



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

# AGENDA

## Ordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships Meeting


**Tuesday, 19 May 2026**

**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** Council Chamber  
Memorial Ave  
Kaikohe

### Membership:

Heamana - Tāmati Rākena  
Heamana Tuarua - Mane Tahere - Te Kahu  
o Taonui  
Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania  
Kohepu - Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin  
Cr Arohanui Allen  
Cr Kelly Stratford  
Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira  
Cr Davina Smolders  
Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui  
Nyze Manuel - Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa  
Kipa Munro - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia  
Mike Te Wake - Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa  
Pita Tipene - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine  
Rukuwai Allen - Te Whiu Hapū  
Thomas Hohaia - Te Roroa



	<b>Authorising Body</b>	Council
	<b>Status</b>	Standing Committee
<b>COUNCIL COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Title</b>	Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships Terms of Reference
	<b>Terms of Reference Adoption</b>	11 December 2025 and revised 5 March, 15 April, & 29 April 2026
	<b>Responsible Officer</b>	Manuhautū Te Hono - Group Manager Te Hono

### **Kaupapa / Purpose**

To provide strategic leadership and guidance that strengthens Te Ao Māori perspectives within Council decision-making, ensuring genuine Te Tiriti-based partnership and leadership between FNDC and iwi/hapū, and to provide recommendations to full Council. This includes strengthening Council's relationship with Iwi and Hapū by promoting effective partnership models, improving engagement practices, championing shared decision-making, and adding value to relationships with Māori.

### **Ngā Huānga / Membership**

The Committee will comprise of no less than 4 elected members and external representation. Kahika / Mayor Moko Tepania is an ex-officio member of all Committees.

All committee members will have full speaking and voting rights.

Cr Tāmami Rākena (Chairperson)

Mane Tahere (by Council resolution 15 April 2026) (Deputy Chairperson)

Kohepu / Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin

Cr Arohanui Allen

Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira

Cr Kelly Stratford

Cr Davina Smolders (by Council resolution 5 March 2026)

Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui Representative (by Council resolution 15 April 2026)

Nyze Manuel – Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa Representative (by Council resolution 29 April 2026)

Kipa Munro – Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia Representative (by Council resolution 29 April 2026)

Mike Te Wake – Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa Representative (by Council resolution 29 April 2026)

Pita Tipene – Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine Representative (by Council resolution 29 April 2026)

Thomas Hōhaia – Te Roroa Hapu (by Council resolution 29 April 2026) - *Darren Beatty (alternate)*

Rukuwai Allen – Te Whiu Hapu (by Council resolution 29 April 2026)

**Kōrama / Quorum**

The quorum at a meeting of the Committee is 4 members.

**Ngā Hui / Frequency of Meetings**

The Committee shall meet 8 weekly.

**Ngā Apatono / Power to Delegate**

The responsibilities, duties and powers of the Committee are subject to the prohibition on delegation of powers under Clause 32(1), Schedule 7, Local Government Act 2002, and any other restrictions on delegation under any other relevant legislation.

Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships may not delegate any of its responsibilities, duties or powers however it may establish working groups to consider issues within the committee's areas of responsibilities noting that working groups have no decision-making powers.

**Ngā Herenga Paetae / Responsibilities**

The Committees responsibilities are described below:

1. Build and sustain genuine, high-trust relationships based on He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
2. Continue with the development and implementation of Te Kuaka - Te Pae ki Tawhiti 2040 Strategic Intent.
3. Support strategic partnerships that empower communities, Hapū, and Iwi to shape their own development.
4. Oversee Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Māori Framework
5. Facilitate collaboration across sectors to invest in quality infrastructure and initiatives.
6. Develop and approve frameworks for partnership, engagement, monitoring and reporting.
7. Identify and prioritise strategic relationships with Iwi, Hapū, Government agencies, and key stakeholders.
8. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of partnerships.
9. Provide direction to the Council on relationship strategies and opportunities.
10. Ensure Te Ao Māori perspectives inform Council strategic and operational work.
11. 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)
12. Recommend to Council aspects that the Far North District Council could pursue to develop and enhance Māori capacity to contribute to Council's decision-making processes.

**Ngā Ture / Rules and Procedures**

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

**Reporting and Review of Committee Terms of Reference**

In December of each year, the Responsible Officer alongside Democracy Services will submit a report to Council. The report will summarise the activities of the Committee and how it has contributed to the Council's governance and strategic objectives. This will look at whether the Council are meeting the full requirements of the Committee Terms of Reference and whether any amendments are required to the Committees terms of reference to increase efficient and effective decision making.

The Terms of Reference of the Committee will be reviewed as part of this report but can be amended by Council at any point throughout the term.



**Far North District Council**  
**Ordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships Meeting**  
**will be held in the Council Chamber, Memorial Ave, Kaikohe on:**  
**Tuesday 19 May 2026 at 10:00 AM**

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**Te Paeroa Mahi / Order of Business**

<b>1</b>	<b>Karakia Tīmatanga / Opening Prayer .....</b>	<b>7</b>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Te Whakaaetanga o Ngā Meneti o Mua / Confirmation of Previous Minutes .....</b>	<b>8</b>
4.1	Confirmation of Previous Minutes .....	8
<b>5</b>	<b>Ngā Pūrongo Taipitopito / Information Reports .....</b>	<b>16</b>
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5.2	Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori .....	20
5.3	Update in Local Government and Resource Management Reforms May - June 2026	28
5.4	Standing Agenda Item - Te Kahu o Taonui and Hapū Verbal Reports to Te Kuaka Committee Meetings .....	30
<b>6</b>	<b>Karakia Whakamutunga / Closing Prayer .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Te Kapinga Hui / Meeting Close .....</b>	<b>32</b>

**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**

Shane Witehira representing Te Whakaaetanga Trust (Patukeha, Ngāti Kuta, Ngāti Manu, Ngāti Torehina ki Matakā)

**SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA (DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)**

5.6 Local Water Done Well Update May 2026

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

### 4.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

**File Number:** A5763661

**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 Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships confirm the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 20 April 2026 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 Extraordinary Minutes 20 April 2026 - A5715913 [↓](#) 

**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 <a href="#">Council's Significance and Engagement Policy</a>	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.

Extraordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships  
Meeting Minutes - **UNCONFIRMED**

20 April 2026

**MINUTES OF FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL  
EXTRAORDINARY TE KUAKA COMMITTEE FOR MĀORI STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS  
MEETING  
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL AVE, KAIKOHE  
ON MONDAY, 20 APRIL 2026 AT 10:02 AM**

- PRESENT:** Heamana Tāmāti Rākena, Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Cr Arohanui Allen (online), Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Cr Davina Smolders, Mane Tahere (Te Kahu o Taonui), Wallace Rivers (Te Kahu o Taonui), Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania (Ex-officio Member),
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Kipa Munro (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia), Mike Te Wake (Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa), Kiri Sloane-Hobson (Te Kahu o Taonui), Phillip Grimshaw (Te Kahu o Taonui),
- ONLINE:** Nyze Manuel (Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa), Rukuwai Allen (Te Whiu Hapū), Kawiti Waetford (Kaiwhakawhiti Roe – Language Translator)
- STAFF PRESENT:** Aaron Taikato (GM – Te Hono), Kate Ivicheva (GM – Planning & Policy), , Charlie Billington (GM – Corporate Services), Tanya Proctor (Head of Infrastructure), Llani Harding (Pouhautu – Te Hono) , Dena-Maree Hemara (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Lawrence Wharerau (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Rachel Smith (Executive Officer), Ken Lewis (Manager – Communications & Engagement) Sarah Peri (Kaupapa Māori Lead), Myjanee Jensen (Communications Advisor), Tammy Wooster (Manager – Integrated Planning), Zena Tango (Team Leader – Transactional Services), Andy Dowdle (Change Specialist), Juvam Gray-Nikora (Cadet – Te Hono), Marlema Baker (Te Kuaka Coordinator)

**1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER**

Heamana Tāmāti Rākena commenced the meeting with an opening karakia and mihimihi. This was followed by mihi whakahokia by Mike Te Wake (Chairman - Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa).

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

**APOLOGY**

**RESOLUTION 2026/1**

Moved: Heamana (Chairperson) Tāmāti Rākena  
Seconded: Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania

**That the apology received from Cr Kelly Stratford and CEO Guy Holroyd, be accepted and leave of absence granted.**

**CARRIED**

**3 NGĀ KŌRERO A TE HEAMANA / CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Welcome Councillors, Iwi, Hapū and whanau to the meeting.

Extraordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships  
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20 April 2026

- Note that representatives from Ngā Hapū o Ahipara are present for their deputation regarding report 4.2: Kaitiaki Agreement – Moringaehe Reserve.
- Kaiwhakawhiti Reo Māori Language Translator today is Kawiti Waetford.
- Headsets have been provided for live translations if members need them.
- The meeting is being recorded and will be uploaded to the FNDC YouTube channel.
- Reminder to everyone that the microphones in chambers will pick up all sounds so to keep side chats and paper shuffling to a minimum.
- Public Agenda available on the FNDC Website.
- ANZAC Day 27 April 2028 – Lest We Forget
- Te Hiku Te Tiriti Signing Kaitaia 28 April 2026
- Acknowledged Lani Daniels – three-weight world champion winning the IBF and WBO world super middleweight belts at Madison Square Garden.
- Acknowledged the Tainui Kapa Haka Regionals and the successful kapa teams heading to Matatini 2027: Te Pou o Mangatāwhiri, Te Iti Kahurangi, Te Kapa Haka o Aawhina i Te Kaupapa, Te Haona Kaha, Mōtai Tangata Rau, and Te Kapa Haka o Ngā Pua o Te Kōwhara.

#### 4 NGĀ TONO KŌRERO / DEPUTATION

Rueben Taipari representing Ngā Hapū o Ahipara in relations to Report 4.2 Kaitiaki Agreement – Moringaehe Reserve.

#### 3 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

##### 4.1 APPOINTMENT OF TE KUAKA COMMITTEE FOR MĀORI STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

Agenda item 4.1 document number A5674693, pages 8 - 11 refers

###### RESOLUTION 2026/2

Moved: Kohepu- Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin

Seconded: Wallace Rivers – Te Kahu o Taonui

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships:**

- a) **use System B as the preferred voting system to elect a Deputy Chairperson.**
- b) **Elects external member Mane Tahere as Deputy Chairperson of the Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships, in accordance with Standing Orders and clause 25, Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002; and**
- c) **Notes that the appointment gives effect to the Committee’s revised Terms of Reference (adopted 5 March 2026).**

In Favour: (Heamana) Tāmati Rākena, Crs Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Arohanui Allen, Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania and Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui.

Against: Nil

Abstained: Crs Davina Smolders, Mane Tahere – Te Kahu o Taonui

**CARRIED**

Extraordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships  
Meeting Minutes - **UNCONFIRMED**

20 April 2026

**4.2 KAITIAKI AGREEMENT - MORINGAEHE RESERVE**

Agenda item 4.2 document number A5629604, pages 12 - 17 refers

**RESOLUTION 2026/3**

Moved: Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin  
Seconded: Wallace Rivers – Te Kahu o Taonui

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Strategic Māori Relationships;**

- a) **approve the draft Kaitiaki Agreement – Moringaehe Reserve between Ngā Hapū o Ahipara and the Far North District Council; and**
- b) **approve the formal establishment of the Moringaehe Reserve Working Group; and**
- c) **appoint Councillor Cr Halkyard-Harawira as Council’s representative on the Moringaehe Reserve Working Group.**

In Favour: (Heamana) Tāmati Rākena, Crs Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Arohanui Allen, Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania and Mane Tahere and Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui.

Against: Cr Davina Smolders

**CARRIED**

At 11:17 am meeting adjourned and resumed at 11:32am

**4.3 DISTRICT WIDE SPATIAL STRATEGY PROJECT AND DISTRICT WIDE KAUPAPA STEERING RŌPŪ**

Agenda item 4.3 document number A5675236, pages 31 - 40 refers

**RESOLUTION 2026/4**

Moved: Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin  
Seconded: Heamana Tāmati Rākena

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Strategic Māori Relationships:**

- a) **Receive the report on the District Wide Spatial Strategy project; and**
- b) **Confirm that the Kaupapa Steering Rōpū is the preferred forum for the District-Wide Spatial Strategy (DWSS) project; and**
- c) **Confirm that the Kaupapa Steering Rōpū is to be re-convened, in line with the District Wide Kaupapa Framework; and**
- d) **Endorse the updated Kaupapa Steering Rōpū Terms of Reference (Attachment 3); and**
- e) **Endorse the removal of the Open Spaces Strategy project from Kaupapa Steering Group oversight.**

In Favour: (Heamana) Tāmati Rākena, (Heamana Tuarua) Mane Tahere, Crs Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Arohanui Allen, Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania and Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui.

