Conditions and Criteria, clause 5 – rewording for clarity.

R21/04 - Remission on Land used by Community, Sports and Not-for-profit Organisations

ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY

- Background- move Local Government Rating Act 2002 information to the footnote

- Policy Statement, Clause 1 and 2- clarify reference to “financial support”

R21/05 — Remission on Properties Spanning Multiple Districts*ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY*

- Insert “Remission on” into title for clarity.

R21/06 Remission on Common-Use Properties*ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY*

- Background- insert “residential properties” under provisions for clarity
- Reword and reformat for clarity.

R21/07 – Remission of School Sewerage Charges*ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY*

- Minor reordering to make flow of Policy clearer.

R21/08 — Remission of Excess Water Charges*ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY*

- Policy Statement, clauses 1-3 -update the clauses for clarity.

R21/13 – Remission Incentivizing Māori Economic Development*ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY*

- Conditions and Criteria, clause 3 – delete “Applications must be accompanied by a business case which must include a cashflow analysis for at least 3 years” as not required.
- Conditions and Criteria, clause 7 – delete “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.”, as not required.

R21/14 – Remission of Rates on Treaty Settlement Lands

- Scope – amend for clarity, delete date reference as Policy applies to all Treaty Settlement Lands, regardless of settlement date
- Scope - amend the definition of “Treaty Settlement Lands” to align with the conventional use of the terms “cultural redress” and “commercial redress” in Claims Settlement Legislation, to provide greater clarity.

R23/15 — Remission Enabling Housing Development on Māori Freehold Land*ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY*

- Conditions and Criteria – clause 4, insert “where relevant”.

P21/01 – Remission on Land Subject to Protection for Outstanding Natural Landscape, Cultural, Historic or Ecological Purposes*ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY*

- Amendments made to improve clarity.

P21/03 — Postponement of Rates on Landlocked Land

- Conditions and Criteria - clause 1, delete as repetitive
- Conditions and Criteria – clause 2, delete as inclusion of a requirement for a “legal assessment” defeats the purpose of providing relief because the applicant cannot afford to pursue legal options under the Property Law Act.
- Conditions and Criteria – clause 6, delete as covered by general statement to this effect under “Making an Application”
- Conditions and Criteria – clause 7, delete as provided for under the Local Government Rating Act 2002 (LGRA 02).

P21/04 - Transitional Policy for the Postponement of Rates on Farmland*ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY*

- Amendments made to improve clarity.

P21/05 – Postponement of Residential Rates for Senior Citizens**ADMINISTRATIVE AMENDMENTS ONLY**

- Amendments made to improve clarity.

ML21/01 – Unused Māori Freehold Land

- Background - clarify which types of Māori Land are non-rateable under the LGRA (02)
- Conditions and Criteria – clause 1, delete reference to section 96 LGRA as it is not relevant
- Conditions and Criteria – clause 2, delete as covered by general statement to this effect under “Making an Application”.

ML21/02 - Māori Freehold Land Used for the Purposes of Papakāinga or Other Housing Purposes Subject to Occupation Licenses, Rental Agreements or Other Informal Arrangements

- Title - amend to include rental agreements
- Background – amend to include rental agreements

- **Consultation process**

Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002 does not stipulate a minimum length of time for consultation, however a consultation period of at least four weeks is considered best practice. Therefore, consultation will open on 4 July 2025 and close on 1 August 2025, which is a period of four weeks.

Council staff recommend people be encouraged to present their views primarily by making comments or submissions via the Council's website. A submission form will be provided for download on the website for people to print and use to make written submissions either by post or delivery to Council offices. A small number of printed copies of the proposal document and submission form will be made available at Council offices for people to use if they are not able to print the documents themselves. A link to the webpage for making submissions will be emailed to the Council's “subscribers” database and publicised on the Council's social media pages. Council staff will give notice of the proposed policy to Iwi, hapu and other organisations representing Māori in the Far North district. Council staff will be available to discuss the Proposal with interested and affected parties during the consultation period.

The Proposal may be of interest to the public and Council staff expect there may be requests to present submissions orally to elected members. Staff therefore recommend the Council delegate, to the Mayor, the power to arrange and change the date of the oral presentations of submissions.

TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

On 8 May 2025, Council resolved that the Rating Relief Policy should continue with amendment.

Under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002, Council is required to consult when amending this policy.

A proposal for an amended Rating Relief Policy, including a draft of the amended policy, is in Attachment 2.

The recommended consultation period is for four weeks from 4 July 2025 to 1 August 2025, followed by oral submissions, if required. Due to statutory timing constraints a report will not be provided at the August Te Kuaka Committee meeting. The final policy will go directly to Council in September.

Next Steps

If Council approves the recommendation on 3 July 2025, staff aim to present an analysis of submissions and a proposed final version of the amended policy to Council in September 2025.

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

The financial implications of implementing the amendments to the policy have not been determined. Financial modelling has not been undertaken to assess the potential impact of the proposed rating policy amendments on rates income. This is primarily due to the lack of reliable data to inform any assumptions. In particular, staff are unable to estimate how many ratepayers may be eligible or interested in applying for the amended remission criteria.

The cost of consultation on the proposal to amend the Rating Relief Policy will be minimal (less than \$1000 plus staff time and resources) and will be met from within existing operational budgets.

ĀPITI HANGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Rating Relief Policies 2021-31 - A4475266** [!\[\]\(7a8011739ec4e250e2f89a547d75fb0a_img.jpg\)](#) 
2. **Proposal - Rating Relief Policy Amendments - A5211603** [!\[\]\(44ee86b940d3a0ca166486da8985875e_img.jpg\)](#) 

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	The Rating Relief Policy has a medium level of significance as: a) it does not involve the transfer of ownership or control of a strategic asset or other important asset; and b) it is consistent with current Council plans and policies. However, the Policy is likely to be of interest to Māori and may generate public interest.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	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. Under section 102 LGA02, Rates Remissions Policies must support the principles set out in the preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (TTWMA). outlined in Schedule 11 of the LGA02 (Matters relating to rates relief on Māori freehold land)
State whether this issue or proposal has a District wide relevance and, if not, the ways in which the appropriate Community Board's views have been sought.	The proposal has district-wide relevance and is not within the delegations of Community Boards to consider.
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 draft policy has been developed closely with Te Hono and is seeking approval of Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee prior to presenting to Council. Seeking the views and input of hapu/iwi in the development of policy is integral, and Māori will be given an opportunity to contribute during the consultation stage. Council will give notice of the proposed policy to organisations representing Māori in the Far North district.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Māori community • Far North District ratepayers • Te Kooti Whenua Māori/ Māori Land Court • Te Puni Kōkiri/Ministry of Māori Development

– youth, the aged and those with disabilities).	
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	The cost of consultation on the proposal to amend the Rating Relief Policy will be minimal (less than \$1000 plus staff time and resources) and will be met from within existing operational budgets. o
Chief Financial Officer review.	The Acting CFO has reviewed this report.

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.

Proposal

Rating Relief Policy

1 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 2021/20). The current policies were last reviewed and consulted on as part of the Long Term Plan process in September 2020.

On 8 May 2025, following a review of the Rating Relief Policy, the Council approved the following resolution (2025/46, refers):

- a) the Rating Relief Policy 2021 has been reviewed.
- b) the Rating Relief Policy 2021 continue with amendment.

2 Proposal

The Council proposes to continue the Rating Relief Policy with amendment, to provide clarity, additional guidelines, conditions and criteria, 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.

3 Reasons for the proposal

Under sections 108 – 110 of the Local Government Act 2002, rates remission and / or postponement policies must be reviewed every 6 years. Amendments to the Rating Relief Policy must be made in accordance with the consultation procedure set out under section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

4 Analysis of the reasonably practicable options

The Council considered two options for addressing the review of the Rating Relief Policy 2021-2031.

- Continue the Policy with amendment
- Continue the Policy without amendment

The advantages and disadvantages of the options are summarised in the following table.

Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1. Status quo: The Policy continues with amendment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy aligns with the relevant legislation • Policy provides clear guidelines, definitions and additional conditions for rating relief • Includes reference to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 • Streamlines requirements and processes 	None identified.
2. The Policy continue without amendment	None identified.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing policy is unclear • Does not recognise Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 • Prohibitive requirements will remain in place

The Council resolved that Option One is the preferred option, for the following reasons:

- to ensure the Policy is consistent with relevant legislation
- to improve clarity
- to include additional conditions
- to streamline requirements and processes.

5 How to give your views on the proposal

The council encourages any person or organisation affected by, or having an interest in, the Rating Relief Policy to present their views on the proposal to the Council by making a submission.

You can make a submission by using any of the following methods:

- online at the council's website www.fndc.govt.nz/have-your-say
- email your submission to submissions@fndc.govt.nz
- drop-off your submission at any council service centre or library, details of their locations and opening times are listed at www.fndc.govt.nz/contact or you can get that information by phoning the council on 0800 920 029
- post your submission to: Strategy Development Team, Far North District Council, Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440
- make an oral presentation of your submission at a meeting of the Council

Please include your full name and email address or postal address in your submission if you want:

- the council to acknowledge receipt of your submission
- to make an oral presentation – you will be contacted about when and where the meetings for this are taking place.

Any submissions that are out of scope, offensive, inappropriate, or late may not be accepted by the council. You will be notified if your decision is not accepted and, where appropriate, invited to resubmit.

Privacy statement – Please be aware, any submissions that are made on the amended Rating Relief Policy become part of the public consultation process. As such, all submissions, any summaries of submissions, and any documents provided with your submission, are copied and made available to the Council's governing body as well as the public. Any personal information included with a submission such as your name is treated as part of

the submission and will also be released publicly. Your submission and any personal information that you supply such as your name will not be treated as confidential unless you specifically request it in your submission.

6 Draft Rating Relief Policy

The draft policy is as follows:

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Introduction

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. The Far North District's Rating Relief Policies address both the remission and postponement of rates.

Section 102(1) and (2)(e) of the LGA 02 also requires councils to adopt a Policy for the remission and postponement of rates on Māori Freehold Land.

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

1. Provide an equitable system of rating remission and postponement for all sectors of the community;
2. Provide ratepayers with financial assistance where they might otherwise have difficulty meeting their obligations to pay rates.
3. Align with Council's community outcomes and strategic priorities and recognise that there is a community benefit in providing assistance through rating relief to certain charitable and community organisations.
4. Recognise that the nature of Māori Freehold land is different to General Title land and that certain unoccupied Māori Freehold Land, which is 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.

In the development of these policies, Council has considered Schedule 11 of the LGA 02 (matters relating to rates relief on Māori Freehold Land), and the requirement under section 3(b) of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA) to facilitate the administration of rates in a manner that supports the principles set out in the Preamble to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 is the primary legislation governing Māori Freehold Land, the preamble to which sets fundamental principles within which the whenua Māori framework operates 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

Council also recognises that the development of Māori Freehold Land benefits the community as a whole, by providing environmental and cultural benefits, employment and economic opportunities and helps improve the prosperity of the District.

The objectives of rating relief in relation to Māori Freehold Land under Schedule 11 of the 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 land
- 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 papakāinga 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.

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

1. All applications for remission or postponement of rates, whether under these policies or otherwise, must be:
 - made in writing (relevant application forms for rates relief will be made available online or can be sent to applicant by post or email, where applicable)
 - signed by the owner/ratepayer or relevant approved person, and
 - accompanied by any required supporting documentation.
2. Council may require further information from the applicant if necessary to process the application and may require the applicant to attend a meeting with staff to discuss the application in more detail.
3. Council reserves the right to inspect the use of a property, where appropriate, as part of the assessment of any
4. Remissions or postponements granted under previous policies will remain in force as per those policies.
5. Where a property or part of that property is sold within the period of remission or postponement, Council reserves the right to recover the rates remitted or postponed for the applicable period.
6. Council may be entitled to register a Statutory Land Charge against the Certificate of Title for a property receiving rates remissions or postponements and reserves the right to do so.
7. A person(s) or entity receiving remissions or postponements under any of these Policies must promptly inform Council of any substantial change in their status (whether financial or otherwise) or the status of their land which might affect their continuing eligibility for such remissions or postponements.
8. Applications may be made for a remission or postponement of rates in circumstances not otherwise covered within these policies. However, any decision of Council on an "outside of Policy" application must be consistent with the LGRA and any other relevant requirements.
9. Council is under no obligation to approve an application that does not comply with these policies and any relief provided, and the extent thereof, is at the discretion of Council and may be cancelled or reduced at any time if new relevant information becomes available.
10. The decision of Council on any application is final.

R21/01 – Remission of Penalties

Background

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

Policy Objective

To allow for Council to act fairly and reasonably to remove penalties applied when rates instalments have not been paid by the due date.

Scope

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

Policy Statement

Council may remit rates penalties on the grounds of financial and other hardship

Conditions and Criteria

1. Applications for remission may be considered if:
 - a. The applicant has a previous good record of payment 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 due date for the current invoice; or
 - c. A request is made on compassionate grounds due to financial or other hardship (e.g. significant family disruption, illness or accident); 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; or where Council receives formal advice that a property is a deceased estate and subject to probate, a penalty inhibitor will be applied to the rates and water account for a period of six months from the date of that advice; or
 - e. If there is no cost to Council in granting a remission e.g. where the remission of penalty results in immediate full payment of arrears.

R21/02 – Remission on Land Unusable due to Natural Disaster

Background

Natural disasters can cause land to become unusable for an extended period of time. This Policy aims to provide rates relief in such circumstances.

Policy Objective

To provide rating relief to the owners of properties that have become unusable as a result of a natural disaster and the loss of the use of the property results 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.

6.1 Conditions and Criteria

1. The application 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 period for remission of rates will be 5 years. At the end of that period, if the land in question remains unusable a further application for remission will be required.
5. Where a further period of remission is sought the new application must include confirmation, by way of a statutory declaration, that the conditions of the original expert's report remain unchanged, OR a new experts report must be provided.
6. Any remission will be cancelled immediately if the land is returned to a usable state.

R21/04 - Remission on Land used by 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 is intended to provide rating relief for those organisations that operate for the benefit of the community and are not otherwise exempt from rates under Schedule 1, LGRA¹.

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 by way of government or other grants or funding) payable on land owned or used by any entity which:
 - a. 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
 - b. is a Registered Charity or an IRD approved donee organisation.
2. Council may remit up to 50% of the rates payable on land owned or used by an entity, or persons (providing the entity does not qualify for other financial support by way of government or other grants or funding) for the purpose of providing benefit to Far North residents through:
 - a. the promotion of recreation, health, education, or instruction; or
 - b. the provision of camping grounds for the purpose of recreation, health, education or instruction.

Conditions and Criteria

1. Relevant financial information must accompany all applications, including:
 - a. a statement of the applicant's organisational objectives
 - b. the applicant's full financial accounts
 - c. information on the activities and programmes provided by the applicant
 - d. details of the applicant's membership or clients.
2. 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.
3. No remission will be given on land:
 - a. on which a license under the Sale of Liquor Act is held;
 - b. where the entity that owns the land qualifies for other financial support by way of government or other grants or funding;
 - c. where any person or entity receives private financial profit from the activities carried out on the land used for an activity which is commercial in nature e.g. an "op-shop" will not qualify for rating relief under this Policy.
4. The maximum period for remission under this Policy will be three years. At the end of the three-year remission period, a new application will be required.

¹ Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 provides that land owned or used by certain categories of charitable and community organisations is 100% non-rateable, while 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) are partially (50%) non-rateable.

R21/05 – Remission on 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 (i.e. the Whangarei District or the Kaipara District). 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 located within the Far North District is rated by the Far North District Council.

6.2 Conditions and Criteria

If there is a dwelling on the portion of the property located within the Far North District no portion of the Uniform Annual General Charge will be remitted but the land value-based rate will continue to be remitted on the portion of the property located outside of the Far North District.

Scope

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

Policy Statement

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

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R21/06 Remission on Common-Use Properties

Background

Section 20 LGRA 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 LGRA and provides for certain residential properties and commercial operations to be treated as one rating unit to assist economic development in the District.

Policy Objectives

To enable Council to deal equitably with the imposition of the UAGC and applicable targeted rates on multiple rating units

Scope

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

Conditions and Criteria

Applications Policy 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 kilometres from the primary property.
2. To be eligible for remission of the UAGC or other applicable targeted rate, the rating units must be covered by one of the following categories:
 - a. **Residential/lifestyle property** – must be owned by the same ratepayer who uses the rating units jointly as a single residential property. A vacant residential unit will not meet the requirements for remission; there must be considerable development demonstrating joint use of the units for residential purposes
 - b. **Residential rating units jointly used** – must be contiguous and jointly used even if the ownership is not an exact match. At least one unit must have a dwelling and the other unit(s) considerable development which demonstrates that the rating units are being used as one.
 - c. **Farm/lifestyle property** - must be owned or be leased for not less than 10 years, by the same ratepayer who uses the rating units jointly as a single farm.
 - d. **Subdivision, commercial or residential development** - must be owned by the original developer who is holding vacant individual rating units pending their sale or lease. Remission on units held in a subdivision will be limited under this Policy 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.
3. A remission granted under this Policy does not continue where a property is sold. Any new purchasers will need to submit a fresh application for remission.
4. Council reserves the right to exclude any specific targeted rate or charge from remission under this Policy.

R21/07 – Remission of School Sewerage Charges

Background

Council recognises that schools may be charged for sewerage services at a disproportionate rate where there are a higher number of toilets (pans) attributed to the school for rating purposes than the actual number of students enrolled in the school. This Policy ensures that schools are equitably charged for sewerage services.

Policy Objective

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

Scope

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

Conditions and Criteria

1. This Policy applies to land owned or used by, and for any of the purposes of those educational establishments specified in Clause 6, Part 1, Schedule 1 of the LGRA.
2. This Policy does not apply to schoolhouses occupied by a caretaker, principal or staff
3. 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 a sewerage charge relates.
4. The number of staff in an educational establishment is the number of full time teaching equivalent staff and full time equivalent administration staff employed by that educational establishment on 1 March of the year immediately preceding the year to which a sewerage charge relates.
5. The nominal toilet (pan) number will be calculated as one pan per 20 students/staff members or part thereof.
6. Where the nominal number of toilets (pans) is less than the actual number of pans, sewerage charges will be remitted on those pans that make up the difference between the two figures.

R21/08 – Remission of Excess Water Charges

Background

From time-to-time ratepayers are required to pay excess water charges as a result of leaks or damage to their water supply system. Ordinarily the ratepayer is responsible for the maintenance of the internal reticulation from the water meter to their property and to pay for any consumption of water supplied through the meter.

Council recognises that consumers may experience water leaks and incur excess water charges before they become aware of a problem and it may be reasonable to allow for a reduction in charges in such circumstances.

Policy Objectives

1. To standardise procedures to assist ratepayers who have excessive water rates due to a fault (leak) in the internal reticulation (all pipe reticulation from the meter to the house or property (known as the “private side of the meter”)) serving their rating unit.
2. To incentivise ratepayers to regularly check their water meter and maintain their internal reticulation ensuring that they retain responsibility for the maintenance of their internal 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 the applicant's 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 occurring within 10 years following the grant of an initial 100% remission application.
3. Excess water charges resulting from any further leaks (3 or more) within the 10-year period are not eligible for remission.
4. The 10-year period will restart at zero if the property is sold and there is a new owner/ratepayer.

Conditions and Criteria

1. 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 (where an applicable notification is made).
2. Meter readings will be taken after the application has been received to ensure all leaks have been repaired.
3. Proof of repairs to the internal reticulation must be provided, together with the application eg a detailed written report or an invoice for repairs from a registered plumber, or a report from Council's service contractor.
4. Repairs carried out by the ratepayer must be peer reviewed by a registered plumber and a report provided to confirm that the repair is suitable and to current standards.
5. The maximum relief that will be provided on a remission will be the difference between the average water consumption for the three-meter readings prior to an application and the average water consumption for the three-meter readings following repair of the leak that gave rise to the remission application.

R21/13 – Remission 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 landowners 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. Key considerations for Council in deciding whether to grant a remission will include whether:
 - 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 has been made;
 - d. suitable monitoring and reporting systems have been or will be established; and
 - e. realistic financial projections and cash flows have been provided.
4. Each application will be submitted to Council for review and assessment. The decision of Council to approve or not approve is final.
5. 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, Council will cease the remission at the end of the rating year in which this becomes apparent.

R21/14 – Remission of rates on Treaty Settlement Lands

Background

Council recognises that post-settlement governance entities which are formed to receive properties returned as a part of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ Treaty of Waitangi settlements, will require time to develop strategic plans, restore protections, and complete necessary works to develop cultural and commercial redress properties.

Treaty Settlement Lands can in some instances be held under General Title rather than being Māori Freehold Land, which means that the rating relief policies for Māori Freehold Land will not apply to all such whenua. This Policy has been developed in recognition of these circumstances and to provide rating relief where appropriate.

Policy Objective

To recognise that lands acquired as part of a settlement process under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ Treaty of Waitangi may be subject to particular conditions or other circumstances which make it appropriate to remit rates.

Scope

This Policy applies only to Treaty Settlement Lands (except where that land is held as Māori Freehold Land), which for the purposes of this Policy means any land which has been:

1. returned to Māori ownership by the Crown as part of a Treaty Claims Settlement (cultural redress), or
2. purchased or otherwise transferred to Māori ownership as a part of a Treaty Claims Settlement to replace land which could not be returned to Māori ownership by the Crown (commercial redress).

Policy Statement

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

Conditions and Criteria

1. The application must include details and supporting evidence that demonstrate that the land which is the subject of the application is Treaty Settlement Land.
2. Treaty Settlement Land that was non-ratable prior to the relevant Treaty Claims Settlement will receive a full rates remission for a period of three years.
3. Where Treaty Settlement Land has been provided under commercial redress but is not in use, Council will grant a 50% remission of rates for a period three years.
4. Where Treaty Settlement Land has been provided under commercial redress and meets the criteria for remission under clauses 2-3 of the Conditions and Criteria of the *R21/13 - 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
5. If the development on which any remission is based does not proceed or is unable to meet the requirements to achieve a viable economic return, Council will cease the remission at the end of the rating year in which this becomes apparent.

R23/15 – Remission Enabling Housing Development on Māori Freehold Land

Background

Section 114A LGRA 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 for a remission of rates for Māori landowners to enable the development of housing opportunities on Māori Freehold Land.

Scope

This Policy applies to Māori Freehold Land only

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.
3. The application can apply to any number of dwellings on a site.
4. Where relevant, the applicant must also demonstrate that they are applying for and being granted any relevant consents (resource consent, building consent, Code Compliance etc.)
5. The applicant must notify the Council Rates Team when any relevant consents/ certifications are granted to ensure the continuation of the remission.
6. Key considerations for Council will include whether:
 - a. Suitable professional advice has been obtained.
 - b. Appropriate financial arrangements for the development of the land have been made.
7. Remission of rates will not apply to charges for service connections, which will remain payable if the property is connected to Council reticulation.
8. If the development on which the remission is based does not proceed or is unable to meet the requirements to be compliant with relevant regulatory requirements, the remission will cease at the end of the rating year in which this becomes apparent.

P21/01 – Remission on 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 Far North District is protected for the purposes of preserving outstanding natural landscapes or for 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 formal protection as per 1a) to 1g) of the Conditions and Criteria of this Policy.
2. Council may **postpone** rates on land subject to formal protection as per 1h) and 1i) of the Conditions and Criteria of this Policy.

Conditions and Criteria

1. The land the subject of an application under this Policy 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 section 338 of the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (Māori Land Act 1993); or
 - 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 the Historic Places Act 1993.
2. Applications must be supported by a copy of the formal protection agreement and any relevant Management Plan detailing how the values of the land are to be maintained, restored, and/or enhanced.
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, a rating unit will be classified as being "in use"², where a person(s):
 - a. Leases the land; or
 - b. Does 1 or more of the following things on the land for profit or other benefit:
 - i. Resides on the land
 - ii. Pastures or maintains livestock on the land
 - iii. Stores anything on the land
 - iv. Uses the land in any other way³
4. 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.
5. The protected and unprotected portions of the rating unit will be separately valued and assessed as separate parts⁴ and the remission or postponement of rates will only apply to the protected portion of the rating unit⁵.
6. Any remission or postponement granted under this Policy will come into effect on 1 July in the rating year following the submission of the application.
7. Any remission or postponement of rates on the land will be cancelled immediately if the land ceases to be protected under a formal protection agreement.
8. Postponed rates that have not been remitted will be repayable if the covenant conditions and the Management Plan objectives are breached.

² SEE definition of "person actually using land or person actually using a rating unit" under section 5 Local Government (Rating) Act 2002

³ Notwithstanding the above definition of in use, 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 use of the land.

⁴ SEE section 45(3) Local Government (Rating) Act 2002

⁵ 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

Specific Conditions and Criteria for Postponement of Rates

1. After a period of ten years, the postponed rates for the first year of the covenant period will be remitted.
2. An additional year of the postponed rates will be remitted each year thereafter, so that a maximum of ten years of postponed rates are held against the land at any given time.
3. 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 and 2 above, will become due.
4. 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.
5. Council will not seek repayment of postponed rates where future postponement is revoked due to Council changing the criteria for postponement.

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P21/03 – Postponement of rates on Landlocked Land

Background

The Property Law Act 2007 (PLA) enables owners of landlocked land to apply to the District Court to gain reasonable access to their property.

Under section 326 PLA:

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.

However, ratepayers may not be in a position to take legal action under the PLA due to financial hardship.

This Policy has been prepared to cover exceptional circumstances and will only be applied after all other avenues for gaining reasonable 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 seek relief under the PLA.

Scope

This Policy applies to both General Title land and Māori Freehold Land.

Policy Statement

Council may postpone rates on landlocked land where there is no reasonable access as defined in section 326 PLA AND that land is not being used for residential or commercial purposes, providing the following criteria are met.

6.3 Conditions and Criteria

1. The land the subject of the application must be landlocked land as defined in Section 326 PLA.
2. The application must describe how the land meets the definition of "landlocked land" under section 326 PLA.
3. The application must provide details of how financial hardship is preventing the applicant from seeking relief under the PLA.
4. The maximum term for the postponement of rates for landlocked land will be three years. If the land remains landlocked at the end of that period, postponed rates will be remitted, but a new application will be required.
5. 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.
6. The land must not be used for the purposes of any residential occupation or any activity commercial purposes, including lease agreements, or storage of equipment, stock or livestock.
7. The repayment of postponed rates will not be required because of a change of ownership provided that the change has not arisen from the sale of the property and 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 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 1998 (RVA).

Section 22 RVA, which was repealed in 2002 by the LGRA, 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 properties 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 for Council to continue to provide rating relief to certain properties that were receiving relief prior to the introduction of the LGRA, and that qualified after that date under revoked Policy P04/04.

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 and 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 rates 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 provide rating relief to farmers who had previously been receiving relief under the RVA and revoked Policy P04/04,

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 rating units which previously qualified for a postponement of rates under Policy P04/04, 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 means:
 - a. 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 and
 - b. where the farming operation provides 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 and.
 - c. The area of the land is not less than 50 hectares.
3. The properties 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.
 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 ratable 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 ratable 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 ratable 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 – Postponement of Residential Rates for Senior Citizens

Background

The payment of rates by senior citizens on a limited income can affect their quality of life. This Policy provides senior citizens with the option of postponing their rates 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 senior citizens 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 only Policy

Policy Statements

Council may postpone rates for ratepayers whose primary income is the New Zealand Superannuation Scheme or other fixed income. 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, as their primary income; or
 - b. on a fixed income: i.e. an income from a pension or investment that is set at a particular figure and does not vary.
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 license 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. 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 to minimize 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 postponement application is granted and must be kept insured. Evidence of this must be produced by the applicant to Council annually.

