



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

AGENDA


Ordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships Meeting

Tuesday, 14 July 2026

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

MEMBERSHIP:

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

	Authorising Body	Council
	Status	Standing Committee
COUNCIL COMMITTEE	Title	Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships Terms of Reference
	Terms of Reference Adoption	11 December 2025 and revised 5 March 2026 , 15 April & 29 April 2026
	Responsible Officer	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 or 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 14 July 2026 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

Hayley Hansen - representing Karikari / Te Hiku Rangatahi regarding Taiao, Dark Sky & Community Monitoring Kaupapa.

Ellieda Komene & Paul Wihongi – representing Te Uri O Hua Hapū regarding item 5.1 Mana Whakahono ā Rohe – Approval to Initiate Engagement with Hapū

SUPPLEMENTARY AGENDA (DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)**5.2 Northland Infrastructure Plan Report**

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

4.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

File Number: A5828361

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 19 May 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 Committee Minutes 19 May 2026 - A5782723** [↓](#)

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, wāhi 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 Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships Meeting
Minutes

19 May 2026

**MINUTES OF FAR NORTH DISTRICT COUNCIL
ORDINARY TE KUAKA COMMITTEE FOR MĀORI STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS MEETING
HELD AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MEMORIAL AVE, KAIKOHE
ON TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2026 AT 10:02 AM**

- PRESENT:** Heamana Tāmati Rākena, Kohepu - Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Cr Arohanui Allen, Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Cr Davina Smolders, Cr Kelly Stratford, Wallace Rivers Te Kahu o Taonui, Kipa Munro Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia, Mike Te Wake Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa (online), Rukuwai Allen Te Whiu Hapū, Nyze Manuel Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa (online)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Rowena Tana (on behalf of Pita Tipene Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine), Kawiti Waetford (Kaiwhakawhiti Reo Language Interpreter)
- STAFF PRESENT:** Guy Holroyd (Chief Executive), Aaron Taikato (Manuhautu – Te Hono), Charlie Billington (GM – Corporate Services), Tanya Proctor (Head of Infrastructure), Ruben Garcia (GM – Community & Engagement), Llani Harding (Pouhautu – Te Hono), Sarah Peri (Kaupapa Māori Lead) Ken Lewis (Manager Communications & Engagement), Lawrence Wharerau (Kaiarahi Kaupapa Māori), Andy Dowdle (Change Specialist), Marlema Baker (Te Kuaka Committee Coordinator)
- ONLINE:** Natasha Rmandic (Democracy Advisor), Imrie Dunn (Democracy Advisor), Emma Healy (Chief of Staff), Marysa Maheno (Democracy Advisor), Roger Ackers (Head of Strategic Reforms Initiatives), Hilary Sumpter GM -Delivery & Operations),

1 KARAKIA TIMATANGA / OPENING PRAYER

Heamana-Chairman Tāmati Rākena commenced the meeting with a karakia.

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

2.1 APOLOGIES

RESOLUTION 2026/13

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

That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive apologies from Kahika-Mayor Moko Tepania and Heamana Tuarua-Deputy Chair Mane Tahere, Nicole Anderson (Far North Holdings Ltd), Pita Tipene (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine), and JJ Ripikoi and a leave of absence be granted.

CARRIED

3 NGĀ TONO KŌRERO / DEPUTATION

There are no deputations for this meeting.

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4 NGĀ KŌRERO A TE HEAMANA / CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Heamana (Chairman) acknowledged those who have passed away, shared a summary of past events and those forthcoming, and invited committee members to present their panui. He also extended speaking rights to non-committee members, welcoming them to contribute their panui as well.

5 TE WHAKAAETANGA O NGĀ MENETI O MUA / CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**4.1 CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Agenda item 4.1 document number A5763661, pages 8 - 15 refers

RESOLUTION 2026/14

Moved: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira
Seconded: Kohepu - Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin

That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships confirm the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held 20 April 2026 as a true and correct.

Abstained: Cr Kelly Stratford

CARRIED

Secretarial Note: GM – Te Hono outlined an oversight relating to item 4.2, Kaitiaki Agreement – Moringaehē Reserve, as included in the 20 April 2026 Extraordinary Te Kuaka agenda. Following execution of the agreement, staff identified the oversight; a report will be presented to the Council meeting scheduled for 28 May 2026. No works have been undertaken in relation to the agreement to date.

Secretarial Note: Cr Smolders requested that a note be added to the minutes of 20 April 2026. As this matter was not part of the original discussion on that date, it cannot be incorporated into those minutes; however, it will be recorded here in the current minutes, in the secretarial note above.