Against: Cr Davina Smolders

**CARRIED**

Extraordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships  
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#### 4 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

##### 5.1 WHENUA MĀORI - FREEHOLD LAND RATING RELIEF UPDATE

Agenda item 5.1 document number A5629589, pages 70 - 73 refers

<p><b>RESOLUTION 2026/5</b></p> <p>Moved: Heamana Tāmati Rākena Seconded: Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin</p> <p><b>That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships for Strategic Māori Relationships receive the report Whenua Māori - Freehold Land Rating Relief Update.</b></p> <p><u>In Favour:</u> (Heamana) Tāmati Rākena, (Heamana Tuarua) Mane Tahere, Crs Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Arohanui Allen, Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania and Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui.</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Abstained:</u> Cr Davina Smolders</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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##### 5.2 NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI / MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO MĀORI

Agenda item 5.2 document number A5629595, pages 74 - 83 refers

<p><b>RESOLUTION 2026/6</b></p> <p>Moved: Heamana Tuarua Mane Tahere Seconded: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira</p> <p><b>That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori.</b></p> <p><u>In Favour:</u> (Heamana) Tāmati Rākena, (Heamana Tuarua) Mane Tahere, Crs Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Arohanui Allen, Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania and Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui.</p> <p><u>Against:</u> Cr Davina Smolders</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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##### 5.3 TE REO AND TIKANGA MĀORI POLICY REPORT

Agenda item 5.3 document number A5630796, pages 84 - 87 refers

<p><b>RESOLUTION 2026/7</b></p> <p>Moved: Heamana Tuarua Mane Tahere Seconded: Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin</p> <p><b>That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Te Reo and Tikanga Māori Policy Report.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>CARRIED</b></p>
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##### 5.4 TE PAE O UTA TE AO MĀORI FRAMEWORK UPDATE

Agenda item 5.4 document number A5629557, pages 197 - 201 refers

<p><b>RESOLUTION 2026/8</b></p>
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Extraordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships  
Meeting Minutes - **UNCONFIRMED**

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Moved: Cr Davina Smolders  
Seconded: Cr Arohanui Allen

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Māori Framework Update Report.**

**CARRIED**

**5.5 STATUS UPDATE ON HE ARA KI TUA | TANGATA WHENUA CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING AND NGĀ KETE TAUTOKO | TOOLS, RESOURCES AND TEMPLATES**

Agenda item 5.5 document number A5629652, pages 224 - 226 refers

**RESOLUTION 2026/9**

Moved: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira  
Seconded: Heamana Tāmati Rākena

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Status Update on He Ara Ki Tua | Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Planning and Ngā Kete Tautoko | Tools, Resources and Templates.**

In Favour: (Heamana) Tāmati Rākena, (Heamana Tuarua) Mane Tahere, Crs Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Arohanui Allen, Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania and Wallace Rivers - Te Kahu o Taonui.

Against: Cr Davina Smolders

**CARRIED**

**5.6 LOCAL WATER DONE WELL – UPDATE AND FNDC POSITIONING**

Agenda item 5.6 document number A5629636, pages 227 - 229 refers

**RESOLUTION 2026/10**

Moved: Kahika - Mayor Moko Tepania  
Seconded: Heamana Tuarua Mane Tahere

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Local Water Done Well – Update and FNDC Positioning.**

**CARRIED**

12:58 pm – Chair Tāmati Rākena left the room. Deputy Chair Mane Tahere assumed the Chair.  
1:00pm - Chair Rākena returned to the meeting and resumed the Chair role.

**5.7 UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORMS**

Agenda item 5.7 document number A5630756, pages 230 - 2 refers

**RESOLUTION 2026/11**

Moved: Heamana Tāmati Rākena  
Seconded: Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the outdated report Update on Local Government Reforms.**

**CARRIED**

Extraordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships  
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**5.8 STANDING AGENDA ITEM - TE KAHU O TAONUI AND HAPŪ VERBAL REPORTS TO TE KUAKA COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Agenda item 5.8 document number A5669640, pages 251 - 252 refers

**RESOLUTION 2026/12**

Moved: Mema (Member) Hilda Halkyard-Harawira

Seconded: Heamana (Chairperson) Tāmati Rākena

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Standing Agenda Item - Te Kahu o Taonui and Hapū Verbal Reports to Te Kuaka Committee Meetings.**

Secretarial Note:

- Deputy Chair Mane Tahere gave a verbal report on behalf of Te Kahu o Taonui and will submit a hardcopy via email to Democracy Services after this meeting.
- Kahika – joint workshops for EOC will be set up to work collaboratively. This will enable live-date to be captured to evolve and learn how to better respond to emergencies.
- Nyze Manuel – acknowledged Marae and Community Hubs that stood up and opened their doors during recent adverse weather events.

**CARRIED**

**5 MEETING CLOSE**

The meeting closed at 1:23 pm with a karakia .

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Extraordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships Meeting held on 19 May 2026.

.....  
**CHAIRPERSON**

## 5 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

### 5.1 TE PAE O UTA TE AO MĀORI FRAMEWORK - MAY 2026 UPDATE

**File Number:** A5744313

**Author:** Liani Harding, Pouhautū - Manager - Te Hono

**Authoriser:** Aaron Taikato, Manuhautū Te Hono – Group Manager Te Hono

#### TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Te Kuaka Committee for Strategic Māori Relationships with an update on Te Pae o Uta - Te Ao Māori Framework.

#### WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

- Recognise He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiranga o Nu Tireni (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 o Te Wai, Taiao, (Oranga Taiao, Oranga Tāngata);
- Focus on the pursuit on excellence in the Te Ao Māori space;
- Valuing Te Ao Māori requires staff to understand key concepts and practices;
- Acknowledge kōrero tuku iho at FNDC by recognising Hapū and Iwi kōrero.

#### TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Māori Framework - May 2026 Update Report.**

#### TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Te Pae o Uta was formally adopted by Council in September 2023 alongside the Te Reo and Tikanga Policy.