ML21/01 – Unused Māori Freehold Land

Background

Following 2021 amendments to the LGRA many categories of Māori land became fully non-rateable⁶. Māori land that is fully non-rateable includes:

- Land that is subject to a Nga Whenua Rāhui kawenata under the Reserves Act 1977 or the Conservation Act 1987.
- Land that is used as a Māori burial ground.
- Māori customary land.
- Land that is used for the purposes of a marae or meeting house excluding land used primarily for commercial or agricultural activity; or residential accommodation.
- Māori Reservation Land under Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.
- Unused Māori freehold land, which in this context means that:
 - no one is actually using any part of the land, OR
 - the land is used in a similar manner to a reserve or conservation area and no part of it is subject to a lease, used for residential accommodation; or use for any activity other than personal visits to the land or personal collections of kai or cultural or medicinal material from the land.

The creation of a licence to occupy or any other informal arrangement does not create a separate rating unit. This means that any part of the land that isn't used as part of the occupied portion of the land (referred to as "the balance of land") does not automatically fall under the amendments to the LGRA which 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 of 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 where there is an occupation licence or an informal arrangement for use in place 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 remit the rates relating to the balance of land where there is an occupation licence or informal arrangement in place on the land, 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 :
 - 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. pastures or maintains livestock on the land
 - d. stores anything on the land
 - e. uses the land in any other way⁷
2. If the land comes under use at any point, it will no longer receive remission of rates under this Policy.

⁶ SEE section 8 and Part 1, Schedule 1 LGRA

⁷ SEE Definition of *person actually using land* or *person actually using a rating unit* under section 5 LGRA

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

Background

There are approximately 5,492 Māori Freehold Land Titles in the Far North District covering approximately 138,000 hectares of land. The complex nature of Māori Freehold Land requires Council to have intimate knowledge of the purposes and functions of Māori Freehold Land when dealing with its customers, ratepayers and residents.

The Far North District Council recognises that occupation licenses, rental agreements and various informal occupation 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, lessee/ tenant 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 licences

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.

Rental agreements

Māori land trusts and other management structures are often used to manage whenua in multiple ownership. If housing is provided, the Māori land trust may choose to put in place a rental agreement with occupiers/beneficiaries making use of that housing.

Informal arrangements

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, rental arrangement or informal agreement is generally either not required to pay any rental to the owners of the land (i.e. it is not a commercial arrangement) or where rental is payable it does not result in significant profit or benefit to the owner(s) of the whenua. .

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

This Policy has been prepared to address these issues. It recognises that papakāinga and similar housing on Māori Freehold Land are generally occupied by members of owner's families **rather than being commercial arrangements**.

The Policy is similar 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 to pay the rates on the parts of a rating unit that are the subject of an occupation license, rental agreement or other informal arrangement, Council will issue a separate rates assessment for each part in accordance with section 45 (3) and (4) LGRA.

Policy Objectives

1. To put in place processes to allow the residents with occupation licenses, rental agreements 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.

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.

Scope

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

Conditions and Criteria

1. Council will consider remission of multiple UAGCs and other charges, with the exception of those that are set for the provision of utilities such as water, sewerage, in respect of separately used or inhabited parts of a rating unit where these are the covered by occupation licenses, rental agreements or other informal arrangements.
2. The part of the land concerned must be the subject of a licence to occupy, rental agreement or other informal arrangement for the purposes of providing residential housing for the occupier on a non-commercial basis.
3. 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 section 45(3) LGRA).
4. 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.
5. No portion of the service charges for utilities will be remitted.
6. 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).
7. UAGCs 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

DRAFT

5.3 DISTRICTWIDE REORUA - TE AO MĀRAMA STRATEGY

File Number: A5226932

Author: Jude Campbell, Principal Advisor

Authoriser: Jacine Warmington, Group Manager - Strategic Relationships

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee with the Reorua – Te Ao Mārama Strategy.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Districtwide Reorua – Te Ao Mārama Strategy has been developed in support of Ka Irihia – Te Reo Māori Action Plan which was adopted by Te Kuaka in 2024.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka Committee approve the Districtwide Reorua - Te Ao Mārama Strategy.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika have a formal Rautaki Reorua – Kerikeri Reorua agreement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia with an agreed work programme. This is the first Reorua agreement in the district which assisted in the development of Ka Irihia. This agreement laid the groundwork for the development of Ka Irihia and now informs the wider application through the Reorua – Te Ao Mārama Strategy.

Furthermore, the purpose of Ka Irihia is to affirm Te Reo Māori as a cherished taonga and official language of Aotearoa. In addition, it elevates Council's commitment to He Whakaputanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Tāngata Whenua, Te Pae o Uta – Te Ao Māori Framework (TPoU) and Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP). The objectives of Ka Irihia are as follows:

- Demonstrate leadership in increasing the use of te reo Māori
- Achieve te reo and tikanga staff development outcomes
- Implement effective te reo communication systems and processes
- Increase te reo Māori processes and systems
- To promote the use of Te Reo o Te Hiku o te Ika – Reo o te kāinga

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

The long-term goal of Ka Irihia is to achieve full bilingual status 'Reorua' by 2040, where both languages Te Reo Māori and English are equally valued and utilised. Therefore, the Reorua – Te Ao Mārama Strategy will enact the aspirations of Council's LTP, TPoU, Ka Irihia and support our existing Te Rauora Reorua agreement with Ngāti Rēhia.


TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

This recommendation gives effect to Ka Irihia - Te Reo Māori Action Plan and Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Māori Framework.

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

There are no additional budgetary requirements at this time, as these costs are already accounted for within the current budget provisions under Ka Irihia – Te Reo Māori Plan.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. Ka Irihia Final - A5225771 [↓](#) 
2. Reo Rua Te Ao Marama Strategy - A5226271 [↓](#) 

Hōtaka Take Ōkawa / Compliance Schedule:

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

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

He Take Ōkawa / Compliance Requirement	Aromatawai Kaimahi / Staff Assessment
State the level of significance (high or low) of the issue or proposal as determined by the Council's Significance and Engagement Policy	High significance as the outcomes of the Strategy affect service delivery to the community.
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Maihi Karauna Crown Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2019 – 2023. Te Pae o Uta – Te Ao Maori 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.	This Strategy has districtwide relevance as it affects FNDC staff delivering to the community
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.	This Strategy will contribute to council's vision of achieving a prosperous and sustainable community by providing FNDC staff with the skills and knowledge to engage effectively with Māori communities. This Strategy will be supported by Te Hono to build the capability of FNDC staff by ensuring tools and resources are available to staff. This Strategy is part of the implementation plan which supports Ka Irihia to affirm Te Reo Māori as a cherished taonga and official language of Aotearoa. In addition, it elevates Council's commitment to He Whakaputanga, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Tāngata Whenua, Te Pae o Uta – Te Ao Māori Framework (TPoU) and Council's Long-Term Plan (LTP)
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).	All communities will be affected by, and benefit from the implementation of this Strategy

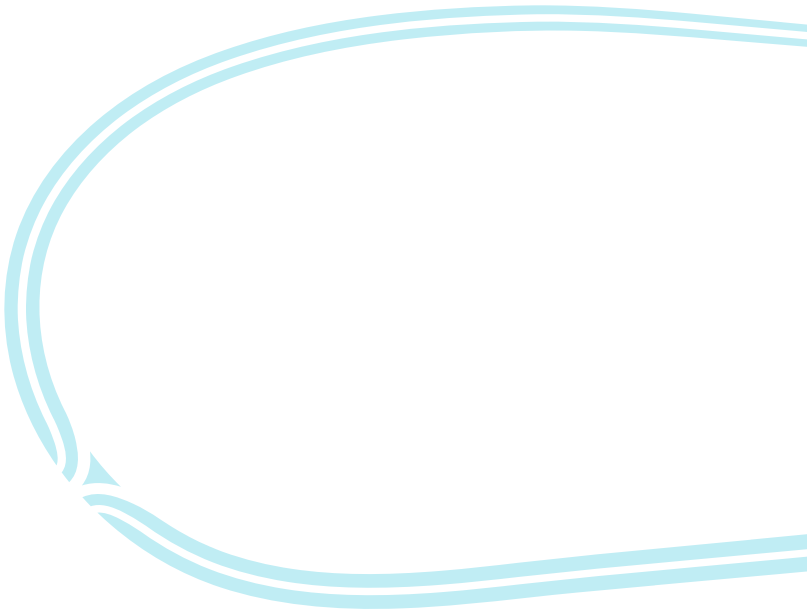
State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.	There are no additional budgetary requirements at this time, as these costs are already accounted for within the current budget provisions under Ka Irihia – Te Reo Māori Plan.
Chief Financial Officer review.	The CFO has not reviewed this report.



KA IRIHIA 2024 TE REO MĀORI ACTION PLAN



SUNRISE: MATAURI BAY



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TE HOROPAKI CONTEXT

Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika honours He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tirenī and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the foundational constitutional documents of Aotearoa. The council acknowledges and gives effect to our Te Pae o Uta framework and the Te Reo and Tikanga Policy.

Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika, located in the Far North District, is the northernmost territorial local authority in Aotearoa. We share borders with the Whangārei and Kaipara Districts and span a land area of 669,251 hectares. Our district boasts an estimated residential population of approximately 74,700 people, with Māori making up over 50% of the total population at around 38,000 individuals. The Far North District is projected to grow to a population of 82,000 by 2043. Our culturally rich area is home to over 200 Hapū, 10 Iwi Rūnanga, and 144 Marae, reflecting our deep and diverse whakapapa.

Te Tai Tokerau holds profound cultural significance for Māori, including Te Rerenga Wairua, the sacred departure place of our spirits; Hokianga, the historic landing site of our tupuna Kupe; and Te Moana Pikopiko o Whiti, where our first constitutional documents, Te Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tirenī and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, were signed.

The introduction of colonial policies and practices had devastating effects on te reo Māori, Māori culture, and identity. Colonisation significantly contributed to the decline of te reo Māori, with historically enforced policies suppressing its use through the education system including corporal punishment, resulting in intergenerational language loss within Māori communities. Today, the lingering effects of these historical injustices continue to impact the vitality and prevalence of te reo Māori.

The Māori Language Act of 2016 plays a crucial role in protecting te reo Māori, and this Te Reo Māori action plan makes a commitment to support revitalisation efforts in Te Tai Tokerau. In the year 2040, marking 200 years since the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika is committed to achieving its goal of having Te Hiku o te Ika become the first regional district to attain Reorua status.

***Kia Toitū Te Reo.
Kia Toitū Te Hiku o te Ika.***

TE TAKE PURPOSE

The purpose of the Te Reo Māori Action Plan for Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika is to affirm the intrinsic value of te reo Māori as a cherished taonga and an official language of Aotearoa New Zealand. This action plan is designed to elevate the council's commitment to tangata whenua, honouring Te Tiriti, giving effect to our Te Ao Māori framework Te Pae o Uta and the revitalisation of te reo Māori. The understanding and use of te reo Māori not only will enrich the lives of all Māori but also all communities of the Far North District. Encouraging all residents of Te Tai Tokerau to embrace te reo Māori will enhance their personal experiences and contribute significantly to the regional and national revitalisation.

By implementing this plan, the council aims to rectify historical injustices, promote social cohesion, and celebrate the unique cultural heritage of Māori within the wider region of Te Tai Tokerau. In September 2023, the Council formally endorsed the Te Reo Māori and Tikanga policy.

INGĀ PAE SCOPE

Te Pae Tata – in near reach, now to 3 years which aligns with the long term plan

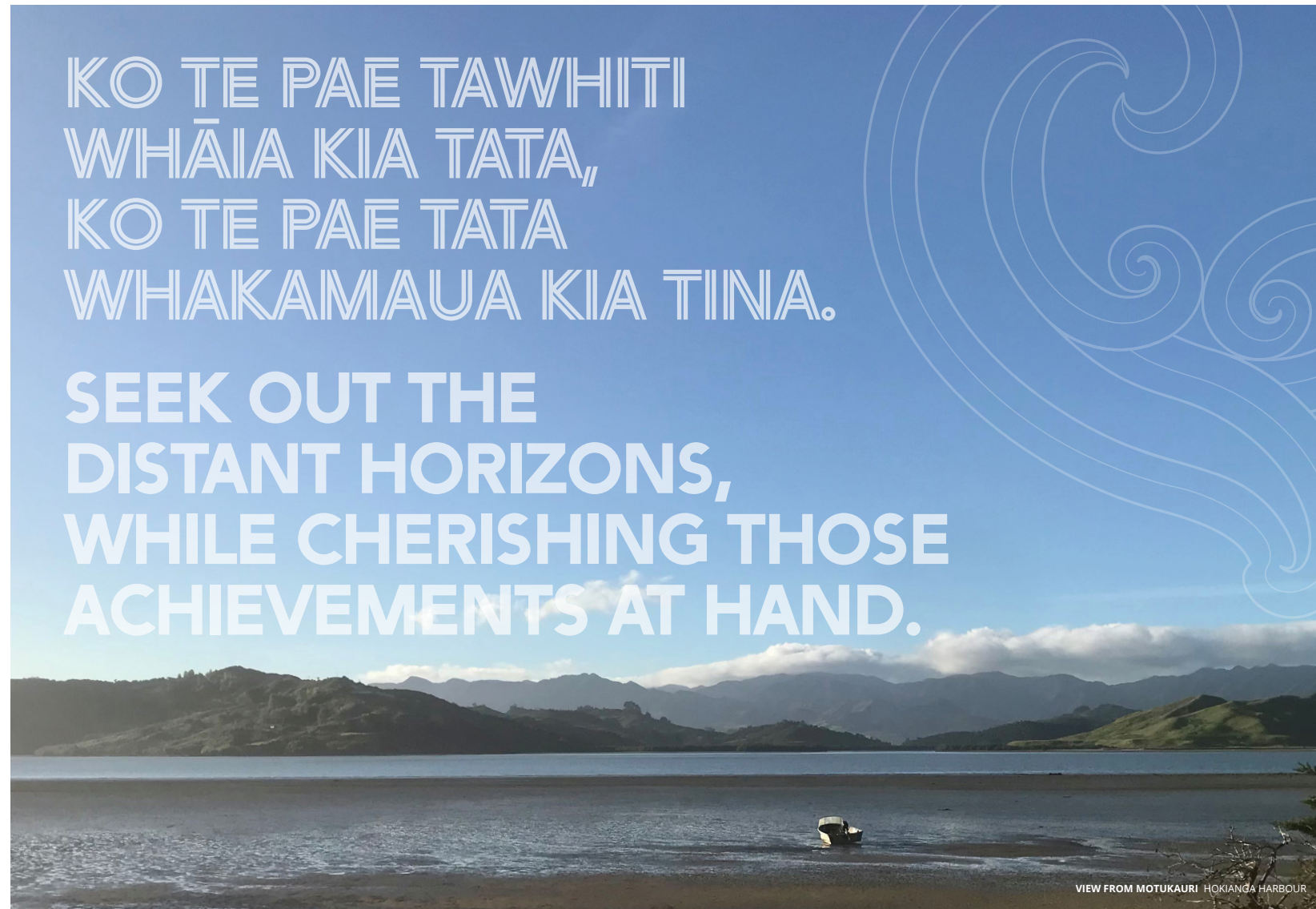
Te Pae Tawhiti – the more distant horizon, every ten years, alignment to the regular long term plan (FN2100 – Strategy)

The action plan has been formatted to show the actions to be taken over a 3-year period which is consistent with the Far North District Council Long-term plan period 2024-2027.

This action plan and te reo revitalisation will be led by Te Hono by implemented by all staff Council-wide. This action plan is supported by the Te Kuaka Māori standing committee, mana whenua/ tangata whenua partnerships, memorandum of understanding agreements with Iwi and Hapū.

The Te Reo Māori action plan will be reviewed triennially to ensure the actions are still relevant to the vision of every town and community in Te Tai Tokerau being reo rua by 2040.

Ka Irihia is endorsed by Te Kuaka Te Ao Maori Committee and approved by Council.



HE KAUPAPA HERE MŌ TE REO ME NGĀ TIKANGA MĀORI TE REO MĀORI AND TIKANGA POLICY

1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose and scope of this Policy is to enable Far North District Council (FNDC) to support the correct usage of Te Reo Māori by providing a framework for its use by FNDC both internally and externally.

2. Vision

The vision is that “By 2025, FNDC has increased the use of Te Reo and Tikanga in our workspaces and the public places we manage as a key element in strengthening our partnership with tangata whenua and in delivering effective services.”

3. Goals and objectives

To achieve our vision and promote the use of Te Reo in our workplaces and the public spaces we manage, FNDC will:

- A.** Demonstrate leadership in increasing the use of Te Reo
- B.** Achieve Te Reo and Tikanga staff development outcomes
- C.** Implement effective Te Reo communication systems and processes
- D.** Increase Te Reo use in human resource processes and systems.

4. Application

This policy applies to:

- i.** all permanent employees
- ii.** fixed term employees.

Casual and temporary employees and those on short term contracts under 6 months are exempt from the training requirements of this policy but must be familiar and work within the policy expectations that impacts on their area of work.

5. Responsibilities

The respective roles and responsibilities for this policy include:

- i.** SLT provides the authority for the policy, and they, and Managers will demonstrate leadership and role modelling in implementing the policy;
- ii.** Employees will be aware of and implement the policy by making the policy and implementation plan available through the intranet and induction and training processes;
- iii.** Te Hono will provide advice and support on any issues associated with the policy;
- iv.** FNDCs trainer in te reo and tikanga will provide clarification during te Reo and training sessions and on a case by case as negotiated and agreed outside of training session times.

6. Relevant Legislation, Policies and Procedures

Legislation	Te Ture Mō te Reo Māori 2016 Māori Language Act 2016 Local Government Act 2002
Council Policies and Procedures	FNDC Tangihanga policy and Koha policy
Other	Te Puni Kōkiri Maihi Māori and Maihi Karauna Te Puni Kōkiri Māori English Bilingual Signage: A guide for best practice
Guiding documents	He Whakaputanga o Niu Tirenī 1835, Te Tiriti o Waitangi 1840,

7. Support

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Te Reo and Tikanga Policy Guidelines.

For more information on Council's 'Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Policy', please email the Te Hono team support at tehonosupport@fndc.govt.nz

8. Definitions

Term	Definition
<i>Tikanga reo rua</i>	<i>Bilingual</i>
<i>Mauri</i>	<i>Life essence</i>



INGĀ KAUPAPA SETTING

The Far North District Council has legislative duties and considerations in accordance with Te Tiriti o Waitangi. These principles are integrated into our daily operations. Here are some methods that support our approach:

- Far North District Council: Te Kuaka Māori standing committee
- Te Pae o Uta – Te Ao Māori framework
- Long term plan
- Online Operative District Plan — Chapter Tangata Whenua
- Tangata Whenua
- Iwi Hapū Environment Management Plans
- Memorandum of Understanding relationship agreements with Iwi and Hapū
- Hapū working groups
- Road Naming Committee
- Terms of Reference and delegations that enable Mana Whenua/Tangata Whenua partners to sit on Council working groups

- Kaikohe Wastewater Treatment working group
- Te Pātukurea Kerikeri Waipapa Spatial plan working group Te Tiriti Framework
- Te Hono roles at Far North District Council
- Manawhakahono ā rohe
- External committee membership

Some of the highlights that support the Council's commitment to te reo Māori me ōna tikanga include:

- Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika perform at Te Tai Tokerau kapa haka regionals and place top 10
- Te Wiki o te reo Māori celebrations
- Puanga/Matariki celebrations
- Facilitating the appropriate cultural karakia and blessings of significant projects and events
- Te Kerikeri — First bilingual town in Te Tai Tokerau (Reo Rua)
- FNDC brand gets refreshed with a new logo and name Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika
- Maramataka integration of into Council formal calendar

TE PAERANGI VISION

Goals and objectives:

To achieve our vision and promote the use of te reo in our workplaces and public spaces we manage, Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika:

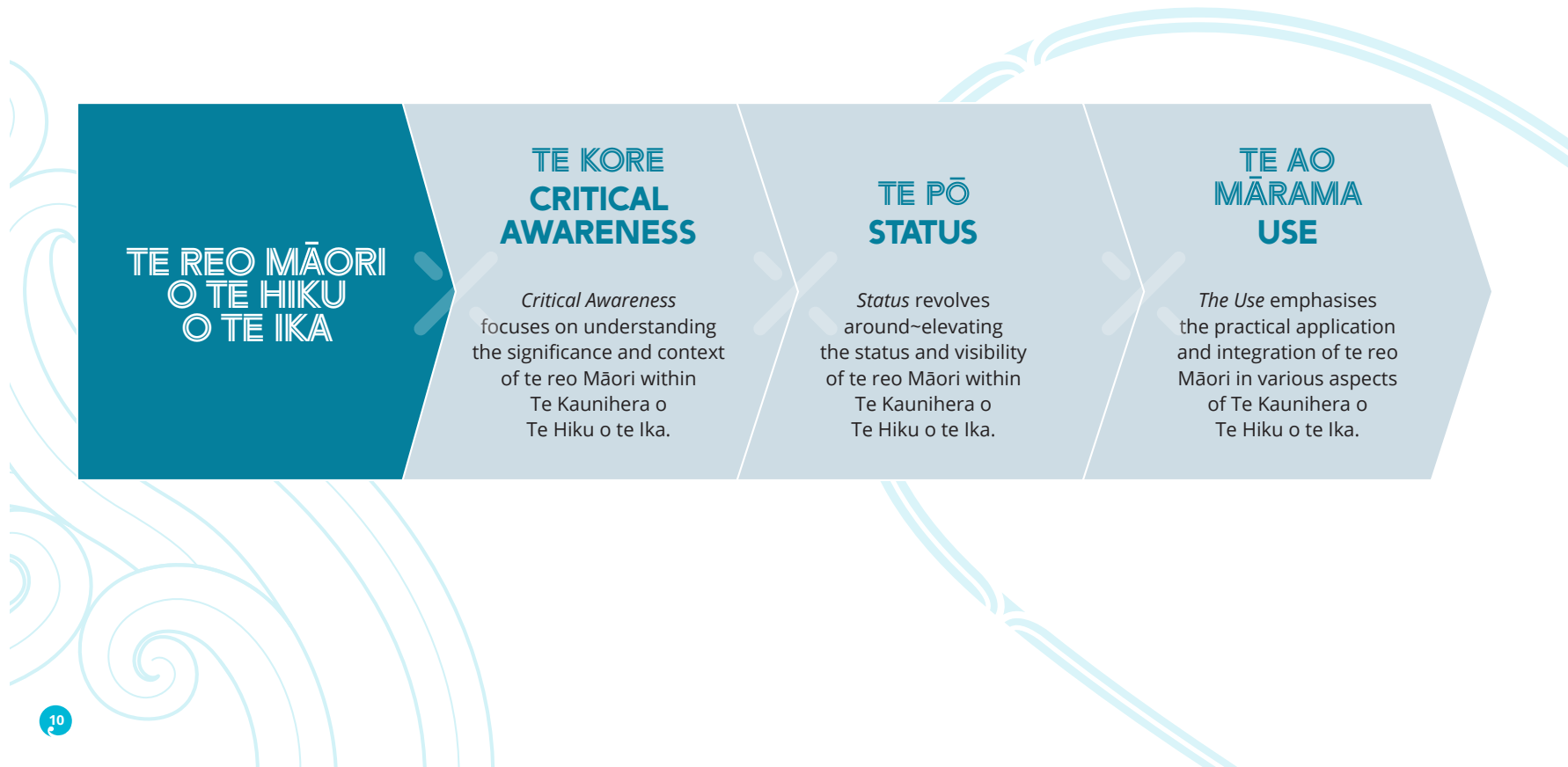
- A** Demonstrate leadership in increasing the use of te reo Māori
- B** Achieve te reo and tikanga staff development outcomes
- C** Implement effective te reo communication systems and processes
- D** Increase te reo use in human resource processes and systems
- E** To promote the use of Te Reo o Te Hiku o te Ika (Reo o te kāinga)

LONG-TERM GOAL

To achieve full bilingual status (reo rua) by 2040, where both languages are equally valued and utilised.