6 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS**5.1 TE PAE O UTA TE AO MĀORI FRAMEWORK - MAY 2026 UPDATE**

Agenda item 5.1 document number A5744313, pages 16 - 19 refers

RESOLUTION 2026/15

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

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

CARRIED**5.2 NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI / MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO MĀORI**

Agenda item 5.2 document number A5744715, pages 20 - 27 refers

RESOLUTION 2026/16

Moved: Cr Arohanui Allen

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Seconded: Cr Kelly Stratford

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

CARRIED

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

Agenda item 5.3 document number A5766856, pages 28 - 29 refers

RESOLUTION 2026/17

Moved: Kipa Munro -Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia

Seconded: Rukuwai Allen - Te Whiu Hapū

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.

CARRIED

Secretarial note: Cr Smolders requested that a note be added that the current report is outdated. The Head of Strategic Reforms Initiatives reaffirmed that the report is current until the end of May 2026.

Secretarial Note: Kohepu Chicky Rudkin and the Chair requests that staff organise weekly drop-in sessions for Stakeholders, communities to attend for further information and updates.

5.5 LOCAL WATER DONE WELL UPDATE MAY 2026

Agenda item 5.1 document number A5771105, pages 5 - 8 refers

RESOLUTION 2026/18

Moved: Cr Kelly Stratford

Seconded: Cr Arohanui Allen

That the Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Local Water Done Well Update May 2026.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 12:01pm for lunch and reconvened at 12.31pm.

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

Agenda item 5.4 document number A5753910, pages 30 - 31 refers

RESOLUTION 2026/19

Moved: Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira

Seconded: Rukuwai Allen - Te Whiu Hapū

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

In Favour: Heamana-Chairman Tāmati Rākena, Kohepu-Deputy Mayor Chicky Rudkin, Cr Arohanui Allen, Cr Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Cr Kelly Stratford, Members Wallace

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	Rivers, Kipa Munro, Mike Te Wake, Rukuwai Allen and Nyze Manuel	
<u>Against:</u>	Cr Davina Smolders	CARRIED
<i>Secretarial Note: Te Kahu o Taonui will provide a formal report to the next Te Kuaka Committee meeting to further expand on recommendations 1 – 6 included as attached (Objective ID A5788916).</i>		
Attachments tabled at meeting		
1	Te Kahu o Taonui supporting information to verbal update Document A5788916 refers	

7 MEETING CLOSE

The meeting closed at 1:25pm.

The minutes of this meeting will be confirmed at the Ordinary Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships Meeting held on 14 July 2026.

.....
CHAIRPERSON

5 NGĀ PŪRONGO / REPORTS

5.1 MANA WHAKAHONO Ā ROHE - APPROVAL TO INITIATE ENGAGEMENT WITH HAPŪ.

File Number: A5856779

Author: Llani Harding, Pouhautū - Manager - Te Hono

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

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to present the formal invitation from Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura requesting that Far North District Council enter into a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWāR), and to seek Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships (Te Kuaka) endorsement to recommend that Council formally initiate engagement with the Hapū under section 58P(4) of the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- On 2 June 2026, Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura wrote to Far North District Council requesting that Council enter into a MWāR with the Hapū.
- The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) provides different initiation pathways for MWāR. An Iwi authority may initiate a MWāR under section 58O, while a local authority may initiate a MWāR with an Iwi authority or Hapū under section 58P(4) RMA.
- The request received from Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura is appropriately treated as a formal request for Council to consider initiating a MWāR under section 58P(4) RMA.
- Council has previously considered its general approach to MWāR and resolved that Council may consider initiating a MWāR with a Hapū or collective of Hapū where an established relationship exists.
- Council has an established and ongoing relationship with Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke and Ngāti Kura through a range of governance, infrastructure, environmental and resource management programmes.
- Council is only being asked to initiate engagement, not approve a MWāR.
- Initiating engagement is consistent with Council's obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Act 2002, including supporting Māori participation in decision-making, recognising the role of kaitiaki, fostering constructive relationships with tangata whenua, and giving practical effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Initiating engagement does not predetermine the content of any future agreement, commit Council to any specific obligations, funding arrangements, governance arrangements, implementation programme or timeframes, nor remove Council's statutory decision-making responsibilities.
- The current resource management system is subject to legislative reform, with the Resource Management Act 1991 expected to be replaced by new legislation. The timing and content of replacement legislation remain uncertain and, the final legislative treatment of MWāR agreements and their ongoing legal effect remains uncertain.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka

- a) receive the report *Mana Whakahono ā Rohe – Approval to Initiate Engagement with Hapū*; and

b) recommend that the Far North District Council:

- i. formally initiate engagement with Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura under section 58P(4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the purpose of negotiating a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement;**
- ii. note that the process to be adopted, timeframes for negotiation, implementation arrangements, governance arrangements, review mechanisms, dispute resolution processes, resourcing requirements and any future commitments will be subject to negotiation between the parties and will not be agreed or implemented without being considered through the appropriate Council governance and statutory decision-making processes;**
- iii. note that initiation of engagement under section 58P(4) does not commit Council to any specific terms, obligations, funding arrangements, implementation programme or delegated authority:**
- iv. note that any proposed Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement would be reported back to Council for consideration before being finalised.**

OR

That Te Kuaka recommend that the Far North District Council does not formally initiate engagement with Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura under section 58P(4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 for the purpose of negotiating a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement at this time.

1) TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

Subpart 2 of Part 5 of the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 provides for MWāR: Iwi participation arrangements. MWāR are intended to assist tangata whenua and local authorities to discuss, agree and record how they will work together under the RMA, including how tangata whenua will participate in resource management processes.

The statutory purpose and intent of MWāR includes:

- improving working relationships between tangata whenua and local authorities;
- enhancing Māori participation in resource management and decision-making processes;
- supporting effective and efficient resource management outcomes; and
- creating locally appropriate arrangements that reflect the relevant relationships, rohe and responsibilities of the parties.

In addition to the MWāR provisions, Council exercises powers and functions under a range of legislation that recognises the interests of Māori in resource management and local government decision-making.

These include:

- section 6(e) of the Resource Management Act 1991, requiring recognition and provision for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga;
- section 7(a), requiring particular regard to kaitiakitanga;
- section 8, requiring decision-makers to take account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;

- sections 4, 14 and 81 of the Local Government Act 2002, which require local authorities to provide opportunities for Māori participation in decision-making and maintain processes that support Māori contribution to local government decision-making.

MWāR provides a recognised statutory mechanism through which councils and tangata whenua can build on existing relationships and agree how they will work together in relation to resource management matters.

Council has previously considered its general approach to MWāR in the 2018 – 2022 triennium.

On 26 July 2018 the Governance and Strategic Relationships Committee recommended that Council may initiate a MWāR with a Hapū or collective of Hapū once a relationship has been established.

The amendment became the substantive motion.

That Governance and Strategic Relationships Committee recommend that Council can initiate Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe with a hapū or collective of hapū only after it has established a relationship with that hapū or collective of hapū.

Councillor Hookway requested a vote by division.

<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Noes</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Court		Hookway
HWTM Carter		
Deputy Mayor McInnes		
Kitchen		
Macauley		
Vujcich		
Stratford		
Carried		

On 25 October 2018 Council adopted Resolution 2018/29:

7.4 MANA WHAKAHONO-Ā-ROHE/IWI PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH HAPŪ OR HAPŪ COLLECTIVE

RESOLUTION 2018/29

Moved: Cr Tania McInnes
 Seconded: Cr John Vujcich

That the Council may initiate Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe with a hapū or collective of hapū only after it has established a relationship with that hapū or collective of hapū.

CARRIED

Against: Cr Dave Hookway
 Cr Felicity Foy declared a conflict of interest in relation to this item

Council also subsequently considered specific MWāR arrangements with Te Rūnanga ā-Iwi o Ngāpuhi via the Strategy and Policy Committee in May 2022 Resolution 2022/30, when that Iwi authority formally invited Council to enter negotiations:

6.4 MANA WHAKAHONO-Ā-ROHE / IWI PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENT WITH TE RŪNANGA-Ā-IWI-Ō-NGĀPUHI

Agenda item 6.4 document number A3666679, pages 349 - 351 refers

RESOLUTION 2022/30

Moved: Cr Kelly Stratford
 Seconded: Chair Rachel Smith

That the Strategy and Policy Committee receive the report Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe /Iwi Participation Arrangement with Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-Ō-Ngāpuhi.

CARRIED

and ultimately entered into a MWāR with Te Rūnanga ā-Iwi o Ngāpuhi in August 2025.

Council also has an established working relationship with Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura through a range of programmes and initiatives, including:

- Kaikohe Wastewater Treatment Plant Working Group;
- Kaikohe Library and Civic Hub Steering Group;
- Kaikohe Placemaking Plan Working Group;
- Memorial Park Reserve Management Plan development;
- Rawiri Taiwhanga Memorial Park programme of works;
- Lake Ōmāpere related matters;
- Kaikohe Wastewater Treatment Plant consent processes;
- Wairoro Stream water take consent matters; and
- other resource management and community development initiatives.

Staff consider that the duration, breadth and continuity of these engagements demonstrate an established working relationship consistent with the approach contemplated by Council Resolution 2018/29.

2) MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND OPTIONS

Statutory Authority

MWāR are provided for under Subpart 2 of Part 5 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (sections 58L–58U). The purpose of MWāR is to provide a framework through which tangata whenua and local authorities can discuss, agree and record how they will work together in relation to resource management matters, including participation in decision-making processes and engagement on matters affecting their rohe.

A MWāR agreement does not transfer Council's statutory decision-making responsibilities or predetermine planning outcomes. Rather, it provides a statutory framework through which participation arrangements, engagement expectations, and process matters may be discussed and agreed.

Section 58P(4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 provides that a local authority may initiate a MWāR with an Iwi authority or with Hapū. Accordingly, Far North District Council has the statutory authority to initiate engagement with Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke and Ngāti Kura for the purpose of negotiating a MWāR.

The request received from the Hapū is appropriately treated as a request for Council to consider exercising its discretion under section 58P(4). Unlike an initiation by an Iwi authority under section 58O, a request from Hapū does not create a statutory obligation requiring Council to enter into a MWāR.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori Participation

In exercising its functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 Council must have regard to a number of statutory provisions relevant to Māori participation in resource management, including:

- section 6(e), requiring recognition and provision for the relationship of Māori and their culture and traditions with ancestral lands, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga;
- section 7(a), requiring particular regard to be given to kaitiakitanga;
- section 8, requiring decision-makers to take account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Council also has obligations under the Local Government Act 2002 to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to local authority decision-making processes and to establish and maintain processes that facilitate such participation.

Initiating engagement regarding a MWāR is consistent with these statutory obligations and is based on a recognised legislative mechanism through which Council and Hapū can strengthen participation, engagement and relationship arrangements.

No Commitment to Future Arrangements

Council is only being asked to initiate engagement, not approve a MWāR.

The recommendation contained in this report is limited to initiating engagement under section 58P(4).

Should Council resolve to initiate engagement, the Resource Management Act requires the parties to subsequently agree:

- the process to be adopted;
- the period within which negotiations are to be concluded; and
- how the MWāR is to be implemented following conclusion of negotiations.

No such arrangements are proposed for approval through this report.

Initiation of engagement does not commit Council to:

- any particular terms of a MWāR;
- any agreed timeframe;
- any governance arrangements;
- any implementation programme;
- any financial commitment;
- any staffing commitment; or
- any delegation of statutory powers.

Any future arrangements arising from negotiations would remain subject to consideration and approval through Council's normal governance, financial and statutory decision-making processes before taking effect.

Reform Environment and Legislative Uncertainty

The current resource management system is subject to legislative reform, with the Resource Management Act 1991 expected to be replaced by new legislation. While the timing and content of replacement legislation remain uncertain, the current MWāR provisions remain available.

This creates a limited window for Council to consider whether it wishes to utilise the existing statutory pathway before reforms occur. Current proposals indicate that MWāR processes initiated under the RMA may have standing within the replacement system, although the final legislative position remains subject to Parliamentary approval.

Current reform material also indicates support for retaining participation mechanisms for Māori, but the final form of any replacement provisions is not yet known. While initiated MWāR processes may be recognised within the replacement system, the final legislative treatment of MWāR agreements and their ongoing legal effect remains uncertain.

While the timing and final content of the replacement legislation remain uncertain, there is currently no assurance that new MWāR processes will be able to be initiated under the future legislative framework. Arrangements initiated under the current framework may be more likely to be recognised through transitional provisions. Accordingly, the opportunity to initiate a MWāR process under the current legislative framework may not remain available indefinitely.

If Council decides not to initiate a MWāR process at this time, existing engagement approaches would remain available. While these alternatives can support ongoing relationship-based engagement, they would not carry the same statutory weight as a MWāR or provide the same level of certainty, consistency, and durability for participation arrangements. This may result in less clarity for hapū, Council staff, applicants and developers regarding engagement expectations, participation processes, and who should be involved in resource management matters.

Option 1 (recommended)

Recommend that Council formally initiate engagement with Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura under section 58P(4).

Benefits

- Utilises the statutory pathway available to Council under the Resource Management Act.
- Is consistent with Council Resolution 2018/29.
- Recognises the existing relationship between Council and the hapū.
- Supports meaningful Māori participation in resource management decision-making.
- Recognises the role of hapū as kaitiaki within their rohe.
- Supports Council's obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Act 2002.
- Provides a structured framework within which expectations, roles and responsibilities can be discussed and clarified.

Implications

- Initiating engagement does not establish the content of any future agreement.
- Scope, process, timeframe, implementation arrangements, governance structures, monitoring requirements and dispute resolution processes would need to be negotiated.
- Any financial implications, resource commitments or implementation requirements would remain subject to future Council consideration and approval.
- Any final MWāR arrangement would be brought back through the appropriate Council governance processes before being finalised.