Ka Irihia Te Reo Māori Action Plan was later developed to give effect to the Te Reo and Tikanga Policy.

Te Ao Marama was later developed further enhancing Councils response to growing Te Reo recognition amongst communities. This strategy was lead and guided by Te Rauora – Kerikeri Reorua Strategy. A partnership agreement alongside Ngati Rehia and DIA.

Te Pae o Uta focuses on guiding and supporting staff to respond to the needs of Māori. The Far North District Māori population of over 51% is the primary driver in ensuring that Far North District Council work is fit for purpose for the district in which we serve.

Within Te Pae o Uta, Te Pae o Waho was established to ensure Far North District Council staff have the capability and confidence to engage and work alongside the many Iwi, Hapū and Marae that make up our district.

Further strategies have been developed that have been key focus areas for Council including Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatuanuku which looks at how Council are responding to the changing environment of Whenua Māori legislation specifically the changes to Te Ture Whenua legislation. The development of these strategies provides staff with clear road maps and goals that help shape the response required of Council within these areas of interest.

Further information on the outcomes of Whenua Māori work within Council can be seen through the Whenua Māori Rating Relief Working Group reports and updates.

**Te Pae o Uta monitoring and reporting system:**

Te Pae o Uta is monitored through a Bi Dashboard system that maps goals against groups and how they are tracking. Senior Leaders have access to the dashboard and provide 6 weekly updates to Te Hono. This is then updated to the dashboard providing us with an overall percentage on goals achieved, in progress or not met.

All Council teams provide 6-weekly status updates to Te Hono on their Te Pae o Uta goals. In addition, all general managers provide a Te Pae o Uta update in their Monthly Operational Briefing reports to Council. Te Hono provide a weekly drop-in service for all Te Pae o Uta or Te Hono related queries.

Kanohi ki te kanohi hui are also encouraged through People Leaders and Te Hono contribute to team hui regularly when requested.

Te Hono regularly include Te Pae o Uta within external engagements both from a Engagement with Council lens and also a reporting mechanism amongst Iwi, Hapu and Marae showing how we give effect to our framework for specific communities.

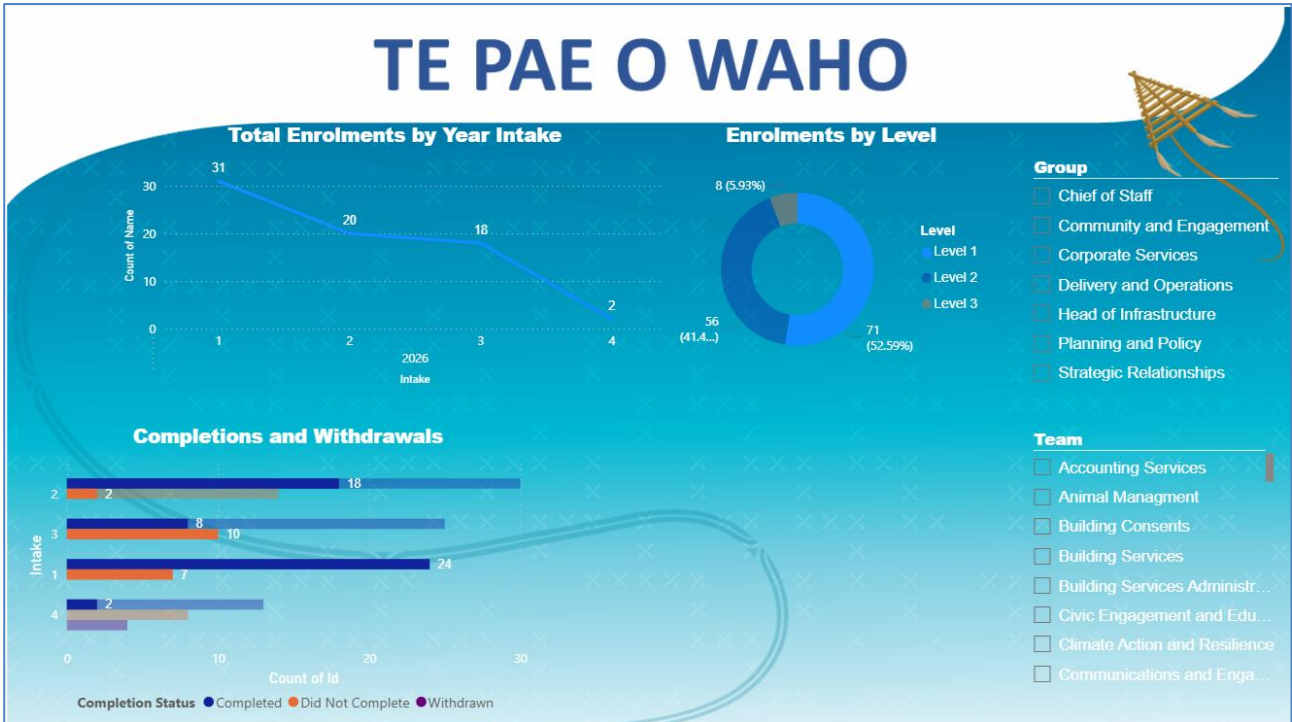
A key value for FNDC is Manaakitanga. Te Hono have seen an increase in both staff confidence and capability displaying this value which also reflects the wider learnings, goals and aspirations of Te Pae o Uta. This has been evident for Te Hono this triennium through the increased engagement we have seen from communities participating in Civic engagement as well as an increase in requests for support on various topics including Whenua Māori, Mana Whakahono a Rohe, MOUs, Iwi Hapu management plans and general support of Council systems such as Requests for Service



**Te Pae o Waho:**

Te Pae o Waho remains consistent in its completion rates. The goal committed to under the Te Reo and Tikanga Policy was 100% of staff completion. This has provided a benchmark for how we deliver Te Pae o Waho.

Te Pae o Waho has been run over four days at various FNDC offices. To date we have had 79 staff completed across Levels One to three within this financial year, we have one remaining cohort with a completion date of June. Staff who have not completed training are encouraged to re-attend to meet the requirements of their learning.



**TE TIRITI AND HE WHAKAPUTANGA TRAINING:**

Across 2025 and 2026, Staff were provided with an in-housing training course facilitated by Network Whangarei delivering He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti training. Both workshops were held on-site in Kaikohe and were booked out within two days of adding the workshops. A waiting list has been applied for the next intake.