TE RAUTAKI MAHI MŌ TE HIKU O TE IKA ACTIONS



TE KORE CRITICAL AWARENESS

SUCCESS FACTOR	ACTION PLAN STEPS	BY 30 JUNE 2025	BY 30 JUNE 2026	BY 30 JUNE 2027
Annual plans and the Long-Term Plan will reflect our commitment to be a bilingual district by 2040.	Incorporate activities supporting bilingualism into work programs and success metrics within annual and long-term planning cycles.	●		
An updated Naming Policy and Working Group that incorporates processes to adopt more te reo Māori place and space naming.	Develop a policy and working group to facilitate the adoption of te reo Māori names for locations, promoting cultural awareness and revitalisation.	●		
Dual language welcome signs for the whole District.	Install dual-language welcome signs across the district to promote inclusivity and bilingualism.		●	
A procurement process that aligns with our commitment to be a reo rua Māori district by 2040.	Align procurement practices with bilingual objectives, favouring activities contributing to strong te reo Māori community outcomes.		●	
An Arts and Culture Strategy emphasising the importance of Māori performance/events and encouraging te reo Māori me ōna tikanga across the district.	Develop and implement an Arts and Culture Strategy promoting Māori events and traditions while encouraging the use and understanding of te reo Māori across art and culture domains.	●		
Dual Council signage.	Implement dual-language signage across Council facilities to promote te reo Māori use and visibility.	●		
Change Council parks and reserves to reflect the traditional Māori names.	Update Park and reserve names to incorporate traditional Māori names, enhancing cultural recognition and respect.			●

TE KORE
CRITICAL AWARENESS *(continued)*

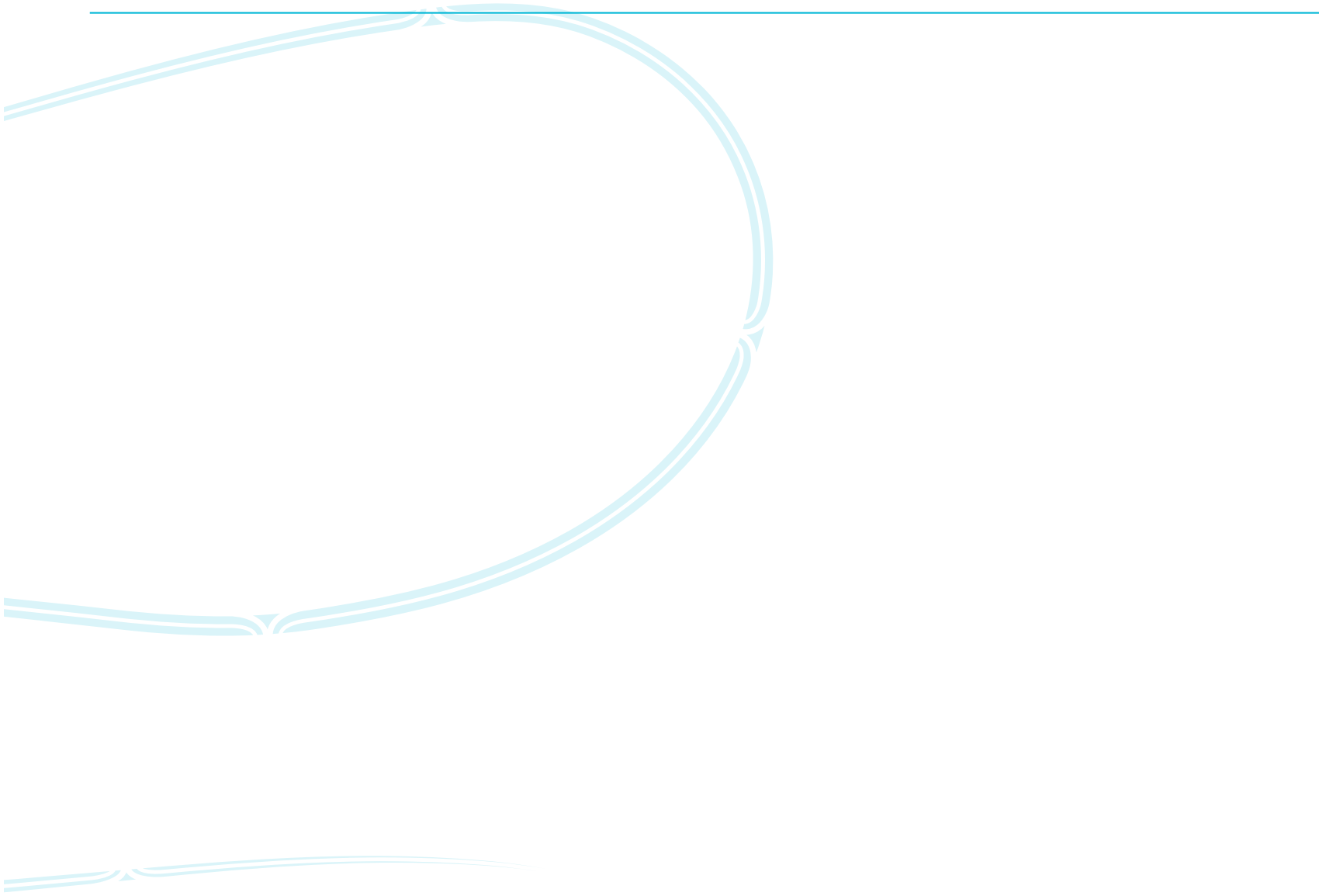
SUCCESS FACTOR	ACTION PLAN STEPS	BY 30 JUNE 2025	BY 30 JUNE 2026	BY 30 JUNE 2027
All Council external communications reflect the Tikanga and Te Reo Policy with dialect from Te Tai Tokerau.	Ensure that all external communications adhere to the Tikanga and Te Reo Policy, incorporating dialect from Te Tai Tokerau to promote language accuracy and cultural sensitivity.		●	
The mayor and elected members will be supported in te reo revitalisation to lead our district to becoming bilingual by 2040.	Provide support, training, and resources for elected officials to lead the district toward bilingual status, including cultural inductions, language lessons, and policy overviews.	●		
The Chief Executive and Senior Leadership team will support the organisation in the journey of te reo revitalisation by 2040.	Provide top-level support and guidance for te reo revitalisation efforts within the organisation, aligning leadership strategies and initiatives with bilingual objectives.	●		
Identify opportunities to sponsor community awards that help recognise and celebrate te reo Māori and Māori champions and leaders.	Establish awards and recognition programs within the community to celebrate achievements and contributions in promoting te reo Māori and Māori leadership.	●		
Facilitate a te reo Māori expo to provide a platform for businesses and organisations to share ideas and best practice.	Organise an expo to promote te reo Māori use, encourage innovation, and facilitate collaboration among businesses and organisations.			●
Work with Te Taura Whiri i te reo Māori, Te Mātāwai, and other central government agencies for a local and regional approach to revitalising te reo Māori.	Collaborate with central agencies for a coordinated approach to te reo Māori initiatives, ensuring effective use of resources and support for a te reo district by 2040.		●	
Develop a reo rua strategy for Te Tai Tokerau.	Create a comprehensive strategy to promote te reo Māori within the district, fostering a bilingual environment in alignment with goals.	●		
Incorporate te reo Māori in the triennial election vote campaign.	Include te reo Māori elements in election campaigns to promote language use and visibility among voters.	●		
Translation and interpretation services for Council and Committee meetings, including a tikanga-based process for deputations.	Provide translation services for te reo Māori presentations and interpretations during Council meetings, ensuring inclusivity and understanding in decision-making processes.		●	
Ensure all job descriptions for Māori-specific roles are translated into te reo Māori.	Translate job descriptions for Māori-specific roles into te reo Māori to promote language use and cultural inclusivity within the organisation.	●		

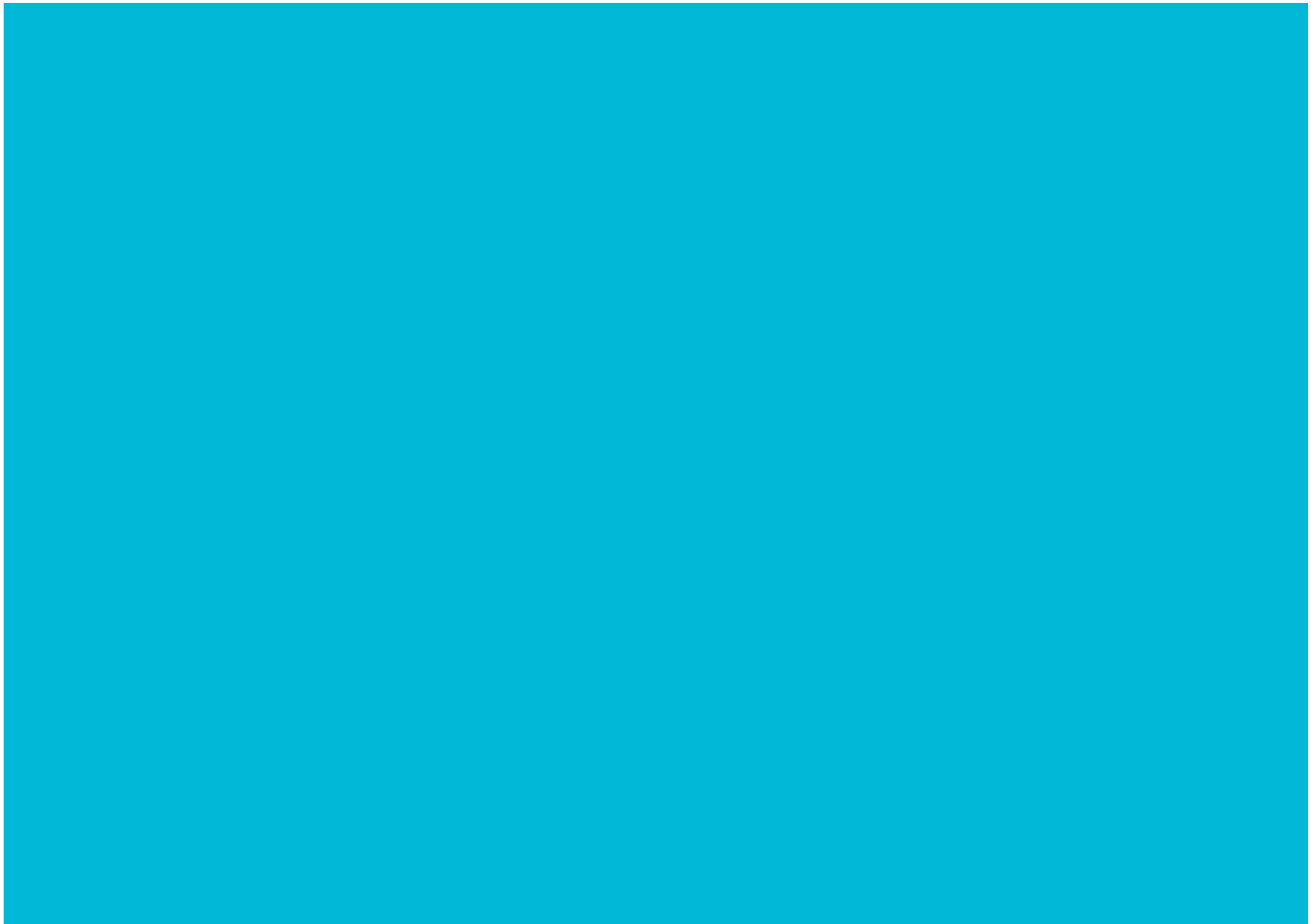
TE PŌ STATUS

SUCCESS FACTOR	ACTION PLAN STEPS	BY 30 JUNE 2025	BY 30 JUNE 2026	BY 30 JUNE 2027
Our public committee and Council chambers reflect our bilingual aspirations, including mahi toi, signage, naming, and tikanga practices.	Establish bilingual practices and cultural elements in public spaces and council environments, showcasing and valuing te reo Māori in official settings and decision-making processes.	●		●
Collaborate with mana whenua and other Māori organisations to create partnership models that maintain a strong mana whenua presence.	Develop partnership models with mana whenua and Māori organisations to promote cultural presence and values within the district, fostering investment and economic development.	●		
Playgrounds will support site storytelling in design, technology, and bilingual signage.	Incorporate storytelling elements and bilingual signage in playground designs to promote cultural narratives and language use among tamariki and whānau.		●	
Bilingual areas at our Council Libraries with te reo Māori resources, books, signage to increase the use of te reo Māori, e.g. at our Council Libraries and Community Centres.	Enhance te reo Māori resources and signage in Council libraries and community centers to promote language learning and cultural engagement among visitors.		●	
Develop a guideline with mana whenua entities that assist Council naming of internal and external working groups.	Create guidelines with mana whenua entities for naming working groups, promoting cultural alignment and sensitivity in organisational practices.	●		
We will ensure that we prioritise karakia, kōrero tuku iho, whakatauhāki, kiwaha and whakapapa of Te Tai Tokerau.	Promote and prioritise traditional Māori practices, narratives, and genealogy of Te Tai Tokerau in organisational activities and engagements.	●		
Level one headings for all reports.	Standardise report headings in te reo Māori to promote language visibility and consistency across Council documentation and communications.	●		
We will upgrade our Council technology to include macronised technology in our systems e.g Info Council.	Integrate macronised te reo Māori technology into Council systems to support accurate language representation and use across digital platforms.		●	

TE AO MĀRAMA USE

SUCCESS FACTOR	ACTION PLAN STEPS	BY 30 JUNE 2025	BY 30 JUNE 2026	BY 30 JUNE 2027
Increase the use of te reo Māori on social media and other Council platforms.	Enhance te reo Māori presence on digital platforms to reach broader audiences and promote language use in modern communication channels.	●		
Council website with full bilingual function.	Council website will have full bilingual function and all te reo Māori headings in English function.		●	
We will use technology in central spaces to tell local Māori history and kōrero tukuīho.	Utilise technology to showcase local Māori history and narratives, promoting cultural understanding and appreciation within the community.		●	
All external Council signage will have correct macrons.	Ensure that Council signs have correct macrons.	●		
All Council strategies and policies that have a narrative must be reflective of pūrākau from Te Tai Tokerau.	Ensure that Council narratives and policies reflect Te Tai Tokerau narratives and pūrākau, promoting cultural authenticity and relevance.	●		
Correcting te reo Māori internal signs and ensure all job descriptions for Māori specific roles are translated into te reo Māori.	Address language errors in internal signage and job descriptions, promoting accurate use of te reo Māori and cultural sensitivity within the organisation.	●		
All Council reports will be peer reviewed for correct te reo Māori grammar, if written in te reo.	Ensure all Council reports are peer reviewed to check te reo Māori grammar, including macrons, correct names, kupu etc.	●		
We will refresh a list of job titles, department names, team names and meeting room names with dialect from Te Tai Tokerau.	Ensure all job titles, department names, team names and meeting room names in te reo Māori have correct dialect from Te Tai Tokerau.	●		



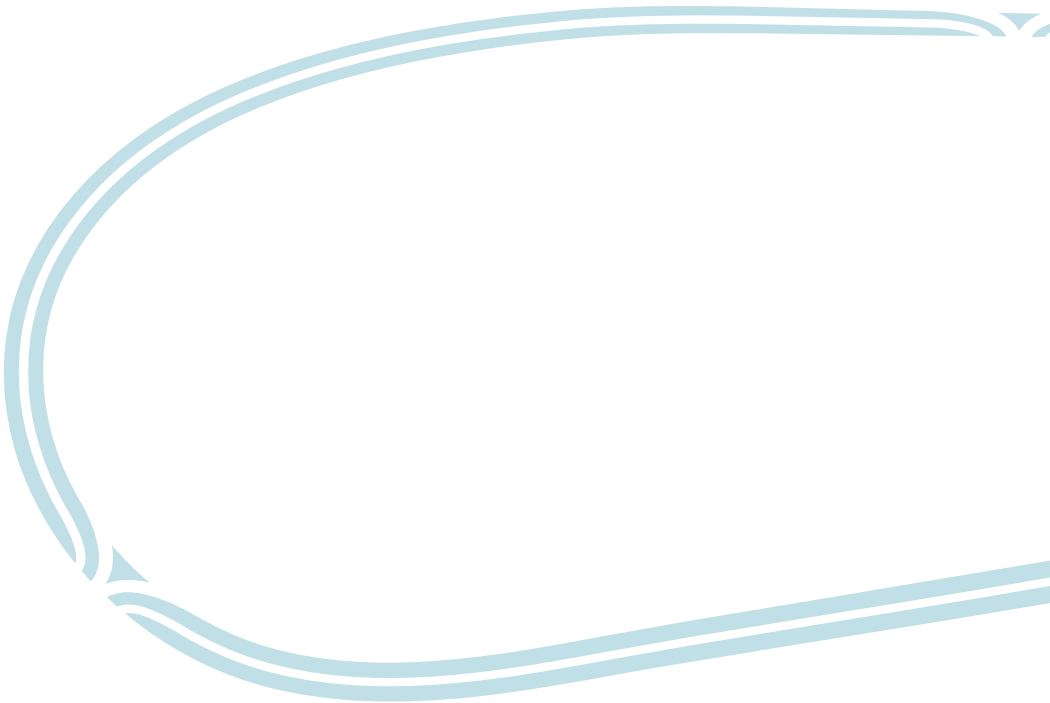




REORUA

Te Ao Mārama





TE HOROPAKI CONTEXT

Council recognises He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tireni and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the foundational constitutional documents of Aotearoa.

This strategy aligns with the council's commitment to Te Pae o Uta Māori Framework and Te Reo and Tikanga Policy, highlighting the importance of te reo Māori and tikanga within the Far North District. Located in Te Tai Tokerau, Council holds a unique position as the northern most territorial local authority in Aotearoa, covering a diverse area of 669,251 hectares with an estimated population of 74,700, of which Māori represent over 50%.

The Far North District is rich in cultural heritage, home to over 200 hapū, 10 iwi rūnanga, and 144 marae, reflecting a vibrant and diverse whakapapa. This land holds deep cultural significance, with landmarks such as Te Rerenga Wairua—the sacred departure place of spirits, Hokianga—the historic landing site of Kupe,

and Te Moana Pikopiko o Whiti, where He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti were signed. These places anchor the profound connections between Māori identity and the whenua.

Colonisation had a lasting impact on te reo Māori and Māori culture, with policies that discouraged its use, leading to significant language loss across generations. Today, the legacy of these injustices continues to affect the vitality of te reo Māori. However, under the guidance of the Māori Language Act 2016, Council is committed to protecting and revitalising te reo Māori as part of the district's identity and future.

This Reorua Strategy represents a commitment to honour our past while shaping a bilingual

future. By 2040, the council aims for Te Hiku o te Ika to become the first regional district to achieve Reorua status. Through this strategy, Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika seeks to empower communities, support bilingual initiatives, and create a thriving environment where te reo Māori and English stand side by side, ensuring a meaningful legacy for generations to come.

WHAKATAKINGA INTRODUCTION

This Reorua Strategy for Council is shaped by Ka Irihia Te Reo Māori action plan and Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Māori framework, which collectively envision a community where everyone within Council has an appreciation of te reo Māori, tikanga, and Māori culture. This is being served by Te Pae o Waho, a cultural competency programme delivered by Council. It also reflects the Far North District Council's commitment to Te Ao Māori, as highlighted in our 2024-2027 Long Term Plan, Te Pae Tawhiti.

Prepared within the context of Te Reo Māori Language Act 2016 and Te Whare o te Reo Mauri Ora, this strategy utilises Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori guidelines for language planning. It aligns with the Maihi Karauna goal that by 2040, at least 85 percent of New Zealanders will value te reo Māori as a core part of national identity. This strategy aims to foster a bilingual future where te reo Māori and English coexist, creating an inclusive and culturally rich community that honours our whakapapa and tuakiritanga as Māori.

INGĀ WHĀINGA RAUTAKI STRATEGIC GOALS



KEI (STERN)

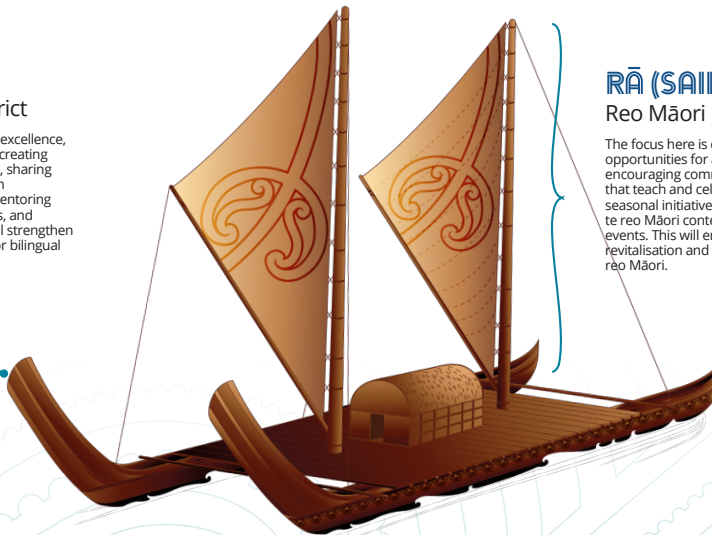
Reorua Leadership Beyond the District

This wāhanga positions the district as a leader in bilingual excellence, setting an example for others to follow. The goals include creating opportunities for collaboration with other councils and iwi, sharing successful practices, and supporting neighbouring areas in developing their own Reorua strategies. Actions involve mentoring other regions, providing bilingual resources and templates, and facilitating knowledge-sharing forums. These initiatives will strengthen regional partnerships and establish the district as a hub for bilingual innovation and leadership.

RĀ (SAIL)

Reo Māori Learning Opportunities

The focus here is on broadening access to te reo Māori learning opportunities for all residents of the district. Goals include encouraging community-led projects and expanding programmes that teach and celebrate te reo Māori. Actions involve running seasonal initiatives aligned with the Māori lunar calendar, increasing te reo Māori content in media, and supporting locally driven language events. This will empower residents to take ownership of language revitalisation and build a stronger community connection through te reo Māori.



TAUIHU (PROW)

Community Identity & Mana of Te Reo Māori

This wāhanga aims to raise the profile of te reo Māori across the district, embedding bilingualism as a core part of the community's identity. The goals are to increase the visibility and use of te reo Māori in public spaces and to establish bilingualism as a defining feature of the district's character. Planned activities include hosting workshops for community members and ensuring bilingual representation in signage, events, and public spaces. These actions aim to normalise te reo Māori within the community and recognition of its significance.

TANGERE (HULL)

Internal Capacity Building

This focus area is about strengthening the internal capabilities of key partners, including the council and iwi, to lead the Reorua movement effectively. The objectives are to improve staff and leadership proficiency in te reo Māori, integrate bilingual practices into all services, and establish systems to monitor progress. Key actions include providing regular language training, developing bilingual operational systems, and conducting periodic evaluations. The expected outcomes are better fluency in te reo Māori among staff and leaders and improved bilingual processes within the organisation.

Each ward within the Far North will have tailored strategic focus areas with local hapū and iwi, including:

		MAIHI MĀORI	MAIHI KARAUNA	TE KAUNIHERA O TE HIKU O TE IKA
<div><div>>> STRATEGIC FOCUS 1</div><div>Partners will continuously build their own Reorua capacity and capability to support the revitalisation of te reo Māori.</div><div>>> STRATEGIC FOCUS 2</div><div>Enhance the mana and status of te reo Māori within the area.</div><div>>> STRATEGIC FOCUS 3</div><div>Increase the availability of reo Māori acquisition and learning opportunities in the area.</div><div>>> STRATEGIC FOCUS 4</div><div>Expand the Reorua kaupapa and share insights and learnings with other regions.</div></div> <div>Ref: Māori population estimates and projections for the Far North District, New Zealand - Figure.NZ</div>	Shared vision	Kia Mauri Ora te reo Māori		
	Vision	Kia Ūkaipō anō te Reo	Kia Māhorahora te Reo	Kia Rāhiri mai te Reo
	Focus	'Micro': whānau, homes and communities	'Macro': societal and system level	Micro and Macro in the district of Te Kaunihera o te Hiku o te Ika
	Audacious goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1,000,000 people using te reo Māori in community immersion domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 2040, 85 per cent of New Zealanders (or more) will value te reo Māori as a key part of national identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 2040, 85 percent of the population of the Far North District will value te reo Māori as a key part of their national identity
		<ul style="list-style-type: none">25 per cent of Māori children (age 0-7) speaking te reo Māori as a first language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 2040, 1,000,000 New Zealanders (or more) will have the ability and confidence to talk about at least basic things in te reo Māori	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 2040, 25% of Māori children (age 0-7) speaking te reo Māori as a first language
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 2040, 150,000 Māori aged 15 and over will use te reo Māori as much as English	<ul style="list-style-type: none">By 2040, 85 per cent of the estimated Māori population in the Far North District aged 15 and over will use te reo Māori as much as English

HE MAHERE HĀNGAI IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

>> PHASE 1 BAY OF ISLANDS/ WHANGAROA WARD

Objective: Establish foundational bilingual practices in key cultural and historical areas and empower the community to engage in Reorua initiatives.

ACTIONS

- 1. Bilingual Signage Implementation:**
 - Install dual-language signs at entry points and throughout public spaces such as parks, community centres, and libraries.
- 2. Cultural Integration in Tourism:**
 - Collaborate with local tourism providers to include te reo Māori in their offerings, including tours, signage, and digital content.

- 3. Staff Development:**
 - Provide regular te reo Māori training for council staff, particularly those in customer-facing roles, to ensure bilingual services.
- 4. Community Engagement:**
 - Host community workshops to promote the benefits of Reorua and raise awareness about the importance of preserving te reo Māori.
- 5. Collaborate with Iwi and Hapū:**
 - Work with local iwi and hapū to align bilingual efforts with tikanga Māori and cultural practices, ensuring te reo Māori is used respectfully and authentically.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES BY 2025:

- Bilingual signage across key public areas.
- Increased community participation in te reo Māori learning and Reorua events.
- Te reo Māori used in local tourism and business practices.

>> PHASE 2 KAIKOHE/HOKIANGA WARD

Objective: Strengthen the use of te reo Māori in council services, public spaces, and education, ensuring the community actively participates in language revitalisation.

ACTIONS:

- 1. Bilingual Council Services:**
 - Ensure that council services (including customer service desks, websites, and public documents) provide bilingual options, including te reo Māori translations.
- 2. Community Language Hubs:**
 - Establish language hubs in key locations such as Kaikohe, Rāwene and Panguru to offer te reo Māori classes, language resources, and cultural events.

3. Te Reo Māori in Education:

- Partner with local schools to support te reo Māori immersion and bilingual education programmes, ensuring that children are exposed to te reo Māori from an early age.

4. Cultural Celebrations:

- Organise and support cultural events such as Matariki, and include te reo Māori in ceremonies, performances, and public celebrations.

5. Integration into Public Infrastructure:

- Rename parks, reserves, and public spaces to reflect Māori names, ensuring visibility of te reo Māori in the physical environment.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES BY 2026:

- Bilingual services and signage available in Kaikohe and Hokianga.
- Strong partnerships with schools to promote te reo Māori immersion.
- Community hubs offering regular te reo Māori classes and events.

>> PHASE 3 TE HIKU WARD

Objective: Position Te Hiku as a model of bilingual excellence, integrating te reo Māori into all aspects of public life and creating a sustainable, long-term framework for Reorua.

ACTIONS:

1. Bilingual Leadership and Mentorship:

- Establish Te Hiku as a hub for Reorua leadership, providing mentorship and guidance to other regions and councils in adopting bilingual practices.

2. Public Space and Infrastructure Development:

- Develop new and existing infrastructure (e.g., parks, civic buildings) to feature bilingual signage and Māori naming conventions.

3. Promotion of Bilingual Tourism:

- Expand bilingual tourism initiatives at key landmarks like Te Rerenga Wairua and Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe, integrating cultural narratives and te reo Māori into tourist experiences.

4. Youth Engagement:

- Support youth-led initiatives that promote te reo Māori, including student competitions, language learning groups, and cultural events.

5. Digital and Media Integration:

- Enhance the presence of te reo Māori across digital platforms, including council websites, social media, and local news outlets.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES BY 2027:

- Te Hiku recognised as a leader in Reorua across the district.
- Bilingual infrastructure and public spaces across Te Hiku, reflecting Māori heritage and language.
- Increased visibility of te reo Māori in digital media and tourism.

>> DISTRICT-WIDE OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

KEY ACTIONS:

1. Bilingual policies and guidelines:

- Develop and implement council-wide policies that embed bilingualism in all aspects of operations, from communications to procurement.

>> DISTRICT-WIDE OPERATIONAL PROCESSES (continued)

2. Staff Training and Development:

- Ensure all council staff, especially those in leadership and customer-facing roles, undergo regular te reo Māori and tikanga Māori training.

3. Monitoring and Reporting:

- Establish a monitoring framework to track progress towards Reorua goals. Regularly report on achievements and challenges in council communications and public forums.