Option 2: (not recommended)

That Council not initiate engagement at this time

- Benefits: This option recognises that Council is not automatically compelled to enter into a hapū MWāR and may choose to defer a decision given that the future status of MWāR provisions under proposed RMA reforms is uncertain.
- Risks: Deferring or declining initiation may be perceived as inconsistent with Council's established relationship with the hapū and may miss an opportunity to clarify engagement expectations through a structured process.
- Implications: Council would need to clearly communicate its reasons for not initiating at this time and identify whether further engagement scoping or resourcing analysis is required before the matter returns for consideration.

3) TŪRARU ME TE WHAKAMAHINGA TŪRARU / RISK MANAGEMENT

The primary risks associated with the recommendation are:

- differing expectations between Council and the Hapū regarding the purpose, scope or outcomes of a MWāR;
- expectations that initiation of engagement guarantees the completion of a MWāR;
- future resourcing, implementation or funding requirements identified during negotiations;
- the possibility that negotiations do not result in a final agreement.

These risks can be managed through clear communication, agreed negotiation protocols, transparent governance processes and ensuring that any future commitments are separately considered through Council's normal decision-making and budgeting processes.

Risk	Potential Impact	Likelihood	Consequence	Mitigation
<p>Reform uncertainty – status of MWāR under replacement legislation</p>	<p>The RMA is expected to continue operating through a transitional period while the replacement resource management system is implemented. However, there is uncertainty about whether MWāR processes that have not been initiated before Royal Assent will have standing in the future system. Current indications suggest that arrangements commenced under the RMA may be more likely to be recognised through transitional provisions.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>If Council resolves to initiate, issue written invitations within 30 days of the resolution and before Royal Assent of the replacement legislation, where practicable. Seek further advice on transition provisions as the legislation progresses and report back to Council on any implications for the process.</p>
<p>Different expectations between Council and the Hapū regarding the purpose, scope or outcomes of a MWāR.</p>	<p>Delays in negotiations or inability to reach agreement.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Establish clear expectations at the outset of negotiations and agree a negotiation framework before substantive discussions commence.</p>
<p>Perception that initiation of engagement commits Council to a final MWāR agreement.</p>	<p>Public misunderstanding or concern regarding Council's intentions.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Clearly communicate that initiation under section 58P(4) only commences engagement and that any future agreement will require separate Council consideration and approval.</p>
<p>Future negotiation identifies resource, staffing or funding requirements.</p>	<p>Additional operational or financial pressures on Council.</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Any proposed commitments will be assessed and reported separately through Council's normal budgeting and decision-making processes before approval.</p>
<p>Negotiations do not result in an agreement.</p>	<p>Time and resources expended without a final outcome.</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p>Establish realistic objectives, maintain good-faith engagement and utilise agreed</p>

				dispute resolution processes where appropriate.
Concerns are raised by other Iwi or Hapū regarding the proposal.	Reputational impacts or requests for similar arrangements.	Low	Medium	Continue to assess any requests on their individual merits and in accordance with statutory requirements and previous Council direction.
Negotiated provisions are perceived as affecting Council decision-making authority.	Governance concerns raised by elected members or the community.	Medium	High	Ensure any draft agreement explicitly recognises Council's statutory responsibilities and decision-making powers and returns to Council for approval before any commitment is made.
Failure to progress the Hapū request.	Potential reputational impacts and deterioration of existing relationships.	Medium	Medium	Maintain open communication and utilise an agreed engagement process that reflects partnership and good-faith principles.
The proposal is perceived as creating precedent for future MWāR requests.	Increased demand for similar arrangements and expectations from other groups.	Medium	Low	Note that each request must be considered on its own merits, statutory context, relationship history and Council circumstances at the time.
The proposal is misunderstood as approval of a MWāR rather than approval to commence discussions.	Public concern, reputational impacts, or misunderstanding of Council's intentions.	Medium	Medium	Clearly communicate that Council is only being asked to initiate engagement, not approve a MWāR. Any future agreement would require separate Council consideration and approval.

4) TAKE TŪTOHUNGA / REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

Option 1 is recommended because it utilises the structured statutory framework available to Council under the Resource Management Act, recognises the existing relationship between Council and the hapū and is therefore consistent with Council Resolution 2018/29, and supports meaningful Māori participation in resource management decision-making recognising Council's obligations under the Resource Management Act 1991 and Local Government Act 2002.