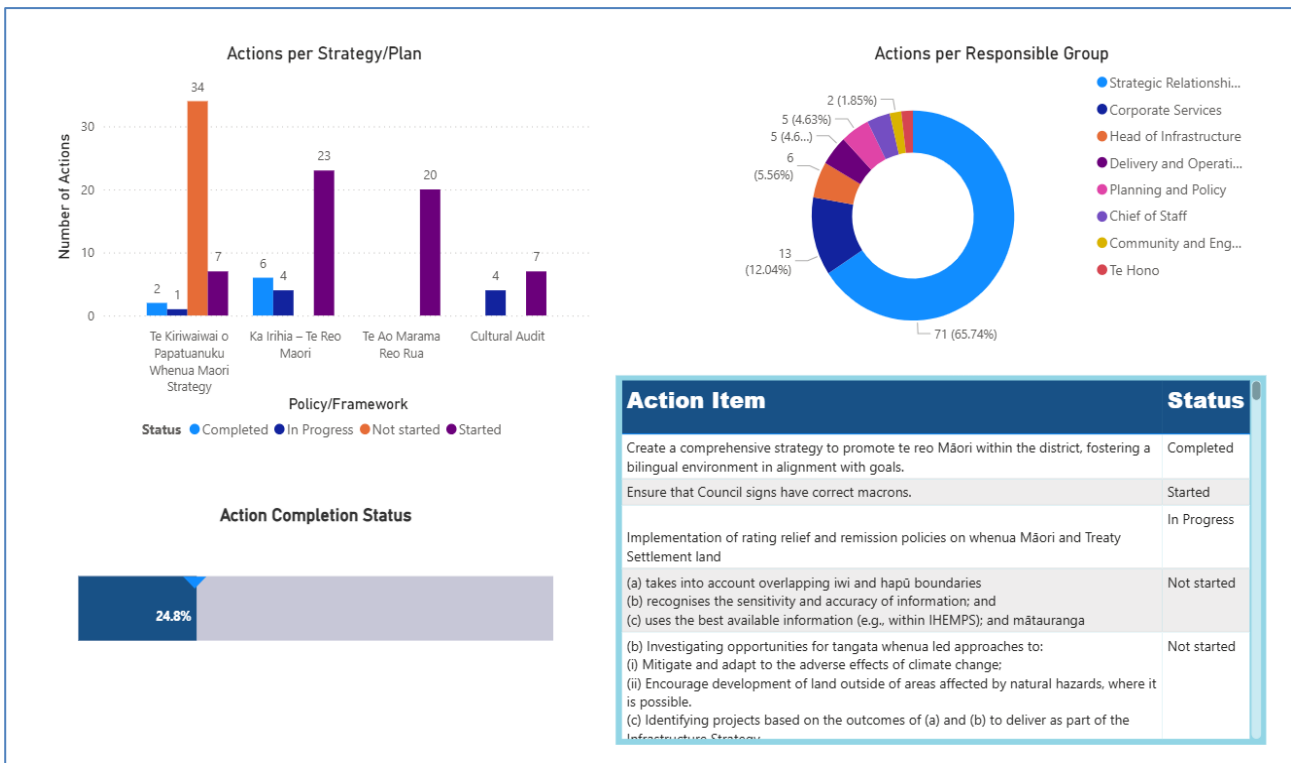
Te Hono intend on running at least two workshops per year to support staff and their further learning.

The addition of this training to the Te Pae o Uta kete provides staff with additional learning requirements that are needed within their day to day jobs. This course supports staff to understand the historical context of both the 1835 document and the 1840 document and works staff through a chronology of events eventually teaching staff how to apply their learnings within their roles at Council.

**STRATEGY MONITORING AND REPORTING:**

Te Hono have developed a number of strategies that align to both Te Pae o Uta and FN 2100. These strategies intersect in various ways throughout the different groups and work programmes of Council ensuring that goals and targets are not siloed to one stream of work. Te Hono commit to monitoring the targets on behalf of Council.

The Bi Dashboard is accessible to Senior Leaders and tracks each strategy goal/commitment. Individual Implementation plans have been developed for each strategy. Groups have been assigned relevant goals within each strategy. Unless otherwise targeted outside of the current financial year, most goals are to be achieved by 30 June 2026 and 30 June 2027.



**MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS**

Te Pae o Uta review, initially due in September 2026, will now commence in April 2026. An update will be provided at every Te Kuaka meeting.

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

All Council departments must ensure they have appropriate budget provision to give effect to Te Pae o Uta.

**ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

## 5.2 NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI / MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO MĀORI

**File Number:** A5744715

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

**Authoriser:** Aaron Taikato, Manuhautū Te Hono – Group Manager Te Hono

### TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Te Kuaka Committee for Strategic Māori Relationships (Te Kuaka) with a report on Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori from the last report tabled at the extra ordinary Te Kuaka hui April 20th, 2026 to the present.

### WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

### TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori .**

### TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

This report, Ngā Kaupapa Māori / Matters of Importance to Māori, serves as a mechanism to provide Te Kuaka with updates on the kaupapa / matters pertaining to Māori that council were involved in through the year.

### MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

[Ngā Kaupapa Māori March to April 2026 Te Hiku Wāri \(Northern Ward\)](#)

**51st Tai Tokerau Festival – Kaitiāia College 31<sup>st</sup> Māwharu – 1<sup>st</sup> Apireira Atua 2026**



The 51st Tai Tokerau Festival, hosted at Kaitiāia College, provided a significant opportunity for regional engagement, cultural celebration, and community connection. The event brought together kura, whānau, hapū, and community organisations from across Te Hiku and wider Te Tai Tokerau, showcasing kapa haka excellence, rangatahi leadership, and the strength of te ao Māori within the region.

Attendance at the festival supported direct engagement with whānau and stakeholders in a culturally grounded environment. Information sharing was undertaken in relation to the Mayoral Relief Fund and Request for Service (RFS) processes, ensuring accessibility of support pathways for whānau impacted by recent events and ongoing community needs.