4. Community Engagement and Collaboration:

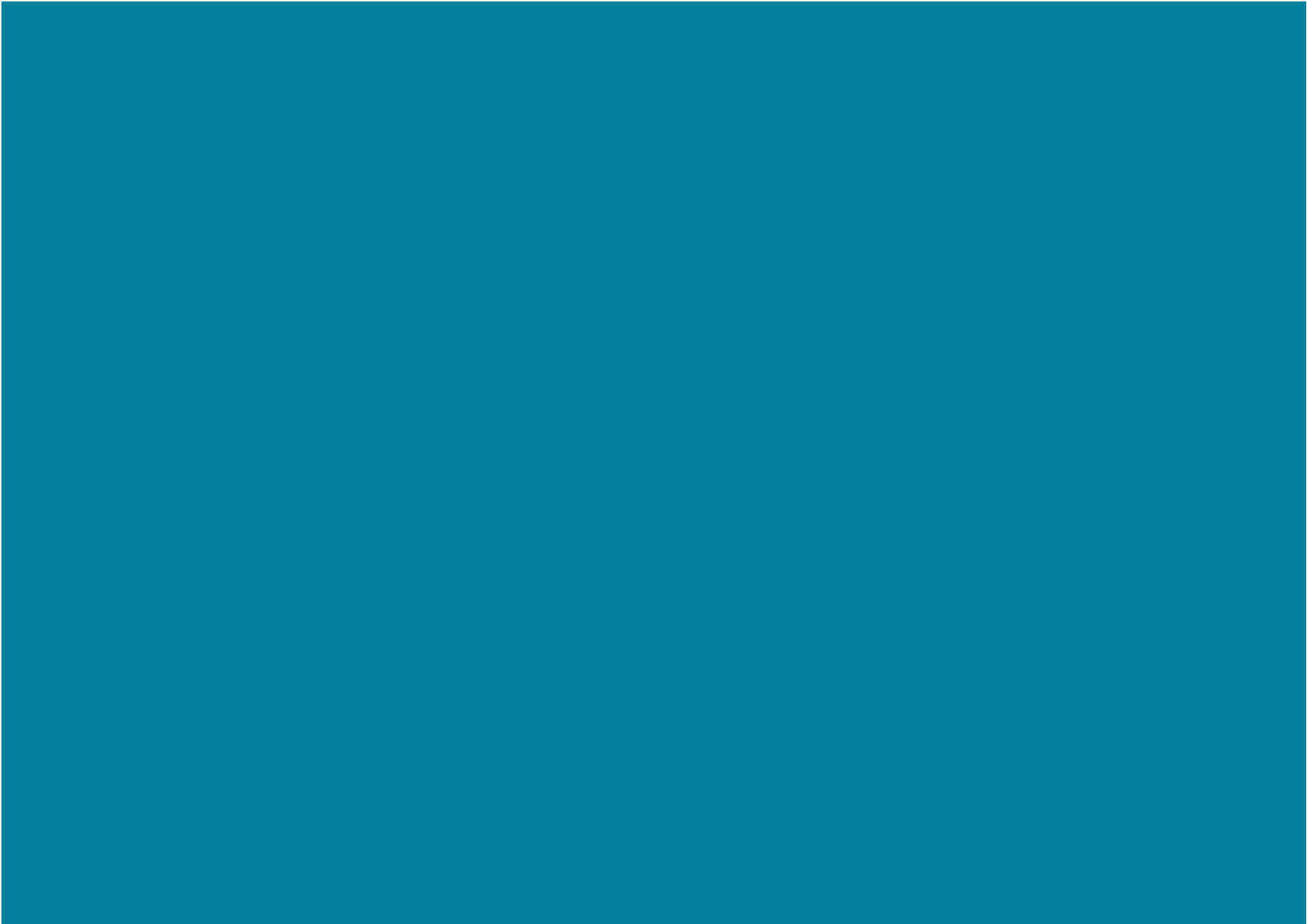
- Work closely with iwi, hapū, and community organisations to ensure that Reorua initiatives are culturally appropriate and inclusive, reflecting local needs and aspirations.

5. Funding and Resource Allocation:

- Ensure that sufficient resources and funding are allocated to support Reorua initiatives, particularly in education, community projects, and infrastructure development.

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES BY 2030:

- A fully bilingual Far North District, with te reo Māori and English used interchangeably in public spaces, council services, and media.
- Te reo Māori embedded in the cultural and educational life of the community, ensuring the language thrives for future generations.



6 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

6.1 WHENUA MAORI - FREEHOLD LAND RATING RELIEF

File Number: A5202855

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 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 Maori - Freehold Land Rating Relief.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The following is an outline of actions that have been completed since the 25 September 2024 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 (received by 30/12/24 due to vendors health issues this has added additional delays)	01/05/24	19/08/24

In progress	Start date	End date
Review of existing rating relief policies	01/05/24	WIP
Commence engagement. (have extended the end date to 30 June 2025)	30/09/24	30/06/25
Data analysis utilising geospatial mapping to review the balance of 2,501 accounts (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).	27/09/24	30/06/25

Next steps	Start date	End date
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Build layers to utilise geospatial mapping for data analysis (We had data corruption previously; they have been resolved but vendors health issues have added additional delays. To be completed by 30/12/2024) Verbal update was provided in April hui.	13/09/24	30/12/24
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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 \$1,026,433.16 for 236 properties, has been written off since the start of the working group was established. \$432,738.21 of the above is the CE write offs that have been processed this rating year. We currently have 4 Chief Executive write off applications to be processed.

To date we have received payments of \$194,996.66 for rate arrears and payments of \$2,337,811.73 towards current rates.

Revenue Recovery have started manually reviewing the 2501 rate accounts due to the ongoing delays of the geo-spatial mapping tool. As of 22 May 2025, the team have reviewed 763 accounts. From this data 178 accounts need further investigation.

Review	Contact details	Used	Current	Payment arrangements	Remission	Living	GT	
YES		571	678	426	179	141	698	10
NO		190	0	337	584	583	18	748
Needs more information		2	85	0	0	39	47	5
Total		763	763	763	763	763	763	763

Marae visits

Since the last report we have had to change the scheduled marae hui. This was due to the marae committee closing their doors earlier than anticipated for renovations. A meeting with Te Puni Kokiri to discuss their participation in the remaining marae hui has been scheduled for Monday 26 May.

The final Whenua Māori hui, originally scheduled for Thursday 12 June at Kokohuia (Te Whakarongotai Marae), has been cancelled. Kokohuia Marae is no longer able to host the hui, and despite best efforts, we have been unable to secure an alternative venue in time. The working group has therefore made the decision to cancel this final hui.

The confirmed date and time for the below marae:

Day	Date	Marae	Time
Saturday	7 June 2025	Te Tii Marae	10am

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.

We have requested that the FNDC Multimedia Strategy & Communications Advisor attend the Te Tii Waitangi Marae hui to make a short film of the day.

Social media posts/reels data analysis of marae hui:

- Waipuna Marae – 1051 views, reached 511 people and 7 interactions.
- Otiria Marae – 4217 views, reached 881 people and 21 interactions.
- Roma Marae – 20,926 views, reached 19,643 people and 303 interactions.
- Haititaimarangai Marae postponed hui – 51,827 views, reached 32,450 people and 379 interactions.

Cultural events

Members of the working group attended Te Tai Tokerau Kapahaka Festival in Opononi. Staff will be attending Ngā Manu Kōrero o Te Tai Tokerau, 4-6 June 2025, information on Whenua Māori and upcoming hui will be available.

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

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.2 LOCAL WATERS DONE WELL - JUNE UPDATE

File Number: A5225104

Author: Andy Dowdle, Change Specialist - Organisational Development

Authoriser: Charlie Billington, Group Manager - Corporate Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide an update to Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee on Far North District Council (FNDC) progress in developing a model for delivering water services under the new Government Local Water Done Well (LWDW) legislation.

WHAKARĀPOPO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Council consulted with the community on how water services in the Far North to be delivered in the future.
- Two options were proposed in the consultation material: a strengthened in-house model (Te Pēke – FNDC's current preferred option), or a joint water services organisation with Whangārei and Kaipara (Te Kete)
- Six detailed submissions were received from iwi and hapū or individuals representing iwi / hapū. These included two verbal submissions and five written reports (in attachments)

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive the report Local Waters Done Well – June Update.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The Local Water Done Well (LWDW) project team presented to the 24 April 2025 Te Kuaka - Te Ao Māori Committee meeting to provide an overview of the LWDW legislation, how it impacts the Far North, the options for delivering water services and the timeline for delivery. A presentation was also made available for the Te Kahu o Taonui hui on the same day. The project team outlined its intention to provide further updates at the June and August Te Kuaka meetings.

It is proposed that council will consider and decide on which model best services the needs of the Far North community within a 'three pillars' framework. The three pillars being

- 1) Public feedback received during consultation.
- 2) Iwi / Hapū feedback, and
- 3) Input provided by a Regional Working Group of Elected Members (see below).

The Regional Working Group is comprised of three Elected Members from each of the district councils in Te Tai Tokerau. FNDC is represented on the working group by Kahika Moko Tepania, Cr Ann Court and Cr John Vujcich.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

At the time of presenting to the April Te Kuaka committee meeting FNDC had just initiated consultation required by the LWDW legislation. The consultation sought feedback from the community on options for water service delivery.

In total there were 116 submissions to the SCP. Iwi / Hapū were well represented in submissions. Six of the eight detailed submissions (see attachment) and two of the four oral submissions represented the views of Iwi / Hapū.

Iwi / Hapū submissions

With one exception (that presented an alternative more localised model) all iwi / hapū feedback supported Te Pēke believing it offers the greatest scope for the role of Iwi in the future governance of water services delivery. Below is a summary of key submitters

IWI / HAPŪ
Ngāti Korokoro Hapū
Ngāti Kōpaki
Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia
Te Rarawa
Te Uri Taniwha
Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa
Te Hiku, Ngati Kuri, Te Aupouri, Ngāi Takoto, Te Rarawa

Summary of key points from submissions

[Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa](#)

Support for Te Pēke is conditional on:

- a) embedding iwi and hapū authority in governance
- b) upholding Te Mana o te Wai
- c) maintaining local decision-making and
- d) enabling intergenerational investment.

Recommendations to:

- a) establish an Iwi-Governance Oversight Group
- b) require Cultural Impact Assessments (CIA) for infrastructure upgrades
- c) investment in training and employment of Whangaroa-based environmental monitors and
- d) Localised Resilience Planning. A formal response is requested.

[Executive Leaders for Joint Te Hiku \(Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupouri, Ngāi Takoto, and Te Rarawa\)](#)

Proposal to establish Te Hiku Water Authority. A co-governed entity with equal decisionmaking and representation from Te Hiku and Council.

[Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia \(TNOR\)](#)

TRONR supports the "Strengthened In-House" model, provided it embeds:

- a) hapū co-governance and decision-making
- b) Reflects Te Tiriti and He Whakaputanga in both structure and practice
- c) Enables sustainable and affordable service delivery for whānau

- d) Local control remains and is resourced appropriately to uphold obligations to tangata whenua. There are seven specific recommendations (see Appendix – Iwi / Hapū submissions).

Te Rarawa (Environmental Project Team)

Preferred option is Te Pēke with recommendations to:

- a) continue engaging with tangata whenua
- b) strengthen in-house delivery with investment in technical capability and regional collaborations
- c) manage stormwater as part of integrated three waters approach to reflect ecological realities
- d) prioritize affordability, climate resilience and cultural partnership in all planning.

Ngāti Kōpaki Hapū

A local approach (Te Pēke) is preferred but noted a number of specific local concerns primarily relating to the drawing of water from within the rohe.

Next Steps

Te Hono has joined the LWDW project team to take the lead in iwi engagement, responding to detailed submissions and ensuring iwi views are reflected in the Water Services Delivery Plan (WSDP) that details how Far North water services will be delivered into the future.

The WSDP must be submitted to Government by the **3 September 2025**.

In leading the engagement Te Hono will take on board learnings from Waipuna-ā-Rangi (established during the previous Government 'Three Waters Reforms') and align with the district-wide kaupapa framework/steering group.

A further update will be provided at the August Te Kuaka hui.

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

The financial implications of decisions made, in determining which method of delivering water services is selected, are significant and were outlined in some detail in the attached Consultation Document.

ĀPITI HANGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. LWDW Special Consultation Procedure - Iwi submissions - A5225116 [↓](#) 

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia

Introduction

Ngāti Rēhia mata momoe, Ngāti Rēhia mata kakā.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia (TRONR) is the hapū authority for Ngāti Rēhia, based in the Bay of Islands. As tangata whenua and ahi kā, we hold Mana i te Whenua and Mana i te Moana. We are the kaitiaki of Te Riu o Ngāti Rēhia, encompassing sacred mountains, rivers, wetlands, and aquifers. Our submission affirms our constitutional rights under He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The hapū and whanau of Ngāti Rēhia, understand the importance of our natural environment and looking after it for future generations. We see our world from a holistic perspective which includes us as people as part of a whole system, not separate to it. It is through this lens that we look at our human behaviour and the need to manage us as people, not nature.

Being the Tangata whenua of our beautiful rohe, we are protective of our cultural relationship to our waterways. We want to make sure that land use practises have little to no impact on our fragile awa environment as our waterways travel to our coast, which is the food basket for all the hapū who whakapapa to the Bay of Islands. As Kaitiaki of our rohe, Ngāti Rēhia are responsible to make sure that our taonga awa areas are protected from any further degradation and are enhanced by any human activity.

Our HEMP states that:

“Traditionally, our Tūpuna distinguished between many types of water – wai tapu or sacred water, wai noa used for everyday drinking and washing, etc. Water was used for ceremonial purposes, for daily consumption, for transportation and as the home of important mahinga kai and cultural materials. Waterways often form traditional boundaries between hapū and whānau rohe.

In those times, before the advent of earth moving machinery, ploughs, major roads and bridges, irrigated horticulture, reticulated sewerage systems and treatment plants, stormwater systems and subdivisions the threats to water quality and water quantity were nothing like they are today. Strict tikanga was used to control the impact of people and our communities on water quality. Human effluent, for example, was never discharged to water without first being passed through the land.

The greatest threat to our water resources comes from the things we discharge into them – effluent from people and animals, treated and untreated, chemicals, fertilisers,

pesticides, sediments, contaminated stormwater, road run-off with its toxic cargo of heavy metals, rubbish and litter. The invention of the flush toilet and its “out of sight, out of mind” thinking has had a huge and devastating impact on our waterways.”

Te Aro Manatu - MOU

On 11 December 2024 FNDC and TRONR entered into a memorandum of understanding in recognition of an enduring relationship and to work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

The Council works in collaboration with the TRONR, to establish and build upon a functional relationship that provides adequate processes and policies, functions and duties to support the aspirations of Ngāti Rēhia;

The Rūnanga assist Council in meeting its statutory duties under the Resource Management Act 1991 by providing meaningful input on matters relating to the relationship of Ngāti Rēhia whānui and their culture and traditions with ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu, and associated taonga and the kaitiakitanga responsibilities of Ngāti Rēhia.

Our Position on ** Water Service Delivery Options**

TRONR supports the "Strengthened In-House" model (Te Pēke), provided it:

- Embeds hapū co-governance and decision-making
- Reflects Te Tiriti and He Whakaputanga in both structure and practice
- Enables sustainable and affordable service delivery for whānau
- Local control remains Is resourced appropriately to uphold obligations to tangata whenua

We oppose any model that does not recognise the principles agreed in the MOU or dilutes hapū aspirations or kaitiaki responsibilities within our rohe.

Key Issues and Recommendations

2.1 Mana Whakahaere Must Be Central

The governance and delivery of water infrastructure must centre Mana Whakahaere as articulated in the NPS-FM. Hapū must be recognised not just as advisors but as co-authors of solutions.

Recommendation: Formalise co-governance between FNDC and TRONR across planning, compliance, and investment prioritisation.

2.2 Cultural and Environmental Values Must Drive Infrastructure Planning

TRONR has consistently opposed effluent discharge to water and has championed upstream solutions grounded in kaitiakitanga. The Ngāti Rēhia HEMP (2018) outlines policies and principles for freshwater, stormwater, and wastewater management.

Recommendation: All infrastructure projects under the WSDP must be assessed against the Ngāti Rēhia HEMP and our established water protection policies.

2.3 Giving Effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

FNDC must give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, not just reference it. This means recognising tino rangatiratanga in governance structures, ensuring shared authority, and resourcing hapū participation.

Recommendation: Include specific clauses in the WSDP that detail how FNDC will give effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and uphold hapū rangatiratanga.

2.4 Ensuring Affordability and Equity

Many of our whānau live on ancestral lands with variable infrastructure access. Increasing service charges without bespoke affordability pathways deepens inequity.

Recommendation: Develop affordability schemes and infrastructure support for whenua Māori, papakāinga, and hapū collectives in partnership with TRONR.

2.5 Localised Resilience and Innovation

TRONR supports water resilience solutions such as rainwater harvesting, maara systems, and wetland restoration informed by maramataka and mātauranga Māori.

Recommendation: Invest in whānau and hapū-led innovation programmes as part of the WSDP implementation.

2.6 Aligning with the Mana Whakahono Ā Rohe Agreement

TRONR holds a Mana Whakahono Ā Rohe agreement with Northland Regional Council. This agreement affirms our role as Mana Whakahaere and commits the Council to partner with us in freshwater and resource management planning.

Recommendation: FNDC must align its governance and engagement processes with the principles and commitments set out in our existing Mana Whakahono Ā Rohe.

2.7 Integration of Ngāti Rēhia Water Review (Stage 1)

TRONR has completed Stage 1 of our Te Mana o te Wai Policy Review (2024). This document provides a hapū-led planning approach grounded in the NPS-FM, cosmological perspectives of wai, and detailed environmental outcomes. It includes methods to restore the mauri of waterways, prohibit effluent discharge, and support maramataka-based water management.

Recommendation: FNDC must formally acknowledge the Ngāti Rēhia Water Review Stage 1 as a hapū water policy framework. Any future infrastructure investment or service delivery impacting our rohe must align with these principles.

Conclusion

The delivery of water services must move beyond technical compliance and embed kaupapa, tikanga, and whanaungatanga. TRONR seeks not consultation after decisions are made, but a seat at the table where decisions begin.

Our rohe is not just serviced by infrastructure, it is shaped by wai as taonga tuku iho. We urge FNDC to implement a delivery plan that is equitable, sustainable, and grounded in hapū partnership.

We look forward to working together on this kaupapa.

Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa

1. Introduction

Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa (TROW) acknowledges the opportunity to provide feedback on the Far North District Council's (FNDC) proposed water service delivery models: *Te pēke* (strengthened in-house) and *Te kete* (three-council shared organisation). As the Mandated Iwi Authority for Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa/Ngāpuhi ki Whangaroa, we hold responsibilities as kaitiaki, affirmed through Te Tiriti o Waitangi and in alignment with the TROW Iwi Environmental Management Plan 2022–2027.

We reiterate that water is **not merely infrastructure**—it is **taonga tuku iho**, central to our cultural identity, wellbeing, and intergenerational responsibilities. Decisions about its governance must reflect this understanding.

2. General Position

TROW supports in principle a model of water service delivery that:

- **Upholds Te Mana o te Wai and centres kaitiakitanga;**

- Embeds **iwi and hapū authority** in governance, not just in consultation;
- Maintains **local decision-making** and ensures responsiveness to Whangaroa-specific needs; • Enables **intergenerational investment** in environmental and infrastructure resilience.

3. Our Preferred Approach Conditional support for 'Te pēke' (Strengthened In-House Model)

We conditionally support FNDC's preferred option *Te pēke*, on the basis that it:

- Maintains localised control and accountability, which is important for responsiveness to our rohe;

- Is potentially more agile in embedding **mana whenua-led co-governance**, without the dilution of iwi voice through a multi-council structure;
- Allows alignment with existing relationships, including with Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, and continuation of bespoke mechanisms such as cultural monitoring and environmental audits;
- Reduces the risks of diminished iwi influence in the more complex, bureaucratic, and less locally accountable *Te kete* model.

However, support is contingent on FNDC implementing the following conditions:

4. Recommended Conditions (Aligned to the TROW IEMP 2022–2027) i. Establish an Iwi-Governance Oversight Group

A dedicated governance rūpū inclusive of mana whenua, with decision-making powers on water planning, investment prioritisation, and cultural values integration.

ii. Embed Te Mana o te Wai and Mātauranga Māori Frameworks

Operational plans must reflect **Te Mana o te Wai**, ensuring priority is given to the health of the wai before commercial or infrastructure interests. Mātauranga Māori indicators, such as **mauri assessments**, must be incorporated.

iii. Mandatory Cultural Impact Assessments (CIA) for Infrastructure Upgrades

All upgrades or developments within Whangaroa rohe must trigger CIA processes led by TROW to ensure the whakapapa, wāhi tapu, and environmental sensitivities are upheld.

iv. Localised Resilience Planning

As per our IEMP and in response to climate volatility, water infrastructure investment in Whangaroa must prioritise:

- a. Flood-prone and coastal areas (e.g., Kāeo and Waihapa streams);
- b. Marae and papakāinga access to secure, potable water;
- c. Stormwater and wastewater upgrades with nature-based solutions.

v. Capacity-Building and Resource Investment in Mana Whenua Monitoring

FNDC must invest in training and employment of Whangaroa-based environmental monitors and kaimahi to partner in water quality testing, reporting, and infrastructure oversight.

5. Concerns with ‘Te kete’ Model

TROW expresses caution toward *Te kete*, the three-council model. Our concerns include:

- **Dilution of Whangaroa voice** within a broader regional framework;
- **Increased distance from decision-making**, undermining Treaty-based obligations;
- **Risk of generic regional policy** not tailored to the unique histories, needs, and relationships of iwi in our rohe;
- **Unclear provisions for genuine iwi co-governance** under an independent board structure.

6. Alignment with the TROW Iwi Environmental Management Plan (2022–2027)

FNDC’s decision must align with the environmental and cultural goals outlined in our IEMP, particularly:

- **Objective 1.1:** To ensure iwi and hapū values are central in all freshwater management;
- **Policy 3.4:** All council and agency infrastructure projects must undertake cultural impact assessments in collaboration with mana whenua;

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- **Strategy 4.2:** Develop proactive climate change mitigation and resilience initiatives that include iwi leadership.

7. Conclusion

Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa welcomes further engagement with FNDC as the Water Services Delivery Plan is finalised. We request a **formal response to this submission**, including confirmation of which conditions FNDC will incorporate and the next steps toward meaningful partnership.

JOINT TE HIKU IWI SUBMISSION PROPOSED WATER SERVICES PLAN

To: Far North District Council: Te Hiku Water Services Plan Consultation

From the Executive leaders of Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupouri, Ngāi Takoto, and Te Rarawa

GOALS

1. To establish Te Hiku Iwi as decision-makers in the governance and delivery of water services in the Far North District
2. To ensure Treaty Settlement obligations are fully recognized and honoured in the Water Services Plan
3. To create an intergenerational approach to water management that combines cultural values, environmental protection, and economic development
4. To leverage Iwi expertise, proven track record of delivery, and innovation to transform water services in Te Hiku
5. To implement a co-governance model that respects Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles and Te Hiku Settlement Acts

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As the executive leadership of Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupouri, Ngāi Takoto, and Te Rarawa, we submit this joint position on the Far North District Council's "Local Water Done Well" consultation.

This submission outlines our vision for water services in Te Hiku, grounded in our Treaty Settlement rights, proven capability as resource stewards, and our commitment to the social, environmental, and economic wellbeing of our communities.

We seek full recognition as decision-makers, not merely consultative parties, in the governance and delivery of water services in Te Hiku. This submission demonstrates how our deep cultural connection to water, combined with our proven track record of innovation and delivery, makes Te Hiku Iwi ideal partners in this critical infrastructure.

TREATY SETTLEMENT OBLIGATIONS

The following legal frameworks establish clear obligations for partnership with Te Hiku Iwi in water management:

1. **Te Hiku Claims Settlement Acts (2015)** - These Acts explicitly recognize the historical connection and rights of Te Hiku Iwi to natural resources, including water bodies, within our rohe.
2. **Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē Board** - Established under Settlement legislation as a co-governance arrangement for the management of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē (Ninety Mile Beach), this demonstrates the Crown's recognition of our governance rights over natural resources.
3. **Te Hiku Social Accord (2013)** - This Accord commits the Crown and its agencies to work with Te Hiku Iwi to improve social outcomes, including those related to infrastructure and community wellbeing.
4. **Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board** - Our Settlement Acts provide for shared management of conservation lands, recognizing our historical connection to, and responsibility for, environmental protection.
5. **Section 15 of the Ngāti Kuri Claims Settlement Act, Section 15 of the Te Aupouri Claims Settlement Act, Section 15 of the Ngāi Takoto Claims Settlement Act, and Section 15 of the Te Rarawa Claims Settlement Act** - These sections explicitly acknowledge the spiritual, cultural, historical, and traditional association of Te Hiku Iwi with waters in our Rohe.
6. **Te Ara Wai Ora (Water Pathway)** - Our Settlement provisions recognize the importance of restoring and maintaining the quality and integrity of water resources.
7. **Section 47-56 of each Settlement Act** - These sections establish formal "Te Korowai for Enhanced Conservation" arrangements, demonstrating our proven capability in resource management.

IWI AS PROVEN PARTNERS AND INNOVATORS

Te Hiku Iwi have demonstrated excellence in resource management, social delivery, and economic development:

1. **Te Puna Waiora** - This groundbreaking water management initiative led by Te Hiku Iwi has transformed water access and quality in several communities. As highlighted in [Te Ao Māori News \(March 2024\)](#), this project combines traditional knowledge with modern technology to deliver sustainable water solutions.

2. **Tupu Plumbing** - Our Iwi-led trades training program has created employment pathways while addressing critical infrastructure needs. The recent Television New Zealand feature (April 2024) showcased how 12 young people have gained qualifications and employment through this initiative.
3. **Te Hiku Social Accord Outcomes** - Independent evaluation has confirmed that our collaborative approach has delivered measurable improvements in community wellbeing, housing, and infrastructure access across Te Hiku.
4. **Economic Development Initiatives** - Te Hiku Iwi collectively manage significant commercial assets, with proven returns and community benefit. Our commercial entities operate with both profit and social impact metrics.
5. **Environmental Restoration and Research Programs** - Our Iwi-led wetland restoration, waterway protection, and habitat regeneration programs have delivered measurable environmental improvements while creating employment and training opportunities. We also have the Te Ara Whānui research centre that can contribute key insights as to how we sustainably manage 3 waters in the Far Far North.
6. **Housing development led by iwi** – 200+ new builds in Te Hiku are delivered by the 5 iwi.
7. **Awanui water supply** – an iwi-led solution for the entire community’s benefit.

INTERGENERATIONAL THINKING VS. SHORT-TERM PLANNING

Te Hiku Iwi bring a fundamentally different approach to infrastructure planning and management:

1. **100+ Year Planning Horizon** - Unlike typical Council 10-year plans, our Iwi strategic frameworks consider impacts over multiple generations, ensuring true sustainability.
2. **Cultural Values Integration** - Our approach incorporates mātauranga Māori and cultural values alongside technical considerations, ensuring more holistic and effective solutions.
3. **Adaptive Management** - Our traditional knowledge systems have evolved over centuries to respond to changing environmental conditions, providing resilience that conventional governance models often lack.
4. **Interconnected Resource View** - We recognize the connections between water, land, people, and economy in ways that siloed departmental structures cannot.

5. **Climate Change Resilience** - Our planning inherently incorporates climate adaptation strategies based on deep environmental knowledge and intergenerational thinking.

ANALYSIS OF CONSULTATION OPTIONS

After careful review of the options presented in the "Local Water Done Well" consultation, we provide the following analysis:

1. **Option 1: Council-Controlled Organization (CCO)** - While this provides some autonomy from council, it fails to recognize Treaty Settlement rights and te Tiriti obligations. This option provides insufficient representation for Te Hiku Iwi who make up 60% of the Far North population.
2. **Option 2: Council Delivery** - This maintains the status quo governance approach that has historically marginalized Iwi interests and failed to deliver adequate services to many predominantly Māori communities.
3. **Option 3: Contracted Service Delivery** - This commercial model prioritizes financial metrics over cultural values and community wellbeing, with no guarantee of meaningful Iwi participation.
4. **Preferred Option: Te Hiku Co-Governance Model** - We propose a fourth option that best serves the unique context of the Far North, where Māori comprise 60% of the population and hold significant Treaty Settlement rights.