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

There are no immediate budgetary implications in Te Kuaka endorsing this recommendation to Council. If Council resolves to initiate engagement, any costs associated with negotiation, technical support, legal review, implementation planning or future work programmes will be identified through the agreed process. Any commitments requiring new or additional funding will need to be assessed through Council's usual budgeting, annual plan or long-term plan processes before they are confirmed.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura to Far North District Council - 2 June 2026 - A5835604 [↓](#)

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	<p>Low. The current recommendation is limited to initiating engagement under section 58P(4) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and does not preclude consideration of wider community engagement in relation to future decisions which may arise as a result of the proposed engagement with hapu.</p> <p>The proposal does not involve approving a MWāR agreement, or commit Council to any timeframe, implementation arrangement, funding commitment, governance change or level of service change. Any potential future agreement and associated implications would be subject to separate Council consideration and decision-making processes. Accordingly, staff consider that the proposal does not trigger significance under Council's Significance and Engagement Policy at this time.</p>
State the relevant Council policies (external or internal), legislation, and/or community outcomes (as stated in the LTP) that relate to this decision.	Resource Management Act 1991, Local Government Act 2002, Te Pae Tata, Te Pae o Uta, Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatuanuku, FN2100
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 has relevance to the Kaikohe-Hokianga ward specifically as Hapū are mostly located within these boundaries. Board views have not been sought for this committee meeting however Board Chairs will have opportunity to speak to this matter at Council.
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.	<p>The proposal aligns with Council's obligations under sections 6(e), 7(a) and 8 of the Resource Management Act 1991 and sections 4, 14 and 81 of the Local Government Act 2002.</p> <p>MWāR provides a recognised statutory mechanism through which tangata whenua and local authorities can agree how they will work together in resource management matters.</p>

	<p>Initiating engagement supports Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles including partnership, good faith engagement, active protection, informed decision-making and meaningful Māori participation in matters affecting ancestral lands, waters, wāhi tapu and other taonga.</p> <p>The proposal recognises the role of Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke and Ngāti Kura as kaitiaki within their rohe and builds upon an established working relationship between Council and the Hapū.</p> <p>The recommendation is limited to initiating engagement only. No process, timeframe, implementation arrangement, governance structure, funding commitment or other obligation will be agreed without further negotiation and consideration through Council's normal governance, financial and statutory decision-making processes.</p> <p>Council is only being asked to initiate engagement, not approve a MWāR. Any future agreement, implementation arrangements, funding commitments or governance matters would be separately considered by Council before any commitment is made.</p>
<p>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).</p>	<p>Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura, their members, relevant Iwi and Hapū, affected communities, elected members, Council staff and stakeholders involved in relevant RMA processes may have an interest in this matter. The Hapū have initiated the request for Council to consider a MWāR, and further views would be considered through the agreed engagement and negotiation process if Council resolves to initiate.</p>
<p>State the financial implications and where budgetary provisions have been made to support this decision.</p>	<p>There are no immediate budgetary implications from endorsing this paper. Any future financial implications arising from negotiation or implementation of a MWāR would need to be identified, assessed and approved through Council's ordinary financial planning and decision-making processes.</p>
<p>Chief Financial Officer review.</p>	<p>This report has been reviewed by the CFO</p>

Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura

2 June 2026

Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chief Executive
Far North District Council

By email: mayor@fndc.govt.nz; chicky.rudkin@fndc.govt.nz; guy.holroyd@fndc.govt.nz

Tēnā koutou

Request to enter into a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe Agreement

On behalf of Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura, we write to formally request that the Far North District Council enter into a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement with hapū in accordance with the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nū Tirenī affirms the status of Māori as the sovereign people of Aotearoa and underscores the central role of hapū as kaitiaki of our lands, waters, and resources. This foundation continues to guide our aspirations for meaningful partnership and active participation in environmental management processes within our rohe.

Our hapū held two hui on 29 April 2026 and 16 May 2026 to consider the option of entering into a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement with Council. At both meetings, there was strong and consistent support from hapū members to initiate this pathway.

Purpose of the Request

Our hapū seeks to establish a formal partnership with Council that:

- Recognises and provides for the relationship of our hapū with our ancestral lands, water bodies, wāhi tapu, and other taonga;
- Ensures our meaningful participation in resource management processes;
- Supports the exercise of kaitiakitanga within our rohe; and
- Enables early, effective, and ongoing engagement in planning and consenting matters.

Scope of the Agreement

We envisage that the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement will include, but not be limited to:

- Processes for engagement in the preparation, review, and amendment of policy statements and plans;
- Participation in resource consent processes, including opportunities for early input;
- Identification of areas, issues, and resources of significance to our hapū;
- Protocols for information sharing and communication;

1

Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura

- Methods for monitoring and review of the agreement; and
- Capacity-building and resourcing arrangements to enable effective participation.

Commitment to Partnership

Our hapū is committed to working collaboratively with Council to achieve sustainable management outcomes that align with Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the well-being of our taiao and communities.