The festival also served as a key platform for strengthening relationships with iwi and community partners, reinforcing shared priorities around rangatahi development, cultural identity, and regional wellbeing. The scale and participation of the 51st festival highlighted the enduring importance of this annual event as a cornerstone of Te Tai Tokerau cultural expression, Te Reo o Te Tai Tokerau Kaiako committee plan to combine Tōkihi ki Tua the regional secondary schools Kapa Haka Competition and Te Tai Tokerau festival together due to the rapid growth and cost of both events.

### **Moringaehe Kaitiaki Co-Management Signing – Okoro 20<sup>th</sup> Apireira 2026**



A co-management kaitiaki agreement for Moringaehe was formally signed between Council and Ngā Hapū o Ahiparapara kaitiaki representatives, marking a significant milestone first of its kind in the ongoing relationship and shared commitment to the protection and management of the area.

The signing reflects a long journey of engagement, dialogue, and partnership, recognising the role of hapū as mana whenua and kaitiaki of their ancestral lands and taonga. The agreement establishes a framework for shared decision-making and embeds kaitiakitanga as a guiding principle in the future management of Moringaehe.

This milestone represents a strengthened partnership approach, ensuring that hapū values, mātauranga Māori, and cultural priorities are embedded within planning, protection, and stewardship outcomes. The agreement acknowledges past efforts while also formalising an enduring commitment to collaborative partnership moving forward.



### **Te Oneroa a Tohe Beach Board**

The Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Beach Board is a co-governance partnership established through Treaty settlement legislation to provide leadership over the management of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe (Ninety Mile Beach). It brings together representatives of Te Hiku o Te Ika iwi (Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupōuri, Te Rarawa and Ngāi Takoto) alongside the Far North District Council and Northland Regional Council. The Board reflects a shared approach to decision-making, recognising both the cultural significance of the beach to Iwi and its importance as a public and regional asset.

The Board's role is to provide governance and strategic direction for how the beach is protected, used and managed, rather than undertaking day-to-day operations. Its primary function is to develop and oversee a Beach Management Plan that guides environmental protection, public access, recreation, safety, and sustainable use of resources. Through this, the Board aims to balance environmental, cultural, social and economic interests, ensuring the long-term wellbeing of the beach for both current users and future generations.

Discussion:

1. Administration and Support:  
Clarification is required regarding administrative responsibilities, including meeting coordination and associated costs. Northland Regional Council (NRC) will confirm support arrangements. All related costs are to be included within the programme budget.
2. Funding and Financial Planning:  
Alignment with Long-Term Plan (LTP) processes is a priority. A work programme and budget paper will be developed. This will include identification of BAU costs and a long-term (11-year) financial plan, with an emphasis on transparency and enabling iwi and hapū-led delivery.
3. Programme and Planning:  
Progress on the Beach Management Plan continues, with a focus on implementation and delivery of key outcomes. Ecology and biodiversity considerations remain central.
4. Communications and Engagement:  
A coordinated communications approach is required, including improved social media use, iwi-led storytelling, and clearer public updates.

5. Sites of Significance:

Issues relating to incorrect site listings and land titles have been identified. Actions are underway to confirm site details and progress GIS mapping with NRC.

6. Steering Group Membership:

Membership confirmation is pending, with a focus on strengthening coordination and engagement.



### **Te Tāmokotanga o Te Tiriti o Waitangi ki Kaitiāia**

The Waitangi Signing Day held on Tuesday, 28 April 2026 in Kaitiāia was a meaningful and inspiring kaupapa celebrating Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Nā te tautoko a te kaunihera, i hui mai ngā ākonga, ngā kaiako me ngā whānau ki te whakanui i tēnei rā whakahirahira, me te whakakaha i te māramatanga ki ngā mātāpono o Te Tiriti.

Ngā ākonga nō Kaitiāia College, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Pukemiro, Tūtūtārakihi, Kaitiāia Intermediate me ētahi atu kura, me tētahi tira rangatahi o Te Kahu o Taonui i tū rangatira i roto i ngā waiata, haka, whaikōrero me ngā whakaaturanga. I kitea te kaha o te ngākau, te māia, me te mōhio ki ō rātou ake ahurea me tō rātou tūrangawaewae.

Ko tētahi tino kaupapa o te rā ko te hainatanga ā-wairua o Te Tiriti, hei whakaora ake i ngā kōrero tuku iho. He rā angitu tēnei, nā te mahi ngātahi a te hāpori me te tautoko a te kaunihera, ā, ka mau tonu ngā hua ki roto i ngā ngākau o te katoa i tae atu.

### **Ngā Kaupapa Māori March to April 2026 Pēowhairangi ki Whangaroa Wāri (Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Ward)**

#### **March 13, 2026: Ngāti Hine pre-harvest karakia.**

Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust have been nominated for the prestigious Ahuwhenua Trophy 2026 Horticultural Award.

Inaugrated in 1933 by Sir Apirana Ngata and Governor General, Lord Bledisloe, the Ahuwhenua Trophy competition was introduced to encourage skill and proficiency in Māori farming. Sir Apirana Ngata realised the importance of retaining and improving what remained of Māori land was critical.

Today the Ahuwhenua Trophy remains the preeminent accolade to win in Māori agriculture and horticulture and is recognised as the most prestigious and comprehensively judged award in New Zealand. Entrants, finalists and eventual winners all share and live the enduring values, goals, and vision of Sir Apirana Ngata and the competitive spirit of Lord Bledisloe.

Forestry Trust kaimahi Robert Manuel of Ngāti Hine has also been nominated for the 2026 Ahuwhenua Young Māori Grower Award.

A site visit is planned for April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026.



*Standing Kahika Moko Tepania, Councillor Tāmami Rākema and Northland Regional Councillor Arama Morunga, waiata tautoko. Seated (L) Ngāti Hine taumata, Pita Tipene, Mataroria Brown, and Te Waihoroi Shortland, (R) Kipa Munro Chair of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia.*

### **March 17, 2026 Hapū Engagement – Pēowhairangi ki Whangaroa Wari (Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Ward)**

Pēowhairangi ki Whangaroa Hapū were invited to an information share evening hui hosted with Ngāti Kawa, Ngāti Rāhiri and Te Matarahuru at Te Tii Waitangi Marae. Also attending was the Chair of Pēowhairangi ki Whangaroa Wāri -Bay of Islands - Whangaroa Ward Community Board.

The aim of the hui was to share general information of council processes and give effect to our Hapū Engagement Strategy. The main focus of the hui was talking to the Request for Services functionality and community board funding opportunities, and responding to hapū enquiries in the way council hope to improve our engagement with hapū and iwi partners.