OUR PROPOSED MODEL: TE HIKU WATER AUTHORITY

We propose the following governance structure for water services in Te Hiku:

1. **Te Hiku Water Authority** - A co-governed entity with equal decision-making representation from Te Hiku Iwi and Council, with independent technical expertise as required. This model recognizes our demographic majority (60% Māori population) while ensuring partnership with Council.
2. **Legal Structure** - Established as a statutory entity through:
 - Council resolution under Local Government Act ○ Recognition of obligations under Treaty Settlement legislation ○ Potential dedicated legislation (similar to Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē Board model)
3. **Decision-Making Powers** - The Authority would have genuine decision-making capacity over:

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- Infrastructure investment priorities ○ Service delivery standards ○
- Environmental performance metrics ○ Cultural integration
- requirements ○ Pricing and accessibility policies ○ Asset
- management strategies ○ Operational performance metrics

4. Implementation Framework:

- Phase 1 (July-December 2025): Establishment of governance structure and appointment of leadership
- Phase 2 (January-July 2026): Development of strategic plan, operational policies, and technical capacity building
- Phase 3 (August 2026-July 2028): Implementation of priority projects with joint oversight
- Phase 4 (August 2028 onwards): Full operational delivery with ongoing governance

5. Financial Framework - A sustainable model that addresses the funding challenges highlighted by Mayor Tepania following Three Waters repeal:

- Core operational funding from existing council rates base ○ Capital investment through combined council/crown/Iwi contributions ○
- Access to infrastructure investment funds through Iwi partnerships
- Potential for Te Hiku Iwi commercial entities to co-invest in infrastructure
- Development of innovative funding mechanisms like green bonds and impact investment
- Potential revenue generation through technical consulting services to other regions

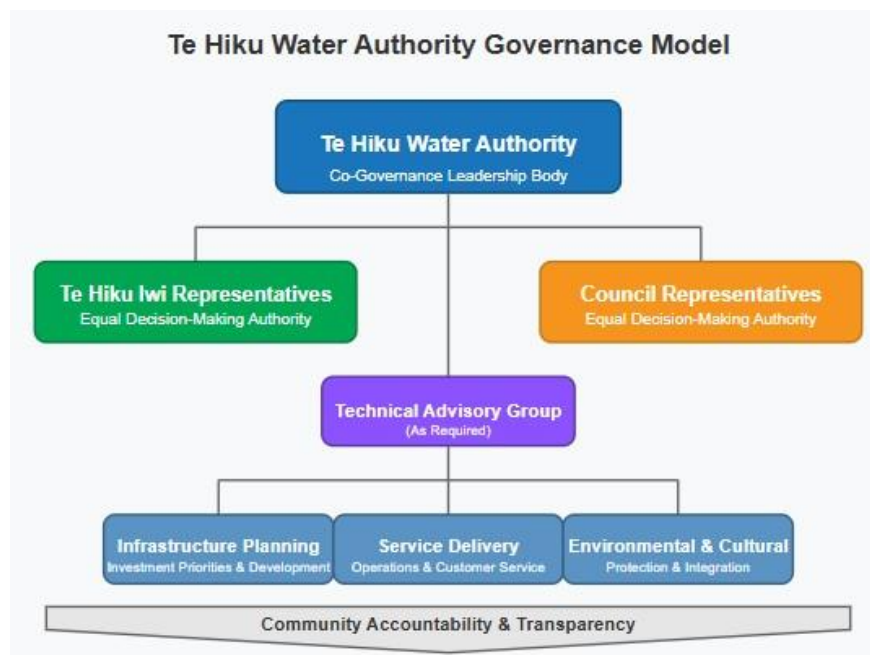
6. Technical Capacity - Leveraging existing expertise and developing new capability:

- Immediate: Utilizing existing technical expertise from both council and Iwi commercial entities
- Short-term: Partnership with training providers to develop locally-based technical workforce
- Medium-term: Establishment of a Te Hiku Water Centre of Excellence (training and innovation hub)
- Long-term: Development of exportable water management expertise as an economic development opportunity

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7. **Monitoring and Accountability** - Transparent systems that ensure performance:

- Regular public reporting on all performance metrics ○
- Annual independent audit of financial and operational performance ○
- Community feedback mechanisms embedded in all service areas ○
- Regular community hui to ensure accountability to all residents ○
- Digital dashboard providing real-time performance data



SPECIFIC INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES

As Te Hiku Iwi, we identify the following critical water infrastructure priorities that would be addressed through our co-governance model:

1. **Equitable Access Expansion** - Prioritizing service extension to currently underserved predominantly Māori communities, including:
 - Pawarenga water supply security ○ Te Kao wastewater solutions ○ Panguru water supply storage solutions ○ Ahipara water quality

- improvements ○ Awanui flood management infrastructure
- 2. **Climate Resilience Infrastructure** - Developing infrastructure that can withstand increasing climate impacts:
 - Water storage capacity for drought resilience ○ Flood protection for vulnerable communities ○ Coastal infrastructure protection as sea levels rise ○ Alternative water sources for communities at risk
- 3. **Cultural Integration** - Infrastructure that respects and incorporates te ao Māori values:
 - Natural filtration systems that enhance rather than replace natural processes ○ Restoration of traditional water pathways where appropriate ○ Protection of culturally significant water sites ○ Water treatment approaches that maintain mauri (life force)
- 4. **Economic Development Enablers** - Infrastructure that supports sustainable economic growth:
 - Capacity for papakāinga housing development ○ Support for sustainable tourism infrastructure ○ Agricultural water efficiency systems ○ Local food production water security
- 5. **Innovation Testbeds** - Creating opportunities to develop and test new approaches:
 - Small-scale renewable energy water systems ○ Water recycling demonstration

projects ○ Traditional knowledge-based
 filtration systems ○ Community-scale
 management models **BENEFITS OF OUR CO-
 GOVERNANCE APPROACH**

1. **Demographic Representation** - With Māori comprising 60% of the Far North population, our model provides appropriate representation in governance, enhancing democratic legitimacy.
2. **Treaty Compliance** - This model ensures FNDC meets its statutory obligations under Treaty Settlement legislation and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, reducing legal and reputational risk.
3. **Financial Advantages** - Our co-governance approach provides:
 - Access to additional funding streams unavailable to council-only entities
 - Protection against cost overruns through enhanced community oversight
 - Ability to leverage Iwi commercial investment alongside public funding
 - Reduced long-term costs through prevention-focused maintenance
 - Shared risk between partners in capital projects
4. **Innovation Capability** - As demonstrated through existing initiatives like Te Puna Waiora, we bring fresh approaches to longstanding challenges:
 - Integration of Mātauranga Māori with technical solutions
 - Community-based monitoring and maintenance systems
 - Adaptive management approaches that respond to changing conditions
 - Cross-sector collaboration that breaks down traditional silos
5. **Community Connection** - Our deep community relationships enable:
 - Better engagement in planning and delivery
 - Higher rates of community compliance with water conservation measures
 - More accurate understanding of service issues and priorities
 - More effective behaviour change programmes for water conservation
 - Reduced vandalism and damage to infrastructure

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6. **Climate Resilience** - Our intergenerational perspective delivers:

- Planning that accounts for 50–100-year climate scenarios ○
Traditional knowledge of historical climate patterns and responses
- Cultural values that prioritize adaptation and protection ○
Holistic catchment management rather than isolated
infrastructure fixes **TECHNICAL CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE**

Te Hiku Iwi bring significant and growing technical capacity to water services management:

1. **Existing Technical Expertise:**

- Environmental monitoring programs managed by Iwi resource management units ○ GIS mapping capabilities for environmental and infrastructure planning ○ Water quality testing programs operating across Te Hiku
- Technical staff with relevant qualifications in environmental science, engineering, and resource management

2. **Training and Development Initiatives:**

- Tupu Plumbing program has trained 12 qualified plumbers from Te Hiku communities
- Partnership with NorthTec for water and wastewater operator training ○ Rangatahi science programs developing the next generation of water technicians ○ Cultural monitoring training that combines traditional knowledge with technical skills

3. **Research Partnerships:**

- Ongoing collaboration with NIWA on climate impacts on water systems ○
University partnerships studying traditional water management techniques ○ Innovation projects with technology providers on remote monitoring systems ○ International indigenous knowledge exchange programs

4. **Commercial Experience:**

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- Project management of complex infrastructure through Iwi commercial entities
- Asset management experience through diverse Iwi property portfolios
- Financial management capabilities through commercial investment activities
- Risk management frameworks developed for Iwi commercial operations

5. Knowledge Systems Integration:

- Development of cultural health index monitoring methodologies
- Integration of mātauranga Māori into environmental decision frameworks
- Digital platforms that capture and apply traditional knowledge
- Community science initiatives that engage local knowledge holders

INTERNATIONAL BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES

Our proposed model is supported by successful international examples of water cogovernance that demonstrate how partnership approaches deliver superior outcomes:

1. **Australian Aboriginal Water Partnerships** - In Victoria, Australia, the Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation co-manages water resources through a statutory framework similar to our proposal. Independent evaluation has shown:
 - 27% improvement in water quality metrics within five years
 - Significant cost efficiencies through integrated traditional and technical management
 - Enhanced community compliance with water conservation measures
 - More effective climate adaptation planning
2. **Canadian Indigenous Water Authorities** - The Cowichan Watershed Board in British Columbia operates under a co-governance model between local government and First Nations that:
 - Successfully attracted additional funding sources unavailable to government-only entities
 - Developed innovative watershed protection programs that reduced treatment costs
 - Created intergenerational training and employment pathways

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- Implemented traditional knowledge systems alongside technical approaches

These selective examples demonstrate that co-governance is not merely an aspirational concept but a proven model delivering measurable benefits to all residents of these regions. They confirm that structures similar to our proposed Te Hiku Water Authority create practical advantages in service delivery, financial sustainability, and environmental protection that benefit indigenous and non-indigenous communities alike.

SHARED PROSPERITY THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

We recognize that water service concerns affect all Far North communities regardless of background. Our proposed partnership model is designed to benefit every resident through:

1. Shared Investment, Shared Benefits:

- Combined resources allow greater infrastructure investment than Council could achieve alone
- All communities gain access to improved services, not just Māori communities
- Economic benefits including jobs and training opportunities available to all Far North residents
- Cost efficiencies benefit all ratepayers through more sustainable long-term rates

2. Addressing Regional Inequality Together:

- The Far North faces significant socioeconomic challenges affecting all residents ○ 2023 Deprivation Index shows Far North communities among NZ's most deprived regardless of ethnicity
- Water infrastructure costs per capita are higher in our region due to geography and population distribution
- A united approach strengthens our collective voice when seeking Crown support

3. Protecting Everyone's Fundamental Rights:

- Clean water access is a human right for all residents, not a racial issue ○ Environmental protection benefits all present and future generations ○ Public health improvements from better water quality impact every community
- Affordable water services essential for all families in our economically challenged region

4. Practical Experience, Not Political Ideology:

- Our proposal is based on practical solutions to real problems, not ideological positions
- Similar partnership models have worked successfully elsewhere in NZ without division
- Focus on measurable outcomes that matter to all residents: cost, quality, reliability
- Traditional knowledge and modern expertise as complementary, not competing approaches

5. Risk Management Through Collaboration:

- Shared governance means shared accountability for both successes and failures ○ Diverse perspectives lead to better risk identification and mitigation ○ Combined community networks enable faster response to service issues ○ Multiple funding pathways create resilience against economic shocks

We believe that water is fundamentally a unifying issue. Every resident needs safe, affordable water services. Our proposed model is not about advancing the interests of one group at the expense of others but about bringing together our collective strengths

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to address shared challenges. The Far North's unique challenges require innovative solutions that draw on all available resources and knowledge systems.

Te Hiku Iwi are committed to working with Council to develop a model that respects both Treaty obligations AND ensures every Far North resident benefits from better, more affordable, and more sustainable water services.

TRANSITION PLANNING

Implementation of our proposed co-governance model would follow a carefully planned transition:

1. Immediate Actions (July-December 2025):

- Establishment of interim co-governance working group
- Appointment of transition leadership team (Iwi and Council) ○ Development of terms of reference and governance charter ○ Initial stocktake of assets and service performance ○ Identification of immediate priority projects ○ Cost: Approximately \$250,000 for establishment phase

2. Short-Term Transition (January-July 2026):

- Formal establishment of Te Hiku Water Authority ○ Transfer of operational oversight responsibilities ○ Development of asset management plans ○ Stae transition planning and cultural competency training ○ Community engagement and education campaign ○ Cost: Approximately \$500,000 for transition implementation

3. Medium-Term Implementation (August 2026-July 2028):

- Full operational management transfer ○ Implementation of priority infrastructure projects ○

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Development of workforce capability programs ○

Establishment of monitoring and reporting frameworks

- Community partnership programs implementation ○

Cost: To be determined based on infrastructure

priorities

4. Long-Term Model (August 2028 onwards):

- Full co-governance model in operation ○ Regular review and refinement of governance approach ○

Development of innovation programs ○ Potential

expansion to other infrastructure domains ○ Knowledge

sharing with other regions ○ Ongoing investment based

on long-term asset management plan **CONCLUSION**

Te Hiku Iwi – Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupouri, Ngāi Takoto, and Te Rarawa – stand ready as Treaty partners to take our rightful place in the governance and delivery of water services in our Rohe. Our approach is guided by both our Settlement Acts and our sincere commitment to the wellbeing of all Far North communities.

We recognize that water challenges in the Far North affect everyone – rural and urban, Māori and non-Māori alike. The financial pressures on families, the environmental concerns we face, and the infrastructure needs of our communities are shared challenges that require collective solutions.

As Mayor Tepania has noted in recent statements, the repeal of Three Waters reform has left the Far North in a difficult position regarding water infrastructure funding and governance. These challenges cannot be addressed through traditional approaches alone or by maintaining divisions between communities.

We urge the Far North District Council to recognize that:

1. The partnership model we propose offers practical benefits for all residents
2. Combined resources and knowledge will deliver better outcomes than either partner could achieve alone
3. Water is a fundamental human right that transcends political or ethnic divisions
4. Economic realities in the Far North require innovative approaches to infrastructure funding
5. Our shared future depends on sustainable water management

We recommend the Council adopt our proposed "Option 4: Te Hiku Co-Governance Model" as the optimal approach for water service delivery in the Far North – not because it advances any one group's interests, but because it represents the most practical, financially sustainable, and equitable path forward for all our communities.

This is not about ideology or division – it's about pooling our strengths to address shared challenges, sharing both risks and rewards, and ensuring that every family in the Far North has access to safe, affordable water services for generations to come.

We look forward to discussing this submission and moving forward together in partnership for the benefit of all who call the Far North home. As well as this submission, we seek a deputation opportunity to present to council members.

Nāku noa, nā



Tipene Kapa-Kingi

Chief Executive, Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupouri Trust

Te Rarawa (1)

Introduction

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the "Local Water Done Well" proposal. As a resident and ratepayer of the Te Hiku district, I acknowledge the critical role that reliable, safe, and sustainable drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services play in community wellbeing, economic development, environmental protection, and cultural health.

Te Hiku o Te Ika is a region with distinct geographical, environmental, and social challenges. With our propensity for winter flooding and summer droughts, the management of water services here must be resilient, forwardthinking, and deeply connected to community needs and environmental stewardship.

General Position

I support the council's proactive approach in seeking feedback and considering future-focused delivery models. While the current preference is for the **Te Peke** in-house model, I believe both options—**Te Peke** and **Te Kete**—have merits and risks that need careful consideration.

Ultimately, which ever model is chosen, it must reflect:

- Strong local voice and accountability.
 - Affordability and transparency for residents and ratepayers.
 - High regulatory compliance and water safety.
 - Environmental sustainability and climate adaptation.
 - Tangata whenua involvement and kaitiakitanga principles.
-

Key Submission Points

1. People and Governance

- **Community Engagement & Decision-Making:**
I support the principle that water services must remain publicly owned and locally accountable. Any delivery model must have **strong mechanisms for community and tangata whenua involvement**, not only through consultation but in co-governance and oversight.
 - **Dedicated Water Committee:**
I support establishing a **dedicated water committee** that includes **independent professionals, tangata whenua and community voices with relevant knowledge and skillsets**. This will enhance trust, transparency, and technical integrity.
 - **Local Voice Under Te Kete:**
Should the **Te Kete (three-council) model** be voiced as a preference; it is essential to ensure that the Far North's distinct needs are not lost in regional amalgamation. Local representation on governance boards would need to be guaranteed.
-

2. Economics and Affordability

- **Cost Pressures:**
Rising costs are inevitable due to ageing infrastructure and stricter regulations. However, how these are managed and communicated to residents and ratepayers is critical. Under both models, **clear long-term investment strategies** must be developed to spread costs fairly and equitably. The interconnectedness of economic systems means that the failure of one institution could have far-reaching implications for the entire economic system (*modus operandi*). One option is lowering rates so its affordable for most residents and ratepayers as it reduces exposure and vulnerability of our social and cultural systems (including physical assets). If most residents and ratepayers are better equipped to manage their financial commitments, it spreads affordability across low to moderate income neighbourhoods.
- **Te Peke (In-House) Consideration:**
While this option provides greater local control and alignment with community needs, there is a risk of **limited access to economies of scale, technical capacity, and funding leverage**, especially in a geographically dispersed district like the Far North.

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- **Te Kete (Joint Model) Consideration:**
This model may offer **greater financial efficiency and technical resource pooling** but could result in **reduced local responsiveness and community visibility** over decisions and service priorities.

Regardless of the model, the Far North District Council must ensure:

- Transparent cost breakdowns for ratepayers.
- Regular performance and affordability reviews.
- Economic systems that do not disproportionately burden low to moderate income households.

3. Environment and Resilience

- **Climate Resilience:**
The Far North's extreme weather patterns require infrastructure that can adapt to **both flood and drought conditions**. Investment must prioritise:
 - Smart water metering and early leak detection.
 - Flood management in high-risk zones.
 - Drought-resilient storage and conservation systems.
 - Projections of future risks e.g. increased frequency of severe events.
- **Environmental Compliance:**
Stricter environmental rules are welcomed and should be seen as opportunities to build **sustainable and future-proof systems**, rather than barriers. Investment must prioritise:
 - Stormwater and wastewater tipping points and thresholds.
- **Stormwater Management:**
Recommend managing stormwater **together with drinking water and wastewater** to allow for integrated catchment planning and resilience strategies. Disconnected management could miss critical interdependencies in the water cycle.

4. Cultural and Legal Responsibilities

- **Tangata Whenua Partnership:**
Co-governance with iwi and hapū must not be tokenistic. Embedding **Te Mana o te Wai** and mātāuranga Māori systems into water planning is essential for sustainability and community legitimacy.

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- **Regulatory Frameworks:**

Continued oversight from **Taumata Arowai** and the **Commerce Commission** is a strong step towards consistent safety and financial accountability. These bodies must ensure transparency across all models.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In summary, my **preferred option** for the delivery of local water services in

the Far North is: **Option 1: ‘Te Peke’ the in-house model**

as it will shape transparent partnerships, community health, environment sustainability and future prosperity, however, I would recommend that the Far North District Council:

1. Continue engaging widely with community and tangata whenua in shaping water governance.
2. Strengthen in-house delivery (Te Peke) **with** significant investment towards technical capability, independent oversight, and regional collaboration.
3. Remain open to a joint model (Te Kete) **if** it can ensure robust local representation, equitable funding, and improved service efficiency.
4. Manage stormwater **as part of an integrated three waters approach** to reflect ecological realities.
5. Prioritize **affordability, climate resilience, and cultural partnership** in all planning.

Te Rarawa (2)

FNDC Local Water Done Well

Preferred Option: Retain FNDC's in house water services business unit.

Statement

I support FNDC retaining local control over water services through its own in-house business unit. I **do not** support the proposal to join a multi council water organisation for Northland.

While regional collaboration may offer financial efficiencies, it risks disadvantaging rural and smaller communities like ours in the Far North.

Centralised control tends to prioritise high population areas, leaving us underfunded and overlooked.

Local governance ensures decisions are made by people who understand our landscape, challenges, and values.

Key Reasons for Local Control

- **Equity and Fairness**

A regional model could result in funds being allocated based on population size and ease of development. This means smaller, rural areas many of which are Māori communities may continue to be deprioritised for infrastructure upgrades. FNDC has a better ability to prioritise projects based on need, not just scale.

- **Māori Land Realities in the Far North**

A large portion of land here is under Māori ownership, often involving multiple shareholders. These complexities are often misunderstood or seen as barriers by outside entities. FNDC has built relationships and local knowledge to navigate these processes with respect and partnership.

- **Affordability and Fair Rates**

The Far North has lower incomes and higher living costs in remote areas.

Water service costs must reflect

- Real access and usage
- Economic capability of whānau
- Local infrastructure limitations

Rates should not be regionally standardised if that creates hardship.

Support or subsidies should be available for rural Māori landowners and low income homes.

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Additionally, incentives could promote:

- Rainwater collection
- Septic upgrades
- Efficient water use

This encourages responsible water practices while maintaining fairness.

- **Water Security Challenges**

Our region faces regular water shortages, especially over summer. Many households rely on tanks, streams, or trucked in water.

- Local control is essential to:
 - Build climate-resilient infrastructure
 - Support local water storage initiatives
 - Prepare communities for droughts

A regional body may not prioritise these realities.

- **Three Waters Integration**

Water systems are deeply connected. Septic leaks can affect groundwater and stormwater.

Polluted stormwater can impact drinking water quality.

Fragmenting the services risks ignoring these overlaps. Everyone should contribute a small fee to ensure all water types drinking, storm, and wastewater are properly managed. Shared responsibility leads to shared protection.

- **Environmental and Cultural Protection**

Marine and coastal environments that Māori rely on must be protected. Discharges need stronger regulation beyond just basic pollutants to include substances like microplastics, pharmaceuticals, and heavy metals. This protects food sources, cultural practices, and the long-term health of our moana.

- **Shorter Consent Terms, Not 35 Years**

A 35 year discharge consent period is far too long. It could lock in outdated practices and ignore future needs or innovations.

Shorter terms (10–15 years) allow flexibility for:

- Technological upgrades
- Climate change impacts
- Evolving Māori aspirations

Mandatory reviews should be required mid-term to reassess compliance and community needs.

- **Te Mana o te Wai and Tangata Whenua Partnership**

Water is not just a utility it is a taonga. Te Mana o te Wai must be central, not just in principle, but in practice.

This includes:

- Mandatory cultural consultation
- Ongoing cultural and ecological monitoring
- Decisions made in true partnership with tangata whenua
- Recognition of water's spiritual, ancestral, and life giving significance

- **Transparency and Accountability**

Water governance must be transparent.

Communities should have access to:

- Local performance data
- Regular updates on infrastructure and spending
- Clear ways to provide feedback and hold decision makers accountable

- **Community Voice and Collective Kōrero**

This submission reflects not only my views but wider kōrero from whānau, neighbours, and local communities.

Many share the same concerns about fairness, water access, and the risk of being overlooked under a regional structure.

Ongoing engagement with community voices is essential.

- **Future Generations**

Any long term water strategy must think ahead for our mokopuna and their mokopuna.

What we decide now will impact them. We have a responsibility to leave behind a system that is clean, fair, and resilient.

That means building flexibility into the system and protecting our taiao for generations to come.

Summary

The Far North deserves a water service that is:

- **Locally led**
- **Fairly priced**
- **Culturally grounded**
- **Responsive to our unique challenges**
- **Built with future generations in mind**

I strongly urge FNDC to retain local management of water services.

Regional centralisation may look efficient on paper, but it doesn't reflect our reality on the ground.

A local model allows us to manage our own water, our own way with accountability, fairness, and respect for our whenua and wai.

Ngā mihi,

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Ngā mihi,

Ngati Kopaki

Tena Koutou,

My name is Josephine Kemp-Baker, I am the Secretary and Ngati Kopaki Hapu and Community Liaison. The hapu standpoint at this moment is with Council's preference of: "Te Peke" - as we prefer the "local" approach in communication and consultation compared to the other model which is a far wider extrapolated process.

In saying that, please note the following enquiries from Hapu and Moerewa residents:

1.

Ngati Kopaki Hapu in partnership with our whanaunga hapu Ngati Te Ara share a gazette notice under the Fisheries Act for food gathering as Tangatakaitiaki of our Rohe Moana. Will water continue to be taken from our rohe waterways to supplement consumers in drought season without consultation to the hapu?

2.

In drought season will Council continue to turn down water pressure in our rohe of Moerewa? In the past, homes have been burned to the ground because fire services could not access water from hydrants as pressure was turned down to conserve water. Have you eliminated this problem in your future planning?

3.

There is a proposal for a Laundromat business to open in Moerewa. Would not this type of business be a burden on the water delivery to our area?

And considering that there is no infrastructure around reticulated drainage and wastewater treatment in our township, this business would also be an adverse

contributor to an already over burdened, non existent system? Are these types of businesses included in your future planning?

4.

Many of our rural membership are on a combination of river/rain to tank supply. Taking water from our rivers; Otiria and Waiharakeke is detrimental to their livelihood. Is there a plan in place to secure water during flood season to counter the drought season shortfall in your future plan? Is there any likelihood that a plan to secure water for this purpose will be put in place?

5.

Are Fndc willing to work with Hapu Manawhenua/ Landowners and Lake Trustees to look at this type of water security?

6.

Ngati Kopaki and Ngati Te Ara are working together to put in place an MOU with Fndc, would we have to refer to your Water Services Delivery Plan in our agreement, and how would that benefit Hapu?

Thank you for the opportunity to allow me to voice Ngati Kopaki Hapu and the Community of Moerewa's concerns.

Nga Mihi,

Josephine Kemp-Baker
Sectetary &
Ngati Kopaki Hapu and
Community Liaison

Wai 1040, #L5

BEFORE THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

WAI 1040

IN THE MATTER OF

The Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

CONCERNING

Te Paparahi o Te Raki Inquiry

AND

A claim by Maudie Tupuhi, Mere King and Jerry Rewha for and on behalf of **NGATI KAHARAU ME NGATI HAU KI OMANAIA** (Wai 1354)

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF DALLAS WILLIAMS

AURERE LAW

Barristers and Solicitors
PO Box 1693
DX JP30025
ROTORUA

Ph: 07 348 0034
Fax: 07 346 2933

Solicitor Acting: Miharo Armstrong

BRIEF OF EVIDENCE OF DALLAS WILLIAMS

1. My name is Dallas Williams.
2. I am giving this evidence on behalf of Ngati Kaharau me Ngati Hau ki Omanaia (Wai 1354).
3. Our Marae is called Te Piiti and is in Omanaia. For a number of years I have been appointed to represent our Hapu and Marae in our dealings with the Council over our waterways.
4. I am giving this evidence about our waterways, our dealings with the Council, and in particular the use of our water from the Petaka Stream for the town water supply in Rawene.

Introduction

5. To us, water is not just a resource. It is a taonga that has been handed down and forms part of our identity along with our maunga, whenua, whakapapa, and tangata.
6. The reviving life sustenance of water was created within the realm of the heavenly beings Ranginui and Papatuanuku. It was their son, Tane, who ascended to the uppermost heaven and received from Io, mortal knowledge. In doing so, Tane received many mantels one being that of water, Tane Te Waiora.
7. From the world of Ranginui to Papatuanuku (mountains), through Tane (forests), water flows from one life force to another and then onto man, hence the word Waiora, being the waters of life. The constant flow of water through these elements ensures the ancestral connection to the Creator, the sky the earth and us as tangata whenua.
8. We as Ngati Kaharau and Ngati Hau hold mana over Omanaia and our wider rohe. We assert this mana over not only our lands, but our waterways, streams, rivers, springs, creeks, wetlands and oceans. Our

mana extends not only to the banks, beds and foreshore but to all water contained and passing therein.