We consider that a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement provides an appropriate statutory mechanism to give effect to these shared responsibilities and strengthen the relationship between Council and hapū.

Next Steps

We propose an initial hui between representatives of hapū and Council to:

- Confirm scope, priorities, and expectations; and
- Discuss timelines consistent with the RMA.

Please contact Paul on 021 114 4105 or paul.wihongi@xtra.co.nz to arrange a suitable time.

Nāku noa, nā

Paul Wihongi and Ellieda Komene

Hapū representatives

Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura

6 NGĀ PŪRONGO TAIPITOPITO / INFORMATION REPORTS

6.1 UPDATE ON POU 2: TUIA NGĀ TAI O TE AO | TANGATA WHENUA-LED ADAPTATION

File Number: A5817807

Author: Sarah Peri, Kaupapa Maori Lead - Climate Action and Resilience

Authoriser: Kate Ivicheva, Group Manager - Planning & Policy

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships (Te Kuaka) with an update on Pou 2: Tuia ngā tai o te ao | Tangata whenua-led adaptation.

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Pou 2: Tuia ngā tai o te ao | Tangata whenua-led adaptation (Pou 2) is a core component of Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori | Council's Community Adaptation Programme. Its purpose is to support tangata whenua to lead their own climate adaptation planning.
- Pou 2 is underpinned by the principle: "Mā te tangata whenua e ārahi, e kawē, e kōrero" (Tangata whenua lead, carry and speak to their own adaptation pathways).
- Across March-June 2026, Council has been invited to marae, hapori, Hapū and Iwi-led kaupapa across the district.
- Taitamariki are co-developing a StoryMap with Te Kahu o Taonui to share He Ara ki Tua | Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Planning.
- Rae ki te Rae | Manaaki Recovery Hubs across North and South Hokianga brought together Hapū, haukāinga, marae and agencies in response to the March 2026 severe weather events.
- Engagement in Ngā Herenga o Papatūānuku has positioned Te Tai Tokerau as a national leader in tangata whenua-led adaptation, with Pou 2 showcased as a mode
- Capacity constraints and long-term resourcing remain key challenges, reinforcing the need for sustained investment and commitment of Council's role within Pou 2 to enable, support and resource tangata whenua to lead their own adaptation plans.
- Council and Kaimanaaki Hapori presented at Wānanga Waiora and the Climate Summit.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Update on Pou 2: Tuia ngā tai o te ao | Tangata whenua-led adaptation.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

The impacts of climate change are already being felt across Te Hiku o te Ika. Pou 2 responds to this challenge by supporting tangata whenua to lead their own culturally grounded, mātauranga Māori-informed planning process. Focused on protecting whakapapa, whenua, taonga and hapori wellbeing, enabling long-term resilience at whānau, Hapū and marae level.

This mahi is not only about responding to immediate risks, but also about building enduring capability and leadership within communities to navigate change over the next 25–100 years. Strategically, Pou 2 contributes to Council's role as an enabler of community resilience, while supporting Māori aspirations for mana motuhake and rangatiratanga in the context of climate change.

Pou 2 directly advances several key Council strategic frameworks and policies:

Climate Action Policy: Pou 2 supports proactive adaptation to climate risks, enables informed decision-making using data, science and mātauranga Māori, and builds community resilience through local leadership.

Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy: Pou 2 centres tangata whenua as key partners in adaptation planning, supports place-based responses grounded in local knowledge, and strengthens collaborative approaches across agencies and communities.

Far North 2100 (FN2100): Pou 2 aligns with long-term thinking and intergenerational planning, supporting communities in understanding and responding to future climate scenarios and embedding resilience planning within broader district development.

Te Pae o Uta: Pou 2 strongly aligns with, advances and operationalises the intent of Te Pae o Uta across its three core whāinga. **Tū Kotahi:** Pou 2 increases meaningful participation of tangata whenua in planning and decision-making, enabling whanau, Hapū and Iwi to lead their own adaptation pathways. **Whanake Tahī:** Pou 2 strengthens capability within Council and across communities, supporting staff and partners to respond effectively to kaupapa Māori approaches to climate adaptation. **Kōkiri Tahī,** through tools, resources and targeted support, Pou 2 enables tangata whenua to exercise rangatiratanga and work collectively towards climate resilience.

Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori | Community Adaptation Programme: Pou 2 complements Pou 1 by ensuring tangata whenua can lead their own planning, provides the tools, frameworks and support to translate engagement into action, enables scalable, locally led adaptation planning across the district.