Feedback from hapū about improving wider hapū representation is, “It isn’t the message, it’s the messenger...”. This has prompted a reconsideration on how we get messages out to our hapū/iwi partners. It has been suggested we enrol the support of our rūnanga, iwi and hapū partners to endorse the invitation and use their networks for pānui to be sent out.

### **March 27, 2026 The return of Kororipo Pā to Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia.**

Kororipo Pā is historically important as the home base for renowned Ngāpuhi leader Hongi Hika who invited missionaries to establish themselves next to the pā.

This kaupapa is a significant step towards wider treaty negotiations with Ngāpuhi and is crucial for ongoing relationships between Council and Ngāti Rēhia hapū expressed in our relationship agreement, Te Aro Manatū.

Ngāti Rēhia prepared to host 400 people at the ceremony.

This event was severely impacted by the March weather event which saw a state of emergency declared and the event being officially cancelled.

Despite this, a number of supporters did hold a more intimate ceremony to install and unveil a pou marking this auspicious occasion.

There will be a celebratory hākari hosted by Ngāti Rēhia on Saturday May, 23<sup>rd</sup> starting with a pōwhiri at 11:00 am.

### **April 23, 2026 Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust Ahuwhenua Trophy Field Day.**

Following on from the pre-harvest karakia mentioned earlier in this report, Ngāti Hine hosted a field day at Turner Centre, Te Kerikeri.

The two other finalists in the horticultural section, Otama Marere Trust and Mātai Pacific Iwi Trust, both from the Bay of Plenty region, were invited to attend. All finalists are in the kiwifruit growing and exporting business.

Te Ahuwhenua Trust with all their major sponsors were also invited as well as hapū and whānau beneficiaries and FNDC.

Following the pōwhiri, Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust highlighted the successes of their horticultural investments.

Starting in 1974 with an investment of 6500 hectares of rated land with a collective value just under \$500,000, the trust have grown their base figure to \$38 million.

The trust have partnered with Seeka, specialists in kiwifruit packing and exporting. Their product is enjoyed in Europe and China. Participants also took a tour of the Paparata facility, one of six kiwifruit orchards co-leased and operated by Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust.

The winners of the 2026 Ahuwhenua Trophy Excellence in Māori Horticulture Award and the Ahuwhenua Young Māori Grower Award will be announced at a formal awards dinner At Mckay Stadium Kensington, Whangārei Friday, 5 June 2026.



*Ahuwhenua Trophy Management Committee Chair Nukuhia Hadfield (standing at the podium) opens the hui with an overview of the trophy. Ngāti Hine Forestry Trustees are seated on the left.*

**April 28, 2026 Karakia prior to slip repairs – Waikare Road**

Council staff, contractors, and local Te Kapotai and Ngāti Manu hapū representatives gathered early in the morning at one of the slip sites along Waikare Road to acknowledge and support the commencement of repairs to one of several damaged parts of the road. After a brief welcome the karakia were bookended by Te Kapotai kaumātua and FNDC were invited to participate and offer karakia to support the kaupapa. The intimate kaupapa concluded with light refreshments.



*FNDC staff, contractors and local hapū whānau of Te Kapotai and Ngāti Maanu gather to offer karakia prior to the commencement of slip repairs on Waikare Road.*

**Ngā Kaupapa Māori March to April 2026 Kaikohe ki Hokianga Ward****March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2026- Hokianga Hapū Engagement**

The hapū engagement hui held at Kokohuia Marae on 23 March brought together hapū representatives, marae trustees, kaumātua, community members, and council staff to strengthen relationships and ensure hapū perspectives are included early in council processes. The kōrero focused on Te Pae o Uta, clearer engagement pathways, and the role of relationship agreements such as IHEMPs, Mana Whakahono, Mana Orite, and other partnership tools. Hapū highlighted the need for more time to wānanga IHEMPs, especially to identify sites of significance. The hui also discussed community funding options, including the Pride and Place Fund for supplies and equipment, community funding for fencing and decks, and potential support for bridge foundations for civil defence, with further clarification needed on funding criteria.

Hapū emphasised that any funding applications must be supported by the wider community, not individuals, and noted that rohe-wide funding is divided between wards. Engagement expectations were clear: council needs to improve communication, create space for hapū to kōrero, and ensure hui are well advertised through online invites and posters. Hapū reiterated the importance of consistent, respectful engagement that recognises their rangatiratanga and whakapapa-based structures. Overall, the hui was constructive and grounded in tikanga, providing clear next steps for council and reinforcing the importance of long-term, trust-based partnership across the Hokianga.



### **March 26<sup>th</sup> 2026- Taheke Roadside Reserve**

Council held an engagement hui with hapū regarding several trees located on the road reserve near 1 Tāheke Road, Kaikohe, where stormwater upgrades are planned. The reserve currently contains existing stormwater catchpits, with additional drainage infrastructure proposed as part of the upcoming works. In preparation, council commissioned an arborist to assess the nine black poplar trees situated close to the construction area. The assessment focused on how the new stormwater installation may affect the trees, as well as the overall health, stability, and long-term condition of each tree. This information was shared with hapū to support transparent decision-making and ensure cultural, environmental, and safety considerations are fully understood.

Council and hapū are still in active discussions about the future of the trees, including potential impacts, mitigation options, and how best to balance stormwater requirements with environmental and cultural values. Further kōrero will continue as more information becomes available and as both parties work towards an agreed approach for the site.

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

There are no financial implications or need for budgetary provision arising from this report.

### **ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

### **5.3 UPDATE IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REFORMS MAY - JUNE 2026**

**File Number:** A5766856

**Author:** Roger Ackers, Head of Strategic Reform Initiatives

**Authoriser:** Guy Holroyd, Chief Executive Officer

#### **TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To provide Te Kuaka with an update on Local Government Reform and Resource Management Reform activity to the end of April 2026, with a particular focus on matters relevant to Māori strategic relationships, Te Tiriti considerations, and Iwi/Hapū engagement as these reform programmes progress.