9. John Key likes to tell the media that no one owns water. He is partly correct as neither he nor his government own the water or the waterways in our rohe. We always have and always will hold that mana.
10. One such waterway over which we assert our mana is the Petaka Stream. This stream is located approximately 13km southeast of the Rawene Township.
11. I note that our Hapu have had many dealings with the Council over the years concerning the Petaka Stream. There are too many dealings to refer to all of them within this brief. Attached and marked "A" is a timeline setting out a chronology of the main dealings that have taken place.

The Petaka Stream

12. This stream starts on the slopes of our Maunga Ngapukehaua as a creek called Ohaupia. From there it runs down into Pioitahi. That runs down to Waipukekino. From there further downstream it is known as Te Kakatahi. The Awa here used to bend in and out towards the road. This part was dug straight (supposedly by one man) and so it was called Te Kakatahi.
13. Te Kakatahi then stretches down to Taukahawai. This name comes from one of our Tupuna Wahine. She would swim up the creek with her children, and it was said that she swam like a kahawai. Hence the name Taukahawai.
14. From here it flows into the Omanaia River. It then becomes the Rawene River and flows out to the Hokianga Harbour (Hokianga Whakapau Karakia).

15. Our Marae, Te Piiti, is located on the banks of the Taukahawai River at Omanaia.
16. Given the proximity to the Moana, Taukahawai is a tidal river. Before there were roads in the Hokianga, this waterway was the main highway for the local Whanau and Hapu. As such the Marae faces towards this river to welcome Manuhiri who would travel up the River.
17. The current road access comes to the back of the Marae. These days some have thought it strange that our Marae faces away from the road and the direction of our Manuhiri but this is why.
18. In the days of our tupuna, when tupapaku were brought back to the Marae they were brought up the river on a waka. There was a platform where they would lay the body after unloading it from the Waka (te taunga o nga tupapaku). This platform was called Te Piiti (the beaching). Today the marae is called by some as Te Piiti after this however it is originally known as Omanaia Marae.
19. Not surprisingly, this awa is very important to us. When we recite our pepeha we refer to Taukahawai as our awa. It is one of the most significant taonga in our rohe that identifies who we are as a people.
20. As part of our role as tangata whenua in this area, we, as kaitiaki, have an obligation to care for, maintain and preserve the awa for our current and future generations. In our role as kaitiaki, this means not only regulating the use of the awa, but also preventing pollution and maintaining the mauri of the awa.
21. Our ability to exercise our mana and our kaitiakitanga has been continually diminished by the Crown. The Crown's laws and policies have continually undermined our place as kaitiaki and have vested significant powers into the local authorities. Those local authorities do not have the same relationship to the awa as we do. They have not looked after it as we would have. We have had to stand by and watch as our awa has become polluted, mistreated and degraded.

Agreement to use the water

22. In the early 1900s local farmers approached our tupuna and asked if they could draw water from the Petaka Stream in order to feed their stock. Our tupuna agreed on the basis that the water was only to be used for stock.
23. In the 1950s the Hokianga County Council wanted to put a pipeline into the stream to supply water directly to the hospital. Pae Whenua Hauraki was the main kaumatua for our Hapu at the time. The Council came and asked our kaumatua for permission to put the line in to take the water. Our koroua agreed on the basis that:
 - a) The Ngati Kaharau Ngati Hau people could connect to the water supply from the Council pipeline; and
 - b) We would not be required to pay rates for the use of our water.
24. Our koroua also wanted to support and assist the local community by supplying water to the hospital.
25. There was a written agreement that was drawn up and signed between the kaumatua and the Council concerning this.
26. Some of our koroua today, who were only very young at the time, still remember the new line going in.
27. The fact that the farmers and the Council approached our tupuna, and reached the above agreements, is clear recognition of our mana over, and ownership of, the water.
28. Unfortunately the written agreement was destroyed in a fire at Rawene in 1987 which destroyed all the Council records. Four buildings including the 106 year old town hall and the Hokianga County Council headquarters were destroyed¹. Despite this, the existence of this

¹ NZ Herald, 23 November 1987, pg 2.

agreement has been passed down orally through our Whanau and Hapu over the generations because this was such an important agreement to us, and the issue of our mana over our waterways has always been held onto.

29. As such, while the written agreement has been lost, we have kept it alive through our korero handed down through our people.
30. We have raised this agreement with the Council on a number of occasions. Attached and marked "B" is a submission on behalf of our Marae Committee to the Council's Draft Long Term Plan 2012-2022. This submission refers to a number of issues including this agreement reached.

Rates

31. Although the Council agreed that we would not be charged rates for connecting to the supply line, not surprisingly the Council charged us anyway.
32. Our Whanau have complained to the Council over the rates charged for connecting to the supply line. The Far North District Council had a meeting with us at Omanaia in around 2004 to 2005. At that meeting they told us that they were not charging rates for the water but for 'maintenance' of the pipeline (which was equivalent to the water rates charged to everyone else). We also know that the rate is based on the amount of water that passes through the line not on what actual maintenance occurs.
33. In 2010 we had a meeting with Council representatives at Te Piiti. We questioned them on these 'maintenance' payments and what they were used for. The Council representatives admitted that in the last 25 years there had never been any maintenance on the line between the Petaka Stream and Omanaia. As such we were being charged for maintenance that never took place.

34. This approach is a façade.
35. Some of our Whanau have refused to pay the charges as a protest and an assertion of our mana. This has been taking place for over the last 20 years. Unfortunately this only led to their water getting cut off.
36. Some of our whanau built batches up on Te Ohu Road, which is just off Duddy's Road. They went to the Council and asked if they could be connected to the water. The Council said that they couldn't.
37. The Council's initial response was that they couldn't allow new connections to the line as the water is untreated and in breach of the Ministry of Health regulations. We then asked if we could connect to the line to supply a trough. The Council then told us that we couldn't connect for that either as the line couldn't sustain any more connections.
38. However, at that time and continuing forward to this day, new connections are being permitted in Rawene.
39. As such those batches had no water. Sadly in 1993 a tent at one of the batches caught fire and there was no water to put it out. One of our whanau was in the tent and was killed as there was no way to douse the flames.
40. Despite our whanau at Omanaia being the denied the most basic of necessities anyone can obtain new water connections in Rawene. This only highlights the double standards imposed on us.

Paru

41. Although the Council was only meant to take the water for use by the Rawene Hospital, they used the water as the water supply for the whole of the Rawene township.

42. The Council drew the water from the Petaka Stream and pumped it to Rawene where it was treated. The Council fed the treated water to the more affluent Pakeha community in Rawene. The Council fed us at Omanaia the untreated raw water. This includes the water supplied to Te Piiti Marae and to the Omanaia School.
43. The untreated water which they fed to us was extremely paru. The Council have told us that this water is not potable, it contains high levels of giardia, cryptosporidia and e.coli. The water they supplied to us is in breach of health regulations for the supply of potable water. Attached and marked "C" is a letter from the Medical Officer of Health in the Northland District Health Board confirming the contamination.
44. The high levels of giardia, cryptosporidia, and e.coli present in the water is due to contamination of the water by faeces. This contamination is increased as there has never been any maintenance of the line. As such contaminants passing through the line have built up in the line meaning that the pipes now house high levels of contaminants. Not surprisingly drinking this water (and such micro-organisms) can result in serious illness. Many of our children have been unable to go to school as they have been sick from the water.
45. In 1999 a memorandum was sent by the Manager of Works and Facilities to the Mayor advising that this water does not meet drinking standards and the Council should either cease charging for the water, or must obtain written consent from each user. The Council took neither of these steps. Instead they started to put 'non-potable' on the rates notices and continued to charge us for this use.
46. This was a continuation of the Council changing the classification of the connection in order to meet their own needs. Initially there were 20 connections in Omanaia which were classed as 'consumer connections'. This was required when the supply was originally taken as the water was being used for supply at the Hospital. The Council wanted to seek a grant from the Hospital Board for this purpose. After

1968, this was changed so that it was classed as 'service connections' so that they could ignore that untreated water was being supplied for consumption.

47. The pollution of our waterways has occurred following the Crown taking the management of our environment and resources away from us and vesting it into local authorities. Clearly they are not looking after our taonga and are not looking after us. We are unable to exercise our own mana and kaitiakitanga to manage these resources because the Crown does not recognize our rights. Instead it has watered down whatever rights we had to a 'consideration' under the Resource Management Act.
48. Despite the Council being aware of the pollution with the untreated water, the Council has continued to feed it to us at Omanaia to the present day. The Council has also charged us for consuming this highly contaminated water.
49. In short, the Council have been feeding us tiko and have been charging us for this privilege.

A New Treatment Facility

50. For many years the Council have spoken about putting a new treatment plant in which would provide us with clean water at Omanaia. Despite all of their talk, and the many years which have passed by, this still hasn't happened.
51. Attached and marked "D" is a letter from the Council dated 16 November 2006 which talks about the new treatment plant. Despite the plans set out there, here we are over 7 years later and we are still being fed untreated water at Omanaia.

52. When we have spoken to the Council about the new treatment facility we have also asked how this would impact on rates and whether rates would be increased to meet the costs of the new treatment facility.
53. The Council indicated that rates may increase but that the increase could be restricted to Omanaia residents only. Their reasoning was that those in Rawene were not receiving any benefit from the new treatment facility (because they already have treated water) and so they may not have to contribute to the costs of the new plant.
54. This is despite the fact that:
 - a) We have been paying rates for over 40 years for untreated water;
 - b) We are not meant to be paying rates at all; and
 - c) We are charged for maintenance when no actual maintenance has occurred on the section of the pipeline between the source and the reservoir in Rawene.
55. In other words our rates have been paying for their treatment facility for many years where we have received no benefit, and now they may not have to contribute to a facility for our benefit.
56. This once again highlights the terrible double standards imposed on us.
57. We have also learnt through our meetings with the Council that the Area of Benefit ("AOB") for our district with respect to the water supply is the Rawene Township. As such, if there is an emergency, the supply is prioritized for the AOB (ie Rawene) and not us at Omanaia. This means that in a state of civil emergency (such as a drought) they will cut off every water connection in Omanaia in order to preserve the supply in Rawene.

Summary

58. Our problems with the Council illustrate the impact on us over the loss of our mana over our resources. Originally all of the waterways and resources within our rohe fell under our mana and our control. The imposition of Crown sovereignty and legislation has continually undermined our mana and our ability to protect our resources and our people.
59. The Council and local farmers did recognize our mana over the water when they asked us if they could use the water from the Petaka Stream. Our tupuna agreed for them to use the water in good faith on our terms. In particular our whanau were meant to get free supply.
60. This recognition was acknowledged as recently as last year where the Council signed an agreement acknowledging our mana over the Omanaia River.
61. The agreement reached that we would receive a free supply of water didn't last and the Council charged our whanau in breach of the agreement. Even worse they have fed us highly polluted water, contaminated with tiko, while the nicer houses in Rawene get treated water.
62. I have to ask, how is the Crown protecting our interests here? How have we been able to exercise our mana and kaitiakitanga? The answer is simple. There is no protection. There is no recognition. The Crown have imposed their own regime on us, ignored our rights and our mana, and have left us to live in third world conditions.

DALLAS WILLIAMS

Date: 24 March 2014

6.3 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION UPDATE

File Number: A5230446

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 24 April 2025 which provided a high-level overview of the CEE work programme. An action from that meeting was to provide the committee with a communications plan for the elections that provides governance comfort that various modes of communication will be used, and engagement spans all stakeholders across the district. The Far North District Council Local Government Elections 2025 Communications Plan is attached.

The report provides a further update on the progress of the work programme. We are shifting from Phase B (Civic Engagement) into Phase C (Pre-Election Period).

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Upcoming Elections

The pre-election period begins on 11 July 2025. Members standing for re-election will, in effect, wear two hats during the pre-election period, i.e. three months prior to local body elections - firstly, in their role as an elected member making decisions on behalf of their community and, secondly, their personal capacity as a candidate running for elected office.

Elected members received the Local Authority Elections 2025 Guidelines for Elected Members 13 March 2025, and again 12 June 2025. It is required by the local that elected members do not use council resources for electioneering and ensures that a clear distinction is drawn between their two roles.

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 |

Upcoming Events

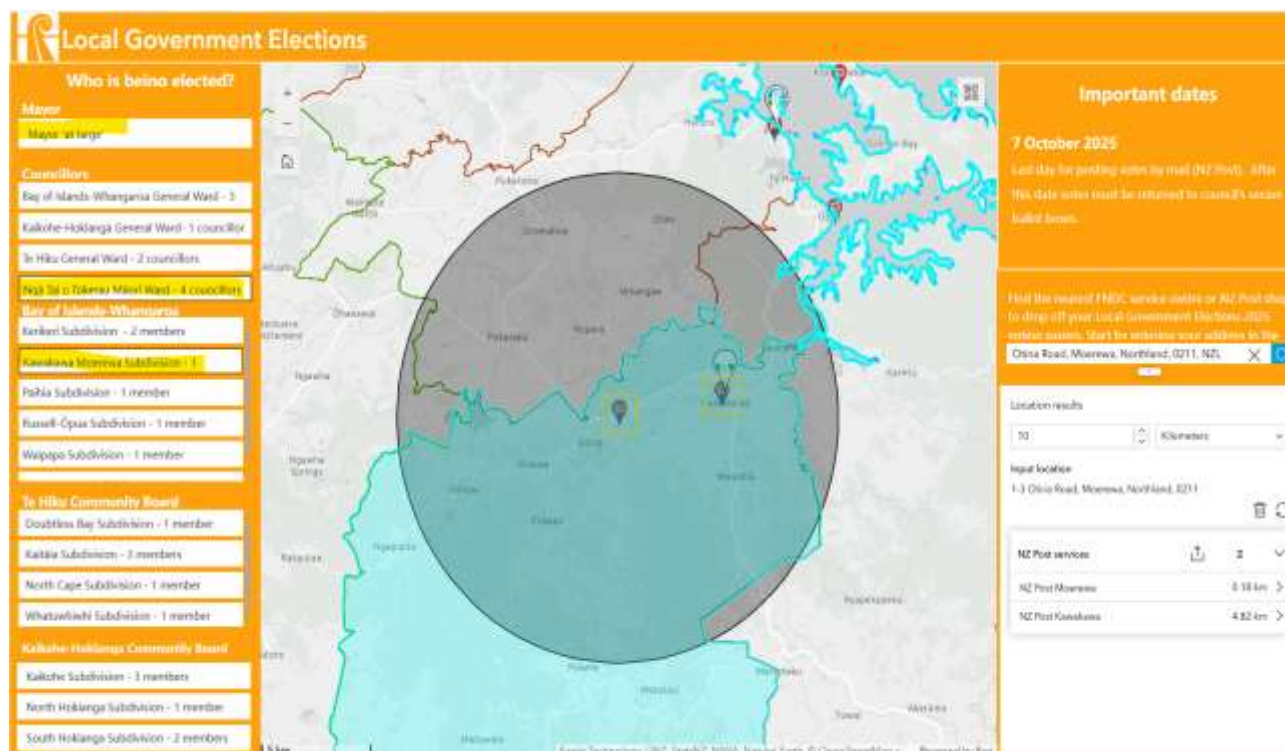
- Far North District Council / Northland Regional Council Candidate Information Evening 25th June 2025, Te Kōna – Kaikohe 6pm
- Community lead Candidate Information events will be added to council's webpage as they become available.

Next steps

- Finalise GIS mapping tool that will show voting locations within a 10km radius of an address/location and which elected members can be voted for based on that address.

Example 1 below: Māori roll – Address: Ōtiria Rd, Moerewa (FNDC – Mayor, Māori Ward Councillors (4), Kawakawa-Moerewa Community Board (1), Māori Ward poll and NRC – Māori Ward Member (2) and Māori Ward Constituency poll) – [see attachment 1 for larger view](#)

Note: NRC mapping to be confirmed, and mobile ballot tour locations to be added.



Example 2 below: General roll – Pāmapūria, Kaitaia (FNDC – Mayor, Te Hiku General Ward Councillors (2), Kaitāia Subdivision Community Board (3), Māori Ward poll and NRC – Ward Member (1) and Māori Ward Constituency poll) – [see attachment for larger views](#)

Local Government Elections

Who is being elected?

Mayor

Mayor 'at large'

Councillors

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward - 3

Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward - 1 councillor

Te Hiku General Ward - 2 councillors

Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward - 4 councillors

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa

Kerikeri Subdivision - 2 members

Kawakawa Moerewa Subdivision - 1

Palhia Subdivision - 1 member

Russell-Opua Subdivision - 1 member

Waipapa Subdivision - 1 member

Te Hiku Community Board

Doubtless Bay Subdivision - 1 member

Kaitaia Subdivision - 3 members

North Cape Subdivision - 1 member

Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision - 1 member

Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board

Kaikohe Subdivision - 3 members

North Hokianga Subdivision - 1 member

South Hokianga Subdivision - 2 members

Important dates

7 October 2025

Last day for posting votes by mail (NZ Post). After this date votes must be returned to council's secure ballot boxes.

Find the nearest FNDC service centre or NZ Post shop to drop off your Local Government Elections 2025 voting papers. Start by entering your address in the

6964 State Highway 1, Pāmapūria

Location results

10 Kilometers

Input location

Pāmapūria Playcentre

NZ Post services

NZ Post Kaitaia 8.23 km

NZ Post Kaitaia

Name	NZ Post Kaitaia
Associated Shop	Shackleton's Pharmacy
Address	91 Commerce Street, Kaitaia 0410

Planning and delivery of key components of Phase C:

- co-hosted candidate information evening (NRC/FNDC)
- TikTok launch
- staff training programme for nominations and special voting
- mobile ballot box tour
- confirmed candidate video coordination
- onboarding/induction/pōwhiri/inaugural meetings.

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

No budgetary implications.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 - CEE Update - A5234523 [↓](#)
2. Attachment 2 - LG Elections Communications Plan 2025 - June 2025 - A5231111 [↓](#)

EXAMPLE 1 below: Māori roll – Address: Otiria Rd, Moerewa (FNDC – Mayor, Māori Ward Councillors (4), Kawakawa-Moerewa Community Board (1), Māori Ward poll and NRC – Māori Ward Member (2) and Māori Ward Constituency poll)

Local Government Elections

Who is being elected?

Mayor

Mayor 'at large'

Councillors

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward - 3

Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward- 1 councillor

Te Hiku General Ward - 2 councillors

Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward - 4 councillors

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa

Kerikeri Subdivision - 2 members

Kawakawa Moerewa Subdivision - 1

Paihia Subdivision - 1 member

Russell-Ōpua Subdivision - 1 member

Waipapa Subdivision - 1 member

Te Hiku Community Board

Doubtless Bay Subdivision - 1 member

Kaitiāia Subdivision - 3 members

North Cape Subdivision - 1 member

Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision - 1 member

Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board

Kaikohe Subdivision - 3 members

North Hokianga Subdivision - 1 member

South Hokianga Subdivision - 2 members

+

-

Home

Map of the Kawakawa-Moerewa area showing various subdivisions and wards. The map includes labels for locations like Otiria, Kawakawa, and various bays and rivers. A scale bar indicates 5 km.

5 km

Eagle Technology, LINZ, StatsNZ, NIWA, Natural Earth, © OpenStreetMap c... Powered by Esri

Important dates

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Otiria Road, Moerewa, Northland, 0211, NZL

Location results

10 Kilometers

Input location

1-3 Otiria Road, Moerewa, Northland, 0211

NZ Post services

2

NZ Post Moerewa 0.18 km

NZ Post Kawakawa 4.82 km

Item 6.3 - Attachment 1 - Attachment 1 - CEE Update

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EXAMPLE 2 below: General roll – Pāmapūria, Kaitaia (FNDC – Mayor, Te Hiku General Ward Councillors (2), Kaitaia Subdivision Community Board (3), Māori Ward poll and NRC – Ward Member (1) and Māori Ward Constituency poll)

Local Government Elections

Who is being elected?

Mayor

Mayor 'at large'

Councillors

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward - 3

Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward- 1 councillor

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Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward - 4 councillors

Bay of Islands-Whangaroa

Kerikeri Subdivision - 2 members

Kawakawa Moerewa Subdivision - 1

Paihia Subdivision - 1 member

Russell-Ōpua Subdivision - 1 member

Waipapa Subdivision - 1 member

Te Hiku Community Board

Doubtless Bay Subdivision - 1 member

Kaitāia Subdivision - 3 members

North Cape Subdivision - 1 member

Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision - 1 member

Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board

Kaikohe Subdivision - 3 members

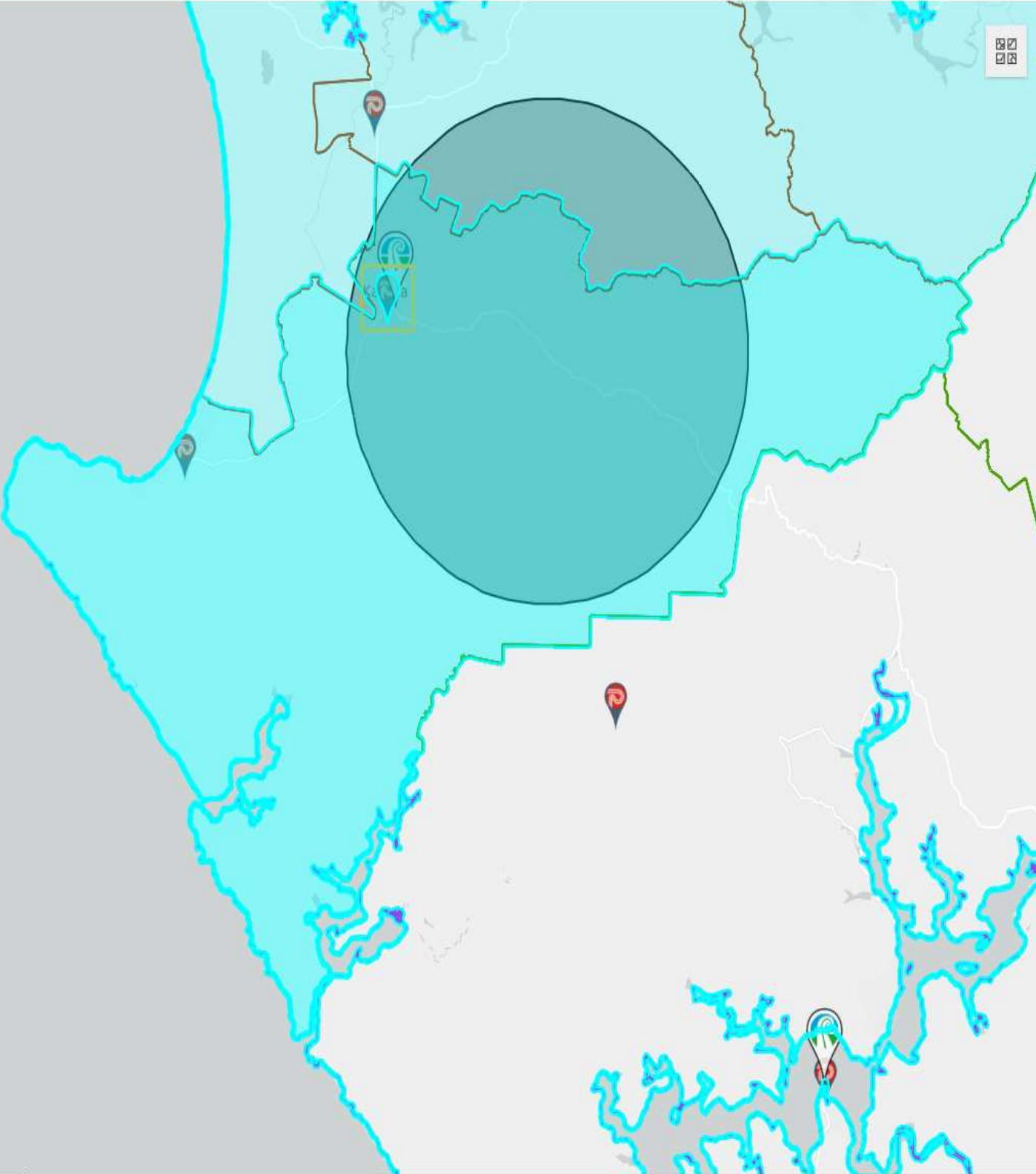
North Hokianga Subdivision - 1 member

South Hokianga Subdivision - 2 members

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-

🏠



5 km

Maple Technology | INZ, StatsNZ, NIWA, Natural Earth, © OpenStreetMap contributors | Powered by Esri

Important dates

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6964 State Highway 1, Pāmapuria

Location results

10 Kilometers

Input location

Pāmapuria Playcentre

NZ Post services

NZ Post Kaitaia 8.23 km

NZ Post Kaitaia

Name	NZ Post Kaitaia
Associated Shop	Shackelton's Pharmacy
Address	91 Commerce Street, Kaitaia 0410

Item 6.3 - Attachment 1 - Attachment 1 - CEE Update

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HE ARA TĀMATA
CREATING GREAT PLACES
Supporting our people

Local Government Elections 2025

Communications Plan

June 2025

Purpose

To inform Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee on Local Government Elections communication plan.

Background

Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee received a report 24 April 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 shifting from Phase B (Civic Engagement) into Phase C (Pre-Election Period).

Objectives

- Remove barriers to council processes.
- Increase voter turnout.
- Our residents and ratepayers are active and understand how to effect change democratically.
- Our elected Council and community boards are a true reflection of the communities of the Far North.
- Reduce number of positions elected unopposed.

Key Messages

- Tau ake ki te hoe – ki te kore e pōti, kāore koe i te pōti.
We're ready are you - if you don't vote you're not in the boat.
- Tū Rangatira Mai – Step Up, Tū Kotahi Mai – Stand up, Mō te Āpōpō – Speak Up.
Whāia to rangatiratanga – Exercise your rights.
- Local voice MUST be heard loud and clear, not only through election period by voting, but throughout the triennium to inform decision making.