#### **WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- Northland councils have progressed a locally led, staged approach to Simplifying Local Government Reforms, focused on governance, coordination, and readiness rather than predetermined outcomes.
- Resource Management Reform continues to be monitored and aligned alongside Local Government Reform, with a deliberate “no-regrets” readiness approach pending legislative certainty.
- Governance arrangements for the Local Government Reform Programme have been approved in principle, with Iwi, Hapū and community participation identified as a core consideration for subsequent planning stages.
- The Head of Strategic Reform Initiatives role was filled on 16 March 2026, strengthening coordination across reform programmes and improving integration of Māori and Te Tiriti considerations into programme planning and reporting.
- The next reporting period to Te Kuaka will cover May–June 2026.

#### **TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION**

**That Te Kuaka receives the update on Local Government and Resource Management Reforms for information and notes the planned reporting cycle, with the next update covering May - June 2026.**

#### **TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND**

##### Resource Management Reforms

Resource Management Reform is a central government-led programme replacing the existing RMA framework with a new national system. Leading into April 2026, Northland councils have focused on understanding potential implications for functions, governance, capability, and sequencing with other reforms, while avoiding premature commitments ahead of legislative clarity. This approach recognises the close relationship between land, water, and taonga, and the importance of ensuring Māori interests are appropriately considered as future engagement frameworks are developed.

##### Simplifying Local Government Reforms

In response to the Government’s Simplifying Local Government proposal, Northland councils developed a “By Northland, For Northland” approach. During March and April 2026, councils progressed decisions to establish a formal reform programme with clear governance, staged delivery, and defined decision gates. This approach preserves individual council decision-making

authority while enabling coordinated regional preparation. Iwi, Hapū and community participation has been identified as a key element to be addressed in subsequent stages of programme planning.

## **MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS**

### Progress to end of April 2026

Councils considered and approved (in principle) governance structures, Terms of Reference, and initial budget provisions to enable mobilisation of the Local Government Reform Programme.

The programme has been explicitly staged, with early phases focused on governance discipline, risk management, and alignment with Resource Management Reform timing and dependencies.

Planning for iwi, hapū and community participation is scheduled to occur as part of detailed programme planning, rather than being pre-determined at this early stage. This reflects the importance of getting engagement approaches right and ensuring Māori perspectives inform future options and decisions.

### Māori strategic relationships considerations

Consistent with Te Kuaka's role in strengthening Māori strategic relationships, the reform programmes are being positioned to:

- recognise Māori as tāngata whenua alongside the wider community;
- ensure future engagement is principled, timely, and aligned with Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
- avoid rushed or tokenistic engagement ahead of clarity on reform pathways and statutory requirements.

## **TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

The update is provided for information to support Te Kuaka's oversight of Māori strategic relationships and to ensure visibility of how reform programmes are being sequenced and governed prior to substantive engagement phases.

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

Initial programme budgets for Local Government Reform have been agreed by councils for the remainder of the 2025/26 financial year and provisionally for 2026/27. Transition and implementation costs remain out of scope at this stage and will depend on future decisions. No additional financial decisions are sought through this update.

## **ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS**

Nii

## 5.4 STANDING AGENDA ITEM - TE KAHU O TAONUUI AND HAPŪ VERBAL REPORTS TO TE KUAKA COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**File Number:** A5753910

**Author:** Marlema Baker, Te Kuaka Committee Coordinator

**Authoriser:** Aisha Huriwai, Manager - Democracy Services

### TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform the Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships (Te Kuaka) that Te Kahu o Taonui (TKOT) Appointed Representatives and Hapū with a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Far North District Council (FNDC) will be invited to provide regular verbal updates at Te Kuaka Committee meetings.

### WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships has an established role in strengthening relationships between FNDC and Māori, including Iwi and Hapū.
- The Chair of the Committee, Cr Tāmami Rākena, and Group Manager - Te Hono have approved that Te Kahu o Taonui Appointed Representatives and Hapū Representatives may provide regular verbal updates at Te Kuaka Committee meetings.
- These verbal updates will support kaupapa Māori governance, enhance transparency, and enable the Committee to remain informed of Iwi and Hapū aspirations, issues, and opportunities relevant to Māori strategic relationships.
- This Information Report confirms that these verbal reports will be included as a standing agenda item for the remainder of the 2025–2028 triennium.

### TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

**That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Standing Agenda Item - Te Kahu o Taonui and Hapū Verbal Reports to Te Kuaka Committee Meetings.**

### TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The Far North District Council (FNDC) has established formal relationship arrangements with Māori entities to support partnership, collaboration, and information sharing. Te Kahu o Taonui holds the Whanaungatanga ki Taurangi Relationship Agreement with FNDC, reflecting its role as a mandated Iwi authority and strategic partner to Council. In addition, FNDC has entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with individual Hapū, recognising Hapū rangatiratanga and enabling structured engagement on matters of mutual interest.

Providing a formal forum for regular verbal updates from Te Kahu o Taonui appointed representatives and Hapū with signed agreements aligns with the intent of these relationship instruments and supports ongoing, tikanga-based engagement. The inclusion of Iwi and Hapū updates at Te Kuaka Committee meetings strengthens Māori/Council relationships and ensures elected members remain informed of Iwi and Hapū perspectives, priorities, and emerging issues.

The Local Government Act 2002 enables Councils to structure their meeting procedures in a manner that supports Māori participation. Section 14(1)(d) recognises the Crown's obligations to Māori and requires local authorities to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to decision-making. Schedule 7, clause 27 further requires Councils to adopt Standing orders governing meeting conduct, under which councils may provide for invited attendance and agenda items such as verbal reports from Iwi and Hapū representatives.

**MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS**

Providing regular verbal updates from Te Kahu o Taonui and Hapū with signed MOUs will strengthen Māori/Council relationships through direct engagement, give effect to partnership principles under Te Tiriti o Waitangi, enhance the Committee's strategic oversight and awareness of Iwi and Hapū matters and support informed decision-making by Elected Members.

The verbal updates will be included as a standing item on Te Kuaka Committee agendas for the remainder of the 2025–2028 triennium. Procedural details, such as time allowances and order of speakers, will continue to be managed in accordance with the Committee's standing orders and at the Chairperson's discretion.

No further formal decision is required from the Committee, as this report is for information only.

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

There are no financial implications arising from this report. The inclusion of verbal updates will be accommodated within existing meeting structures and resources.

**ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS**

Nil

**6 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSING PRAYER**

**7 TE KAPINGA HUI / MEETING CLOSE**