Target Audiences

IWI / RŪNANGA	HAPU / TAKIWA
MĀORI BUSINESS	KŌHANGA REO / KURA KAUPAPA MĀORI
MARAE COMMITTEE	KAUMĀTUA - KUIA ROOPU
LEADERS WITHIN COMMUNITIES	EVENT NETWORKS
IWI RADIO	IWI MEDIA
BUSINESS PEOPLE	LIFELINES - FIRE/POLICE/FENZ
BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	ACCESS NEEDS COMMUNITIES
RATEPAYER ASSOCIATION	YOUTH
RURAL/FARMING SECTOR	SCHOOL/EDUCATORS
ALTERNATIVE LIFESTYLE	ENVIRO INTERST GROUPS
SPORTS CLUB	RESIDENTIAL CARE
CREATIVE COMMUNITIES	FISHERIES
TRANSPORT	CONSERVATION SECTOR
FORESTRY	TOURISM
HERITAGE GROUPS	RELIGIOUS GROUPS
MULTI-ETHNIC COMMUNITIES	NEURODIVERSE COMMUNITIES

Channels and Tactics

Engagement Methods:	
Social Media (Facebook/TikTok/Instagram)	✓
Information sharing (print/digital)	✓
Feedback surveys	✓
Flyers	✓
Workshops	✓
Pop-ups (markets)	✓
Online tools (ideas wall)	
Interactive digital hui	✓
Facilitated meetings	✓
Working groups	✓
Community panels	✓
Education events/exhibitions	✓
Candidate videos	✓
Competitions (rangatahi/youth)	✓
Activating Stakeholders:	
Have your say consultation webpage	✓
Webpage shared to Facebook	✓
Survey	✓
Email to subscribers	✓
Printed material (posters, flyers, submission forms etc)	✓
Information evenings/drop-in sessions	✓
Rates newsletter	✓
Information reports	✓
Elected Members Lounge	
Community group meetings	✓
Feedback Methods:	
Online tools	✓
Surveys	✓
Email or post	✓
Oral submissions	✓
Drop-in sessions	✓

Timeframe

Videos (staggered release from 3 June)

VIDEO 1 – OVERVIEW (*Tū Rangatira Mai – Step Up – Enrol*)

- Tue 3 June – publish a story about this year's video campaign with first video (bike park) embedded in the story (te reo and English versions)
- Wed 4 June – publish the bike park videos as a separate post each (one for te reo version... another post for English version)

VIDEO 2 – (*Tū Kotahi Mai – Stand up – Stand*)

- Thu 19 June - publish a story about when the stand phase starts and ends and what it means... embed the two stand videos in the story (te reo and English versions)
- Fri 20 June – publish each stand video as a separate post (one for te reo version... another post for English version)

MĀORI WARD POLL ANIMATION

- Thu 3 July - publish a story about this unique animation with videos embedded in the story (te reo and English versions)
- Mon 7 July – publish the animation video versions as a separate post each (one for te reo version... another post for English version)

VIDEO 3 – (*Mō te Āpōpō – Speak Up – Vote*)

- Tue 12 Aug - publish a story about when the vote phase starts and ends and what it means... embed the two vote videos in the story (te reo and English versions)
- Wed 13 Aug – publish the two vote videos as a separate post each (one for te reo version... another post for English version)

VIDEO 4 – STV (Single Transferable Vote)

- Thu 4 Sept - publish a story about STV and what it means... embed the two stand videos in the story (te reo and English versions)
- Fri 5 Sept - publish the two vote videos as a separate post each (one for te reo version... another post for English version)

VIDEO REPEATS

- Tue 9 Sept – Video 1 Overview, both versions re-released on social media
- Tue 16 Sept – Māori Ward Poll video, both versions re-released on social media
- Tue 23 Sept – Video 3 Vote, both versions re-released on social media
- Tue 30 Sept - Video 4 STV both versions re-released on social media

Candidate Handbook

Electronic version available from 13 June, Hard copies available from 16 June.

Pre-Election Report

Available from 20 June (electronic and hard copy)

Fact Sheets

Available from 20 June (electronic and hard copy)

TikTok

Launch before 1 July

Get ready to enrol and vote



**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI



Why enrol to vote?

If you're enrolled to vote, you get to have a say in general elections, local elections and referendums. Elections are your chance to have a say about who represents you on the issues that you care about.

**You can make sure
your voice is heard by
enrolling to vote.**



Who can enrol to vote?

You must enrol if you:

- are 18 years or older, and
- are a New Zealand citizen or a permanent resident of New Zealand, and
- have lived in New Zealand for more than one year continuously at some time in your life.

If you are Australian, Cook Islands Māori, Niuean or Tokelauan, you can enrol if you have lived in New Zealand continuously for 12 months.

If you live overseas you can enrol for the 2023 General Election if you:

- are a New Zealand citizen who has been in New Zealand in the past 6 years, or

- are a permanent resident of New Zealand who has been in New Zealand in the past 4 years.

After the 2023 election this will change back to 3 years for New Zealand citizens and 12 months for New Zealand permanent residents.

For electoral purposes, a permanent resident is anyone lawfully in New Zealand and not required to leave within a specific time. This includes someone on a resident visa.

You can enrol once you turn 17. When you turn 18, you'll be automatically enrolled and you'll be ready to vote.



How do I enrol?

It's easy to enrol or update your details. You can:

- visit **vote.nz** and use your New Zealand driver licence, New Zealand passport or RealMe verified identity to enrol online
- call free **0800 36 76 56** and ask for a form to be sent to you

When you've enrolled, your name will go on the electoral roll. You must be on the electoral roll to vote.

You need to update your details every time you move house.



Enrolling to vote if you are Māori

If you're of Māori descent and enrolling for the first time, you have an important choice to make. You need to decide which electoral roll you want to be on: the general roll or the Māori roll. Your choice affects which electorate you vote in at the general election.

If you choose the general roll, you'll vote for a candidate in a general electorate.

If you choose the Māori roll, you'll vote for a candidate in a Māori electorate.

You will vote for the same list of political parties whichever roll you're on.

The roll you choose may affect the way you vote in local elections. If you're on the Māori roll and your local authority has a Māori ward or constituency, you'll vote for candidates in the Māori ward or constituency.

You can change the roll you're on at any time except in the 3 months before a general election and the local elections, and in some circumstances before a parliamentary by-election.



Concerned about your personal safety?

If you're concerned about your personal safety, or that of your family, you can apply to go on the confidential unpublished roll. We'll keep your enrolment details secure and we won't give them to anyone.

Go to **vote.nz** or call **0800 36 76 56** for more information and an application form.



Want more information?

For more information about enrolling and voting:

- visit **vote.nz**
- call **0800 36 76 56**

Information about enrolling and voting is available in multiple languages at **vote.nz**



Need help to enrol?

You can ask someone you know, such as a friend or family member, or you can ask our enrolment team, to help you complete your enrolment form, or to complete your form for you.

You need to sign the form.

If you know someone who can't complete and sign their enrolment form because of a physical or mental impairment, you may be able to help.

Go to **vote.nz** to find out more about helping someone enrol to vote.



Kia takatū ki te rēhita, ki te pōti hoki



**ELECTORAL
COMMISSION**
TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI



He whaitake tō rēhita ki te pōti

Nā tō rēhitatanga ki te pōti, ka whai reo koe i roto i ngā pōtitanga ā-motu, i ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe, me ngā tāpaetanga pōti. Ko ngā pōtitanga he wā e puta ai ō whakaaro mō ngā tāngata ka tū hei māngai kōrero i ngā take e nui ana ki a koe.

Mā te rēhita ki te pōti e āhei ai koe ki te whakaputa i ō whakaaro.



Ko wai e āhei ana ki te rēhita ki te pōti?

Ka herea koe e te ture ki te rēhita mehemea:

- kua 18 tau tō pāhake, kua pāhake ake rānei koe, ā
- he kirirarau koe nō Aotearoa, he kainoho pūmau rānei koe nō Aotearoa, ā
- kua noho koe ki Aotearoa mō tētehi wā roa ake i te 12 marama karapipiti, i roto i ngā tau.

Mehemea nō Ahitereiria, nō ngā Kuki Airani, nō Niue, nō Tokelau rānei koe, ka āhei koe ki te rēhita, ki te pōti hoki mehemea kua noho koe ki Aotearoa mō te 12 marama karapipiti.

Mehemea kei tāwāhi koe e noho ana, ka āhei koe ki te rēhita mō te Pōtitanga ā-Motu 2023 mehemea:

- he kirirarau koe nō Aotearoa kua toro mai ki Aotearoa i roto i ngā tau e 6 kua pahure ake,

- he kainoho pūmau rānei koe nō Aotearoa kua toro mai ki Aotearoa i roto i ngā tau e 4 kua pahure ake.

Ā muri i te pōtitanga o 2023, ka huri ki ngā āhuatanga o mua, arā, e 3 tau mō ngā kirirarau o Aotearoa, 12 marama mō ngā kainoho tūturu o Aotearoa.

Mō ngā take pōti, he kainoho pūmau ngā tāngata he mana ā-ture ō rātou ki te noho ki Aotearoa, ā, ehara i te mea kua kīa ā-ture me wehe rātou i roto i tētehi wā tauwhāiti. Ko te korowaitia e tēnei ngā tāngata he pane uruwhenua kainoho ā rātou.

Ko te āhei koe ki te rēhita mehemea kua 17 ō tau. Hei tō huritau 18, ka rēhita aunoatia koe, me te aha, kua rite koe ki te pōti.

**Me pēhea taku rēhita?**

He māmā te rēhita, te whakahou rānei i ō taipitopito. Ka āhei koe ki te:

- toro mai ki **vote.nz** ki te rēhita ā-ipurangi ki tō raihana hautū waka o Aotearoa, ki tō uruwhenua o Aotearoa, ki tō tuakiri whaimana RealMe rānei
 - waea utukore mai ki **0800 36 76 56** ki te tono kia tukua atu he puka ki a koe
- Ā muri i tō rēhitatanga, kua tāpirihia tō ingoa ki te rārangi pōti. Me mātua noho tō ingoa ki te rārangi pōti e āhei ai koe ki te pōti.

Me whakahou koe i ō taipitopito wāhi noho, i ia wā ka hūnuku koe ki whare kē noho ai.

**Ko tā te Māori rēhita ki te pōti**

Mehemea he Māori koe, ā, ko tēnei tō rēhitatanga mātahi ki te pōti, he kōwhiringa whaitake hei whakatau māu. Me kōwhiri koe i te rārangi pōti e hiahia nā koe: ko te rārangi Māori rānei, ko te rārangi whānui rānei. Ka pā atu tō kōwhiringa ki te rohe pōti e pōti ai koe i te pōtitanga ā-motu.

Mehemea ka kōwhiri koe i te rārangi whānui, ka pōti koe mō tētehi kaitono i tētehi rohe pōti whānui.

Mehemea ka kōwhiri koe i te rārangi Māori, ka pōti koe mō tētehi kaitono i tētehi rohe pōti Māori.

Kotahi anake te rārangi o ngā rōpū tōrangapū hei pōti māu, ahakoa te rārangi e noho nā koe - te rārangi Māori, te rārangi whānui rānei.

Ka pā atu pea tō kōwhiringa ki te tūāhua o tō pōti i ngā pōtitanga ā-rohe. Mehemea kei te rārangi Māori koe, ā, he wāri Māori tō tō kaunihera, he marea pōti Māori rānei, ka pōti koe mō ngā kaitono i roto i taua wāri Māori, i taua marea pōti rānei.

Ka āhei koe ki te whakawhiti rārangi ahakoa te wā, engari kua i roto i te 3 marama i mua i te pōtitanga ā-motu, i mua rānei i ngā pōtitanga kaunihera, i mua rānei i ētehi pōtitanga pāerotanga ā-pāremata.

**Ko te māharahara koe mō tō haumarutanga?**

Mehemea ko te māharahara koe mō tō haumarutanga, mō te haumarutanga rānei o tō whānau, ka āhei koe ki te tono mai kia noho tō ingoa ki te rārangi muna matatapu. Ka āta tiakina ō taipitopito rēhita kia kore e riro i tangata kē atu.

Toro mai ki **vote.nz**, waea mai rānei ki **0800 36 76 56** ki te tono i ētehi whakamāramatanga nō, ki te tono rānei mō tō puka rēhita mō te rārangi muna.

**Ko te hiahia ki ētehi whakamāramatanga nō?**

Mehemea ko te hiahia koe ki ētehi whakamāramatanga nō mō te rēhitatanga me te pōtitanga:

- toro mai ki **vote.nz**
- waea mai ki **0800 36 76 56**

Kei **vote.nz** he pārongo i ētehi atu reo mō te rēhitatanga me te pōtitanga.

**Ko te hiahia kia āwhinatia koe ki te rēhita?**

Ka āhei koe ki te tono ki tētehi kaitautoko, pērā i tētehi hoa, i tētehi whanaunga rānei, ki te āwhina i a koe ki te whakakī i tō puka rēhita. Ka āhei hoki koe ki te tono mai ki tō mātou tīma rēhitatanga.

Māu anō te puka e waitohu.

Mehemea e mōhio ana koe ki tētehi tangata kāhore e taea e ia tana puka rēhita te whakakī, nā runga i tōna waimaerotanga ā-tinana, ā-hinengaro rānei, ka taea peangē e koe te āwhina atu.

He whakamāramatanga kei **vote.nz** mō te āwhina i tētehi atu ki te rēhita ki te pōti.



**ELECTORAL
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TE KAITIAKI TAKE KŌWHIRI

What we do



Footpaths and roads



Rubbish and recycling



Wastewater, stormwater and water supply



Building and resource consents



Compliance and animal management



Parks and playgrounds



Cemeteries



Toilets



Community grants



Libraries



District planning

Learn more about what we do
www.fndc.govt.nz



Pest and weed control



Environmental management



Rivers and lakes water quality



Public buses



Flood protection



Land management advice



Science and hydrology



Harbour safety



Environmental education



Climate resilience



Regional planning

Learn more about what we do
www.nrc.govt.nz



FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL



FACT SHEET | PEPA MEKA

2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
11 OCTOBER 2025



→ WHAT DOES COUNCIL DO?

The District Council meets regularly to make many decisions that impact the day-to-day lives of people in the Far North District. The Council governs a wide range of local services including roads, water systems, rubbish collection, libraries, parks, community centres, dog registration, community and economic development and district planning.

→ BACKGROUND

Local government triennial elections are being held by postal vote on Saturday 11 October 2025 and will be undertaken by Election Services, under contract to Far North District Council.

The single transferable voting (STV) electoral system will be used for the Far North District Council elections, and the first past the post (FPP) electoral system will be used for the Northland Regional Council elections.

→ 2025 KEY DATES

Nominations open	Friday 4 July
Nominations close	noon, Friday 1 August
Delivery of voting packs	from Tuesday 9 September
Close of voting	noon, Saturday 11 October
Official results announced	Friday 17 October

→ WHO IS BEING ELECTED?

Elections will be required for the following positions:

- Mayor (elected 'at large')
- Councillors (10)
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Ward (3)
 - Kaikohe-Hokianga General Ward (1)
 - Te Hiku General Ward (2)
 - Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward (4)
- Community Board Members (19):
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board (7):
 - Kerikeri Subdivision (2)
 - Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision (1)
 - Paihia Subdivision (1)
 - Russell-Ōpua Subdivision (1)
 - Waipapa Subdivision (1)
 - Whangaroa Subdivision (1)

- Te Hiku Community Board (6):
 - Doubtless Bay Subdivision (1)
 - Kaitāia Subdivision (3)
 - North Cape Subdivision (1)
 - Whatuwhiwhi Subdivision (1)
- Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board (6):
 - Kaikohe Subdivision (3)
 - North Hokianga Subdivision (1)
 - South Hokianga Subdivision (2)

- Northland Regional Council Members: either:
 - 1 member from the Far North General Constituency, or
 - 1 member from the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency; or
 - 2 members from the Te Raki Māori Constituency

Electors will also be able to vote on two polls — whether to retain or disestablish the Māori ward for the Far North District Council, and whether to retain or disestablish the Māori constituency for the Northland Regional Council. The outcome of these binding polls will apply to the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

→ HOW CAN I BE NOMINATED?

Nominations for these positions open on Friday 4 July 2025 and close at noon on Friday 1 August 2025.

For online nominations go to: www.esp.electionservices.co.nz.

Printed nomination papers and a candidate handbook will also be available during this period from:

- Council's main office, 5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe;
- Kaitāia Service Centre, Te Ahu, Corner Matthews Avenue and South Road, Kaitāia;
- Kāeo Service Centre, Leigh Street, Kāeo;
- Kerikeri Service Centre, John Butler Centre, 60 Kerikeri Road, Kerikeri;
- Kawakawa Service Centre, Gillies Street, Kawakawa;
- Rawene Service Centre, 11 Parnell Street, Rawene;
- or download and print at: www.fndc.govt.nz.

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate **must** be:

- a New Zealand citizen (by birth or naturalisation ceremony); **and**
- enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); **and**
- nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the respective area that a candidate is standing for.

A candidate information handbook is available in May 2025.

➔ WHO CAN VOTE?

Those eligible to vote are all resident electors and non-resident ratepayer electors whose names appear on the electoral roll when it closes on Friday 1 August 2025. The Preliminary Electoral Roll will be available for public inspection between Friday 4 July 2025 and Friday 1 August 2025 at the locations overpage.

Resident Roll: All parliamentary electors, including those on the Māori Electoral Roll, are automatically enrolled on the Resident Roll, at the address where they live. Any alterations to the Resident Roll (e.g. change of address details, including new postal addresses) should be made by:

- ➔ completing the appropriate form (available from the Electoral Commission or Council service centres and libraries);
- ➔ phoning 0800 36 76 56;
- ➔ accessing the Electoral Commission website:

www.vote.nz.

Ratepayer Roll: If a person is on the parliamentary roll in one area and pays rates on a property in another area, this person may be eligible to be enrolled on the non-resident ratepayer roll. A firm, company, corporation or society paying rates on a property may nominate one of its members or officers as a ratepayer elector (provided the nominated person resides outside the area). Ratepayer Roll enrolment forms are available at www.fndc.govt.nz or www.ratepayer.co.nz or by phoning 0800 922 822.

All electors will be able to vote for the mayor and the respective community board. Those electors on the general electoral roll will be able to vote for the respective general ward councillors and those on the Māori electoral roll will be able to vote for the Māori ward councillors.

➔ HOW TO VOTE?

Voting packs will be posted to all those who have enrolled from Tuesday 9 September 2025.

The voting period is just under five weeks (Tuesday 9 September 2025 to noon Saturday 11 October 2025). Electors may post their completed voting documents back to the electoral officer using the orange prepaid envelope sent with their voting document.

Polling places for the issuing of special voting documents and for the receiving of completed voting documents will be available from Tuesday 9 September 2025 to noon Saturday 11 October 2025 at all council offices (shown overpage).

On Saturday 11 October 2025, the issuing of special voting documents and the receiving of completed voting documents will be available at Council's Kaitiā, Kerikeri and Kaikohe offices only.

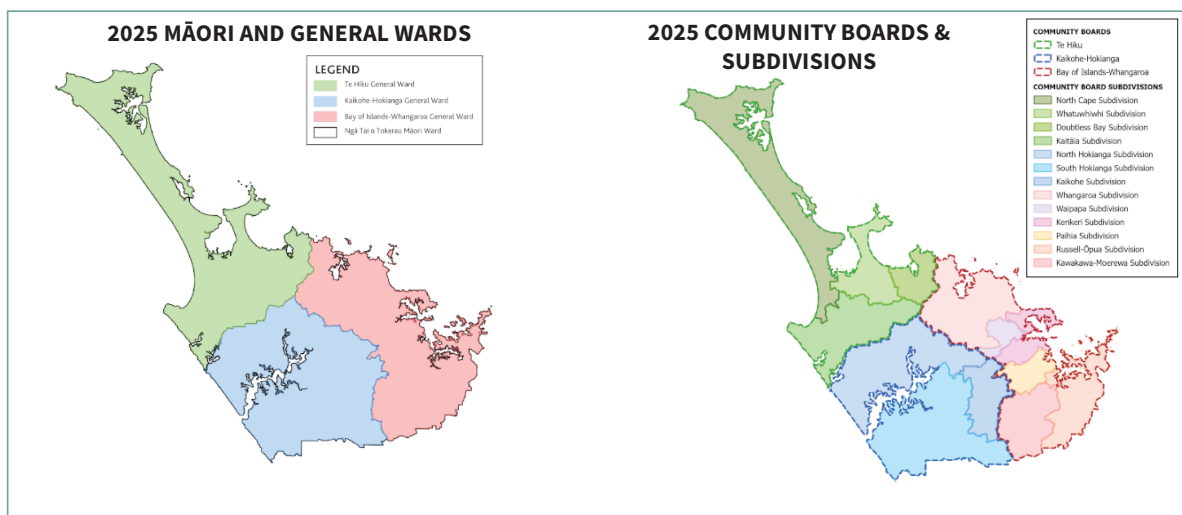
In addition, votes can also be hand-delivered to a vote box at specific locations found on www.fndc.govt.nz.

To be counted, all completed voting documents must be in the hands of the electoral officer or an electoral official by noon, Saturday 11 October 2025.

➔ RESULTS

Progress results will be known early afternoon on election day, and preliminary results will be known on Sunday, 12 October 2025.

Final results will be known by Friday 17 October 2025, and all results will be accessible on Council's website: www.fndc.govt.nz



Dale Ofoske | Electoral Officer
Independent Election Services Ltd
Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland
PO Box 5135 Victoria Street West, Auckland 1142
Email: info@electionservices.co.nz
Phone: 0800 922 822

Casey Gannon | Manager, Strategic Relationships
Far North District Council
5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe
Private Bag 752, Kaikohe 0440
Email: casey.gannon@fndc.govt.nz
Phone: 0800 920 029 or (09) 401 5200

Role and Key Attributes of a Mayor / Councillor / Community Board member

Fact Sheet

Elections 2025 | elections@fndc.govt.nz

In deciding whether to stand in the local body elections, or when considering who you want to vote for, it is important to understand the role of the elected member, and the core attributes that help them be successful in their role.

The following sheet outlines the general requirements and attributes of an elected member along with some information about time commitments and pay.

Structure of Council



The Far North District Council comprises the Governing Body (Council) - the mayor (elected at large) and 10 councillors elected from 4 wards – Te Hiku; Kaikohe-Hokianga; Bay of Islands-Whangaroa and Ngā Tai o Tokerau. There are 3 community boards, each consisting of six to seven members elected from the local ward area.

Mayor

The role of the mayor is to articulate and promote a vision for the Far North District and to provide leadership towards that vision, including leading the development of the council's plans (including the long-term plan), policies, and budgets. The mayor also performs civic duties (citizenship ceremonies); presides over Council meetings; speaks on behalf of Council and has Civil Defence responsibilities.



Councillor

With the mayor, councillors focus on district-wide strategic decisions including policies, plans, regulations, and activities. Council also appoints the chief executive and maintains oversight of the council organisation – Far North Holdings Limited.

Broadly speaking, the role of the councillor is to:

- Provide strategic leadership and direction
- Make decisions on district matters
- Work collaboratively and build relationships
- Engage with communities
- Monitor performance
- Identify and manage risk

Community Board

Community boards set local direction through their strategic board plans, represent and advocate on behalf of their local communities. Community boards also provide input to Council decisions on community matters and strategies, policies, plans and bylaws.

Broadly speaking, the role of a community board member is to:

- Set local direction and deliver priorities through each board's strategic plan
- Make decisions on community board matters (where delegated by Council)
- Advocate for their local communities (be their voice)
- Input into decision, policies, strategies, plans and bylaws
- Promote strong, resilient and engaged communities
- Represent members of the local community

Knowledge and skills for all elected members

There are some key attributes that are important in being a successful elected member. Bringing these attributes, along with own life experiences, ensures robust decision-making at council or community board level.

Each attribute can mean different things to different people – an example has been provided for illustrative purposes only:

Quality decision-making: Make good decisions based on a combination of staff advice, community views, wisdom, experience, and informed judgement.

Political acumen: Manoeuvre through complex political situations effectively and respectfully.

Leadership: Provide leadership and direction and makes things happen to achieve the vision and outcomes.

Cultural awareness: Respect and embrace differences and diversity in a non-judgemental way.

Knowledge and understanding of Council and local government: Understand council's processes (such as decision-making and policy development) and know how to influence appropriately.

Communication and engagement: Relate well and build rapport and trust with people from all parts of the community and within the council.

Relationship building and collaboration: Able to agree to disagree and accept and own decisions and outcomes.

Resilience: Cope with the pressures of being in the public eye.

Ethics and values: Understand and model the council values and behaviours and discourage unethical behaviour.

Integrity and trust: Be widely trusted, keep confidences and respect the confidentiality of information provided.

Computer literacy: Utilise computers and related technology as required, to carry out the role effectively.

Additional attributes required of chairs (committee or community Board)

In addition to the core skills required of all elected members, the role of chairperson carries additional responsibilities, and as such, additional skill requirements:

Leadership and delegation: Looked to for direction in challenging situations and faces adversity head on.

Managing vision and purpose: Invites input from each person and shares ownership and visibility.

Community Board chairs also need to build and lead an effective board, including providing feedback and information gained through attendance at council meetings, committee meetings and workshops.

Community Board chairs should look to develop and mentor other board members.

Time commitments of members

The mayor is considered a full-time role.

Councillors will spend about 60% of their time on council business, whether that be meeting constituents, reading agendas or participating in workshops and meetings of Council. Some members are also appointed to external bodies to represent Council and will be expected to attend meetings and read information related to that body. Some councillors will spend more time, others less and is dependent on the individual member and their additional responsibilities.

Community Boards, being largely advocates, will spend between 30% of their time (chair) and 10-15% of their time (members) on community board business. A large

proportion of this will be "out and about" rather than necessarily in formal meetings.

Remuneration

The Remuneration Authority sets the base remuneration and a pool of money for all elected members of local authorities, including community boards (called the Determination). The pool must be used in full to increase the base remuneration if the Council so decides and also remunerate for positions of extra responsibility, including the deputy mayor and chairs of committees. The salary for the mayor is set as if it were a full-time position.

Base remuneration for members of Far North District Council (as at 1 July 2024) are:

Base remuneration for members of Far North District Council (as at 1 July 2024) are:	
Position	\$PA
Mayor	\$168,906
Deputy mayor	\$129,648
Councillor (with no additional responsibilities)	\$88,161
Councillor (minimum allowable remuneration)	\$67,052

Base remuneration for community boards of Far North District Council (as at 1 July 2024) are:	
Community Board	\$PA
Bay of Islands – Whangaroa Community	
Chairperson	\$34,713
Member	\$17,356
Kaikohe - Hokianga Community	
Chairperson	\$29,754
Member	\$14,877
Te Hiku Community	
Chairperson	\$30,374
Member	\$15,187

For the latest updates and detailed information, visit our website or scan the QR code:

<https://www.fndc.govt.nz/Council/Local-Elections>





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Māori Ward – Ngā Tai o Tokerau

Fact Sheet

Elections 2025 | elections@fndc.govt.nz



To strengthen Māori representation, Parliament introduced Māori wards. Far North District Council adopted the Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward in 2021 for the 2022 and 2025 elections—no referendum was required at the time. In 2024, legislation changed, requiring councils to hold a binding referendum if they chose to keep their Māori ward. Council voted to retain the ward, so a referendum will be included in the 2025 local elections. All voters—on both the general and Māori rolls—can vote on whether to keep or remove the ward. The result will apply from 2028 and be binding for two terms.

What is a Māori ward?

Similar to the Māori Parliamentary seats, Māori wards establish areas (seats) where only those on the Māori electoral roll vote for Māori ward candidates. They are similar to a general, urban or rural ward and are reflective of the community in that ward. Like Māori wards, those in a general, urban or rural ward vote for a candidate standing in that general ward.

How are Māori wards established?

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) provides the mechanism for councils to establish Māori wards. To take effect, councils must first resolve to establish Māori wards. Council resolved to establish Māori wards on 4 May 2021 for the 2022 and 2025 elections. There will be one district wide Māori ward in place for at least the 2022 elections called Ngā Tai o Tokerau from which 4 Māori ward councillors will be elected.

Who can stand for election in a Māori ward?

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate must be:

- A New Zealand citizen (by birth or citizenship ceremony); and
- Enrolled as a Parliamentary elector, and
- Nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within ward that a candidate is standing (i.e on the Māori roll in the Far North).
- As such you do not have to be Māori to stand in a Māori ward.

As Māori, can I stand in a general seat?

Yes, you can. Just like you don't have to be Māori to stand in a Māori ward. You will be voted in by electors on the general electoral roll for that ward. Those on the Māori electoral roll would vote on candidates standing in a Māori ward and those on the general electoral roll would vote on candidates standing in a general ward.

How can I find out if I am enrolled – and on which roll (Māori or General)?

The Electoral Commission is responsible for electoral rolls under Vote.nz. Please visit their website at www.vote.nz or call them on 0800 36 76 56.

I am Māori, currently on the general electoral roll but I want to move to the Māori electoral roll so I can vote for councillors in the Māori ward – can I do this before the next local body elections?

No – the next available opportunity to change rolls will be in 2024. This is determined by Central Government (the Electoral Commission) under the Māori Electoral Option, which is usually held every five years (the last one was in 2018).

Who can I vote for if I am on the Māori roll?

If you are on the Māori roll you will be able to vote for:

- the Mayor
- candidates for the Ngā Tai o Tokerau Ward (Māori ward)
- community board candidates in your subdivision.

Do any other Northland councils have Māori wards?

YES: Northland Regional Council & Whangārei District Council

NO: Kaipara District Council

For the latest updates and detailed information, visit our website or scan the QR code:
<https://www.fndc.govt.nz/Council/Local-Elections>





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Voting Papers

Fact Sheet

Elections 2025 | elections@fndc.govt.nz

Far North District Council and Northland Regional Council share the same voting document. Far North District Council elected members make decisions about things such as (but not exclusive to): footpaths and roads, rubbish and recycling, parks and playgrounds, public toilets, libraries, community grants, district planning. Northland Regional Council elected members make decisions about things such as (but not exclusive to): pest and weed control, environmental management, rivers and lakes water quality, flood protection, harbour safety, regional planning.

Visit <https://www.fndc.govt.nz/Services/Far-North-Maps> to find your closest voting location.

Elections required

Elections will be held for:

- mayor (elected 'at large')
- councillors
- community board members
- Northland Regional Council members

The Far North District Council is divided into four wards as follows:

General Wards	Councillors
Bay of Islands-Whangaroa	3
Kaikohe-Hokianga	1
Te Hiku	2
Māori Ward	
Ngā Tai o Tokerau	4
	10

In addition, there are three community boards, which are further subdivided into subdivisions:

Community Boards and Subdivisions	Member
Bay of Islands-Whangaroa	7
Kawakawa-Moerewa Subdivision	1
Kerikeri Subdivision	2
Paihia Subdivision	1
Russell-Ōpua Subdivision	1
Waipapa Subdivision	1
Whangaroa Subdivision	1
Kaikohe-Hokianga	6
Kaikohe Subdivision	3
North Hokianga Subdivision	1
South Hokianga Subdivision	2
Te Hiku	6

The Northland Regional Council is divided into 8 constituencies as follows:

Constituency	Members
General Constituencies	
Far North	1
Bay of Islands-Whangaroa	1
Kaipara	1
Mid North	1
Coastal Central	1
Whangārei Central	1
Coastal South	1
Māori Constituency	
Te Raki	2
	9

Following the introduction of the Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Maori Wards and Maori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024, any council (city, district or region) that established Maori wards or constituencies since 2020 without holding a poll, is required to hold a poll with their 2025 elections.

Electors will be able to vote on two polls - whether to keep or remove the Māori ward for the Far North District Council, and whether to keep or remove the Māori constituency for the Northland Regional Council. The outcome of these binding polls will apply to the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.



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Single Transferable Voting

Fact Sheet

Elections 2025 |

2	CANDIDATE, Name		101
3	CANDIDATE, Name		102
1	CANDIDATE, Name		103

Council has adopted Single Transferable Voting for the 2025 elections.

It is commonly referred to as a proportional or preferential voting system, the results of which are more likely to reflect the preferences of a greater number of voters. Because voters' second, third, and other preferences are taken into account, the results are a more accurate indication of the total support each candidate has.

What is a quota?

The quota is the number of votes a candidate needs to get elected. It is calculated from the total number of valid votes cast and the number of vacant positions.

In the case of single vacancy elections, such as a mayoralty or the Kaikohe-Hokianga councillor position, the quota is referred to as an absolute majority.

The quota is calculated in the following manner (illustrative example):

In an election with three vacant positions, where there were 4,000 valid votes, the quota would be:

$$4000 (\text{Votes}) \div (3 (\text{Vacancies}) + 1) = 1000$$

In this case the quota would be 1000.

As such, until all valid votes are received, it is not possible to predict the quota for each of the positions.

How are votes counted under STV?

The votes are counted in stages.

All first preference votes are counted first.

To be elected, candidates must reach the quota (see previous point). When a candidate reaches the quota and is elected, a portion of the surplus votes go to their voters' second choices. If no other candidates reach the quota and there are positions still to be filled, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and their votes are transferred according to voters' second choices.

These steps are repeated until all of the positions are filled. If voters didn't give any second or subsequent preferences, those votes cannot be transferred and the quota is recalculated to exclude the non-transferable votes. So it's important to rank your

preferred candidates so all your preferences are taken into account.

All of the vote counting is done by computer using specialist software. The Department of Internal Affairs developed the programme (called the STV calculator). It has been independently audited and certified, as required by law prior to the elections.

Because STV votes are counted in stages, it can mean that the results of the elections take a bit longer.

How do I vote under STV?

In a STV election, you have one vote and rank the candidates in order of preference. You give a 1 to your favourite candidate, 2 to your second favourite and so on. You can rank as many candidates as you like – you don't need to rank them all. By ranking the candidates, parts of your vote may be shared between the candidates you support according to your preferences.

If the candidate you most want to win gets more votes than they need to be elected, because a lot of other people voted for them too, part of your vote may be transferred to your next choice.

The same thing happens if your top choice is really unpopular and doesn't get enough votes to be elected – your vote for them will be transferred to your next preference until all positions are filled.

Where can I find out more about STV?

www.stv.govt.nz contains additional resources that help explain how the votes are transferred with some good examples based on different scenarios.



What does STV look like on a voting paper?

Here are some pictures to help illustrate how you will vote using STV.

Voting for the mayor

Sample District Council
ELECTING THE MAYOR

1 STV - THIS IS A SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTING ELECTION

Start by writing the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number **2** next to your second most preferred candidate, and so on. You can write in as many preferences or as few as you like up to **12**. You must write in the number **1** for your vote to be counted, do not write the same number more than once, and do not miss a number from your preferences. The candidate names are listed alphabetically for this election.

<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		101
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		102
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		103
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		104
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		105
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		106
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		107
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		108
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		109
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		110
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		111
<input type="checkbox"/>	Informal		112

Voting for councillor (where there is more than one position)

Sample District Council
Sample Ward
ELECTING 2 COUNCILLORS

1 STV - THIS IS A SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTING ELECTION

Start by writing the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number **2** next to your second most preferred candidate, and so on - **3**, **4**, **5** etc. You can write in as many preferences or as few as you like up to **6**. You must write in the number **1** for your vote to be counted, do not write the same number more than once, and do not miss a number from your preferences. The candidate names are listed alphabetically for this election.

<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		201
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		202
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		203
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		204
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		205
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		206
<input type="checkbox"/>	Informal		207

Voting for community board members

Sample District Council
Sample Community Board (Sample Subdivision)
ELECTING 6 MEMBERS

1 STV - THIS IS A SINGLE TRANSFERABLE VOTING ELECTION

Start by writing the number **1** in the box next to the candidate you most want to be elected. Write the number **2** next to your second most preferred candidate, and so on - **3**, **4**, **5** etc. You can write in as many preferences or as few as you like up to **6**. You must write in the number **1** for your vote to be counted, do not write the same number more than once, and do not miss a number from your preferences. The candidate names are listed alphabetically for this election.

<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		401
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		402
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		403
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		404
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		405
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		406
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		407
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		408
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		409
<input type="checkbox"/>	CANDIDATE, Name		410
<input type="checkbox"/>	Informal		411

There is a lot of useful information regarding the 2025 elections on our website – including a video explaining Māori ward poll, a cheeky look at how STV works and lots more.

We update it regularly, so check us out at www.fndc.govt.nz/Your-council/Local-Elections



2025 LG Elections branding

National LGNZ Campaign



Far North District Council



Tū Rangatira Mai, Tū Kotahi Mai, Mō te Āpōpō
Take your rightful place, come together under collective thought, speak up for future generations.
For more information email elections@fndc.govt.nz or visit our website: www.fndc.govt.nz/local-elections



6.4 TE PAE O UTA - TE AO MĀORI FRAMEWORK QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE**File Number: A5195840****Author: Llani Harding, Pouhautū Te Hono - Manager - Te Hono****Authoriser: Jacine Warmington, Group Manager - Strategic Relationships****TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee with a progress update on Te Pae o Uta.

WHAKARĀPOOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Progress on Te Pae o Uta framework initiatives include updates on:
 - Te Rōpū Tupuwanawana (Te Rōpū) – Te Pae o Uta steering group
 - Te Pae o Uta dashboard and reporting
 - 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 an MOU with Te Rūnanga o te Rarawa on 23 May 2025. A further two MOUs/Mana Whakahono a Rohe are progressing well with an aim to have these signed prior to 1 July 2025. The Chief Executive (CE) and Kahika continue to support staff to engage with all Iwi CEs and Chairs regarding MOUs with Council.

Te Rōpū Tupuwanawana (Te Rōpū)

Te Rōpū meets monthly to discuss progressing Te Pae o Uta through Council and contributes to the statistics collation, monitoring of Te Pae o Waho and Ka Irihia.

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 now developed six goals per team and Te Hono is measuring how each team will meet the obligations of Te Pae o Uta.

Quantifying Te Pae o Uta:

The impacts of Te Pae o Uta can be seen in Council system, process and change through a number of initiatives. A snapshot of those for example:

- Dedicated Resource undertaking Papakainga Resource Consent allocations
- Review of Rating Relief Policies
- Collection of Māori business data within procurement process
- Alignment of Climate Adaptation work programme to Te Pae o Uta
- Building consent guidance for Māori landowners
- Increased communications on Whenua Māori roadshows and significant events across the district
- Inclusion of Te Pae o Uta in all job descriptions alongside the translation of job titles for council staff
- Te Pae o Uta inclusion in all council approved strategies and policy.

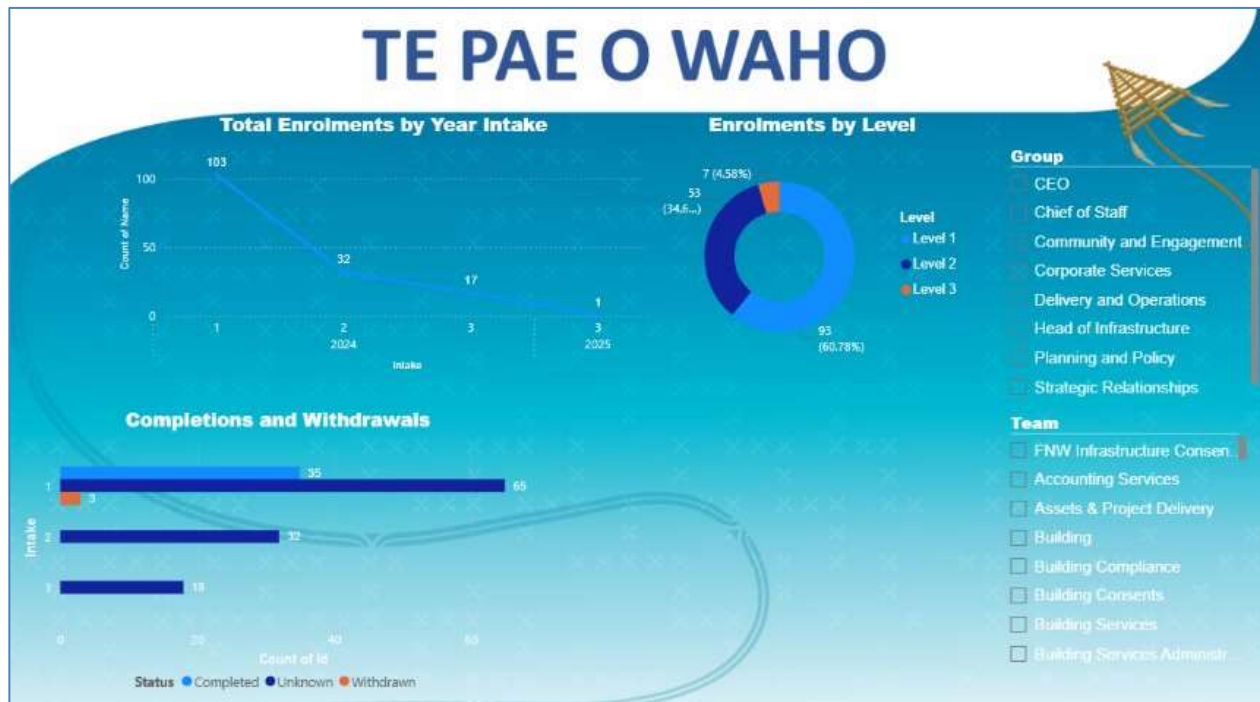
The following dashboard provides a snapshot of progress:



Te Pae o Waho

The third cohort of akonga (students) begin Monday 9 June. This cohort will be completing Levels 1-3, online and across 3 locations: Monday - online, Tuesday - Te Ahu, Wednesday – Kaikohe, and Thursday – Kerikeri.

Current enrolments:



Te Pae Waiata

Waiata lessons have been combined with Te Pae o Waho classes starting Monday 9 June.

Te Pae Waiata booklets are available to staff as hardcopies and to download using QR codes.

Waiata is now a weekly, locational opportunity for staff now being undertaken at all of our major offices lead by Te Hono staff.

Te Hono staff are preparing wider council staff to improve confidence and delivery when supporting internal hui and events, thereby enhancing cultural competency across the organisation.

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 since 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.

An analysis and thorough editing process was undertaken by Te Hono staff and sent back to the provider for a quote. Further budgetary provisions to update and upgrade the app will be looked at in the new financial year.

Far North Holdings (FNHL)

Incorporating Te Pae o Uta into FNHL business as usual remains a key focus.

Far North Holdings staff have not committed to six goals yet towards Te Pae o Uta but have shown interest in attending Te Pae o Waho courses.

Ensuring FNHL staff commit to Te Pae o Uta will be a key priority for the Council in the 2025-2026 financial year.

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 12 June 2025 where winners will be announced.
- May 2025 – Super Local Awards – Tū Kotahi award –
 - An announcement of shortlisted entries will be made on 19 June.
 - Winners will be announced at the LGNZ SuperLocal Awards night at the Te Pae Convention Centre on 17 July.

This award is for an innovative collaboration or partnership that's delivered a brilliant outcome – one that has had a significant positive impact on all or part of a community's social, economic, environmental and/or cultural wellbeing. Whether a council's worked with one or multiple collaborators, they've taken a genuine partnership approach built on trust, respect and innovation. The outcome of this partnership or collaboration will have long-lasting benefits to their community.

Future awards:

- 29 June 2025 – Nga Tohu Reo Māori, Māori Language Awards - *Uplifting te reo Māori*

This award recognises kaupapa in the private sector that encourage people to support and value te reo Māori and see it as a key part of our national identity.

“Nominees may be businesses who have built te reo Māori into their mahi and interactions with New Zealanders, creating bilingual product lines, moving to prominent bilingual signage, integrating te reo into a large public events, increasing te reo Māori content or commentary on international profile games, correcting long-held mispronunciation or spelling in a business name or product, introducing te reo Maori as part of their service offerings or how they do business everyday i.e. bilingual banking apps”.

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

Activities are undertaken within existing group budgets.

Budgetary considerations to update and upgrade the Kōrero Mai Te Reo app will be looked at in the new financial year.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.5 OPEN RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS UPDATE - JUNE 2025.**File Number: A5187752****Author: Marlema Baker, Democracy Advisor****Authoriser: Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services****TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee with an overview of outstanding open resolutions and action points arising from Committee meetings.

WHAKARĀPOOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Action points are a new addition to this standard report item.
- Action points will capture actions that are not part of a formal decision/resolution but require follow up or confirmation from staff.
- 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 Open Resolutions and Actions Update – June 2025 report.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

This report introduces action updates into the Open Resolutions Update report.

Resolutions from standard reports (*also known as decisionmaking reports*) are compiled in an open resolution report and included in each agenda. Staff track the status of each resolution or action through to completion *or* until such time as the committee is satisfied with progress and directs staff to remove the item from the report. Staff remain responsible for ensuring progress continues.

Many reports received by this committee are information-only (*to receive or to note*), as such they are not automatically captured as open resolution items. However, a need has been identified to record and track action points arising from information reports and meeting discussions.

Moving forward, these will be captured and reported at committee meetings.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Managers, with staff where appropriate, will assist in recording and following up outstanding open resolutions and/or actions points and may occasionally provide verbal updates at meetings where updates are received after the printing of an agenda. Democracy Services staff will support the process by generating reports.

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.

ĀPITI HANGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. Te Kuaka - Open Resolutions 2025 - A5222918 [↓](#) 

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm Date From: 1/01/2022 Date To: 13/06/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 28/11/2023	Review of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between Council, and Iwi and Hapū	RESOLUTION 2023/14 Moved: Cr Tāmati Rākena Seconded: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira That the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee; a) receive this report <i>and</i> 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. CARRIED	05 Apr 2024 4:56pm Pouhautu. Te Hono The MOU review is in operation. CE has completed 9 of 13 face to face hui with Iwi. An MOU update will be provided at each Te Kuaka meeting 21 Jun 2024 12:27pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka A series of MoU hui have been scheduled in June & July 2024. An update report will be included in the September 2024 Te Kuaka agenda. 22 Oct 2024 10:14am Pouhautu. Te Hono An MOU update report will be provided to the Committee in December 2024 28 Nov 2024 11:22am Coordinator – Te Kuaka An update report is included in the 11 December 2024 agenda. 11 Feb 2025 11:03am Pouhautu. Te Hono An update report will be provided to Te Kuaka in April 2025. 03 Apr 2025 11:22am Pouhautu. Te Hono An update on progress is provided within the April 2025 Te Pae o Uta quarterly report. 05 Jun 2025 2:56pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka The Review of MOUs between Council and Iwi/Hapū is operational, and the original action is complete. Ongoing supporting work will continue and there is a separate item relating to MOUs. It is recommended that this action be closed.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 28/11/2023	Ratings Relief Policy Amendments	RESOLUTION 2023/13 Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania Seconded: Cr Tāmati Rākena That the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee: a) receive the report Ratings Relief Policy Amendments	05 Apr 2024 4:57pm Pouhautu. Te Hono An update on the Staff workshop will be provided at the 22nd April Te Kuaka meeting 18 Jun 2024 4:28pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm Date From: 1/01/2022 Date To: 13/06/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
		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	<p>The Whenua Maori - Freehold Land Rating Relief - Information Report will be included in the Te Kuaka 27 June 2024 agenda.</p> <p>21 Jun 2024 12:29pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka A report titled: Whenua Maori - Freehold Land Rating Relief is included in the 27 June Te Kuaka agenda.</p> <p>03 Sep 2024 1:07pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka - Reallocation Action reassigned to Team Leader – Transaction Services by Coordinator – Te Kuaka to please update where this action item is currently tracking for the purpose of the open resolutions report. Thank you</p> <p>05 Sep 2024 9:40am Coordinator – Te Kuaka An updated Whenua Māori – Freehold Land Rating Relief report will be included in the September 2024 agenda.</p> <p>22 Oct 2024 12:11pm Democracy Advisor An update will be provided in an information report for the 31 October meeting agenda.</p> <p>27 Nov 2024 4:14pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka Marae visits have been confirmed for November/December 2024, • 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.</p>

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm Date From: 1/01/2022 Date To: 13/06/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			20 Feb 2025 8:54am Coordinator – Te Kuaka An update will be provided in an information report for the 27 Feb 2025 meeting agenda. 03 Apr 2025 12:20pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka An update report will be provided to the committee at the next meeting 24 April 2025. 05 Jun 2025 2:57pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka An update report will be provided to the committee at the next meeting 19 June 2025.
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 25/09/2024	Taiao Portal Update	RESOLUTION 2024/35 Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania Seconded: Cr John Vujcich 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. <div style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</div>	16 Oct 2024 10:48am Democracy Advisor No further update at this stage 13 Nov 2024 2:16pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka 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 4:28pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka On 14 November 2024 Te Hono and the Te Kuaka Coordinator met with (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 8:55am Coordinator – Te Kuaka

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm Date From: 1/01/2022 Date To: 13/06/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			<p>An update will be provided in the April 2025 meeting agenda.</p> <p>03 Apr 2025 11:54am Democracy Advisor - Reallocation Action reassigned to Democracy Services</p> <p>15 Apr 2025 11:59am Democracy Advisor Staff have sought an update from Te Kahu o Taonui. a verbal report/update is expected at the 24 April 2025 Te Kuaka meeting</p> <p>05 Jun 2025 2:59pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka Kaitohutohu Taiao Senior Advisor Te Kahu o Taonui provides a verbal report/updates at each meeting.</p>
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 25/09/2024	Te Reo and Tikanga Policy - Ka Irihia Te Reo Māori Action Plan	<p>RESOLUTION 2024/34 Moved: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira Seconded: Cr John Vujcich That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee receive and endorse Te Reo and Tikanga Policy - Ka Irihia Te Reo Māori Action Plan. CARRIED</p>	<p>22 Oct 2024 10:12am Pouhautu. Te Hono An Implementation plan towards Ka Irihia will be workshopped in December</p> <p>11 Feb 2025 11:05am Pouhautu. Te Hono Ka Irihia will be workshopped in April</p> <p>15 Apr 2025 11:49am Democracy Advisor 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.</p> <p>05 Jun 2025 3:14pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka The Ka Irihia Implementation Plan is included in Te Pae o Uta Update June Report as an attachment.</p>
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 11/12/2024	1 Wharo Way, Ahipara & Pohutukawa Tree	<p>The amendment became the substantive motion</p> <p>RESOLUTION 2024/32 Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford Seconded: Cr John Vujcich That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee</p>	<p>11 Feb 2025 1:16pm Property Officer 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.</p>

<div> <div> <div>Division:</div> <div>Committee:</div> <div>Officer:</div> </div> <div>Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee</div> </div> <div> <div>Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm</div> <div>Date From: 1/01/2022</div> <div>Date To: 13/06/2025</div> </div>			
OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
		<p>a) receive the report 1 Wharo Way, Ahipara & Pohutukawa Tree and Te Puna o Kupenuku Updates, and</p> <p>b) that the CEO formalises a written agreement and resourcing for Ngā Hapū o Ahipara to maintain Moringaehe reserve</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	<p>Looking at alternative security as Bollards are not appropriate for the site due to underground services.</p> <p>MOU for co-management being drafted.</p> <p>04 Apr 2025 8:35am Team Leader – Property Manager</p> <p>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.</p> <p>29 Apr 2025 12:10pm Democracy Advisor</p> <p>The plaque is in its final design stages, alternatives are still being looked at, and an MOU is under review.</p> <p>05 Jun 2025 1:33pm Democracy Advisor - Reallocation</p> <p>Action reassigned to Manager – Property & Facilities Management by Democracy Services</p>
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 11/12/2024	Te Puna o Kupenuku Updates	<p>The amendment became the substantive motion</p> <p>RESOLUTION 2024/32</p> <p>Moved: Kōwhai – Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford</p> <p>Seconded: Cr John Vujcich</p> <p>That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee</p> <p>a) receive the report 1 Wharo Way, Ahipara & Pohutukawa Tree and Te Puna o Kupenuku Updates</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED</p>	<p>11 Feb 2025 1:16pm Property Officer</p> <p>Te Puna o Kupenuku - Quarterly hui to be held with Te Puna O Kupenuku in March.</p> <p>No further information in regard to a long-term lease or ownership of the buildings has been received at this time.</p> <p>04 Apr 2025 8:35am Team Leader – Property Manager</p> <p>No updates in regard to Te Puna O Kupenuku.</p> <p>05 Jun 2025 1:33pm Democracy Advisor - Reallocation</p>

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm Date From: 1/01/2022 Date To: 13/06/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			Action regarding a long-term lease reassigned to Manager – Property & Facilities Management by Democracy Services
Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee 11/12/2024	Regional Deal Te Tai Tokerau Northland	RESOLUTION 2024/26 Moved: Cr Tāmāti Rākena Seconded: Kōwhai Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford 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 Moved: Cr Tāmāti Rākena Seconded: Kōwhai Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford 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 Moved: Cr Tāmāti Rākena Seconded: Kōwhai Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford c) note the Regional Deal proposal. CARRIED RESOLUTION 2024/29 Moved: Cr Tāmāti Rākena Seconded: Kōwhai Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford d) do not support central government regional deals framework. CARRIED	17 Feb 2025 4:49pm GM – Planning & Policy 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. e) Approves the amendment to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Terms of Reference as provided in Attachment 4 of this agenda item. f) Agrees that the Chair of the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee be the g) spokesperson of the Regional Deal programme.

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm Date From: 1/01/2022 Date To: 13/06/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			<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 5:23pm GM – Planning & Policy 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 2:39am GM – Planning & Policy 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>

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Officer:		Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm Date From: 1/01/2022 Date To: 13/06/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			29 Apr 2025 10:41am GM – Planning & Policy Staff of all Councils and Northland Inc are preparing options for the composition of a negotiation team on behalf of Northland. A decision on the first Regional to enter into a Regional Deal with the Government is expected in late May. 05 Jun 2025 3:32pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka a As communicated by the DIA, an announcement regarding Regional Deals is now not likely to occur until the end of June 2025. A supplementary report on the current status will be provided to Te Kuaka at the June meeting as requested.
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	The amendment became the substantive motion RESOLUTION 2024/25 Moved: Pita Tipene Seconded: Cr Tāmami Rākena That Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee approve: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the District Wide Kaupapa Framework for Tangata Whenua partnership and governance for District Wide Spatial and Open Spaces strategies. the terms of reference as specified in Attachment C for the Kaupapa Steering Rōpū overseeing the District Wide Spatial and Open Spaces Strategies. 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 CARRIED	29 Jan 2025 3:39pm Manager – Integrated Planning 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. 25 Mar 2025 9:07am Manager – Integrated Planning Te Hono department is facilitating the setting up of this group, we have been advised that we will receive an update on 28 March. 04 Apr 2025 11:20am Manager – Integrated Planning Sufficient steering group members were confirmed

OPEN RESOLUTION REPORT			
Division: Committee: Officer:		Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee	
		Printed: Friday, 13 June 2025 3:13:33 pm	
		Date From: 1/01/2022	
		Date To: 13/06/2025	
Meeting	Title	Resolution	Notes
			<p>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.</p> <p>16 May 2025 5:03pm Manager – Integrated Planning</p> <p>The Steering Group had its first hui on the 12 May and it was agreed to proceed with this framework, and through working together refine how it will work and lead these two projects.</p> <p>05 Jun 2025 3:52pm Coordinator – Te Kuaka</p> <p>A Kaupapa Steering Roopu/Group has been convened for the Districtwide Spatial and Open Spaces Plan. Roopu members are Councillors Babe Kapa and Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Hapu/Iwi representatives Pita Tipene, Kipa Munro, and Rereata Makiha as well as FNDC staff. The roopu held its inaugural workshop/meeting on 12 May 2025 and will meet again on 19 June, 1pm - 3pm.</p>

8 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSING PRAYER

9 TE KAPINGA HUI / MEETING CLOSE