Northland Regional Council (NRC) and Te Ruarangi's Tāiki ē | Te Tiriti Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan: Pou 2 demonstrates Council's commitment to Te Tiriti partnership into practical delivery. Strengthening Māori capability and creating meaningful pathways for Hapū and Iwi to influence decision-making.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Across March-June 2026, Council has been invited into a range of marae, hapori, Hapū and Iwi-led spaces, including:

- Ngāpuhi Hokianga ki te Raki Takiwā (hosted by Motukiore Marae)
- Te Uri o Tai Hapū (hosted by Ōhākī Marae)
- Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa
- Te Aho Taiao o Waimamaku
- Te Hiku Iwi and Hapū Engagement (hosted by Roma Marae)

These hui have been opportunities for hapori Māori to further understand Council's role as a supporting partner, rather than a driver, of tangata whenua-led adaptation planning.

Across the district, Hapū, marae and taiao groups are actively using Ngā Kete Tautoko | Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates to identify climate risks through Atua Māori frameworks, mapping sites of significance and taonga using GIS and mātauranga Māori. Defining what climate adaptation success looks like for their hapori and, in some cases, in the early stages of discussing and developing locally grounded adaptation pathways.

Kaimanaaki Hapori continue to work closely alongside their communities (North and South Hokianga) to advocate for Pou 2, attending and contributing to tangata whenua-led hui and wānanga, introducing the tools and the Te Ahunga framework.

Engagement with taitamariki is strengthening intergenerational leadership. Kōrero tuku iho from kaumatua and kuia continues to inform planning, ensuring that knowledge systems are interwoven across generations. Taitamariki engagement in South Hokianga has explored local climate risks and future scenarios, which have contributed to visual planning tools grounded in their lived experiences.

A co-designed StoryMap is being developed with taitamariki from Te Kura Taumata o Panguru and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Pukemiro, supported by Dave Laseki from Te Kahu o Taonui (TKoT) to demonstrate tangata whenua-led adaptation planning through the eyes of taitamariki, mokopuna of Te Hiku o te Ika.

Rae ki te Rae | Manaaki Recovery Hubs across North and South Hokianga were co-ordinated, community-centred follow-up to emergency welfare response, designed to support whanau and communities in the immediate recovery phase after an emergency event. The hub model removed barriers to access by bringing essential services directly to communities with the greatest need. An opportunity to hear directly from communities about observed climate impacts, local priorities and emerging solutions, while strengthening relationships and supporting locally led adaptation approaches, bringing together Iwi, Hapū, marae and agencies to align understanding of climate risks and community-led responses.

Participation in Ngā Herenga o Papatūānuku – Aotearoa’s Māori-led adaptation network has positioned Te Tai Tokerau as an active contributor to national adaptation kaupapa. Council presented Pou 2 as a model for enabling tangata whenua-led adaptation. Te Tai Tokerau representatives have joined the national steering committee and the region will host the next tangata whenua adaptation network wānanga. This demonstrates that the mahi is not only locally significant but contributing to national system-level change in adaptation practice.

Council and Kaimanaaki Hapori presented at Wānanga Waiora and the Climate Summit (June 11 and 12). Adaptation planning was well represented throughout the Climate Summit, the Te Ahunga framework and Ngā Kete Tautoko | Kete of supporting resources, tools and templates were shared and demonstrated.

Resourcing and sustainability remain key challenges, particularly the capacity pressures faced by hapori Māori. The nature of this work demands long-term commitment. Growing capability takes sustained investment over time. Clarity around Council’s evolving role continues to be critical, ensuring that Council remains positioned as an enabler that supports tangata whenua-led adaptation planning, rather than directing. Pou 2 represents a fundamental shift in how climate adaptation is approached in Te Hiku o te Ika and across Te Tai Tokerau.

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

There are no financial implications

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

6.2 TE PAE O UTA TE AO MĀORI FRAMEWORK - JULY 2026 UPDATE

File Number: A5744356

Author: Llani 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 Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī (Declaration of Independence) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) as the founding covenants of Te Tai Tokerau and New Zealand, 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 of 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 Iwi and Hapū kōrero.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the Te Pae o Uta Te Ao Māori Framework - July 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.

A nine month sprint was undertaken to ensure a 1 July 2024 Implementation phase activation. Staff were supported through this phase in understanding, developing and delivering 3 goals per team.

Throughout the design and implementation phase of Year 1 goals, staff made recommendations to further enhance the learning and understanding of Council through the development of targeted strategies and actions plans.

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 Far North District Council work is fit for purpose and the demographics of the district in which we serve.

Te Hono are the responsible unit for monitoring and reporting on Te Pae o Uta progress however each group are responsible for owning their goals and ensuring staff within the group are aware of their commitments.

Te Pae o Uta Implementation July 2025-June 2026:

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

Te Pae o Uta monitoring and reporting:



Te Pae o Waho Monitoring and Reporting:

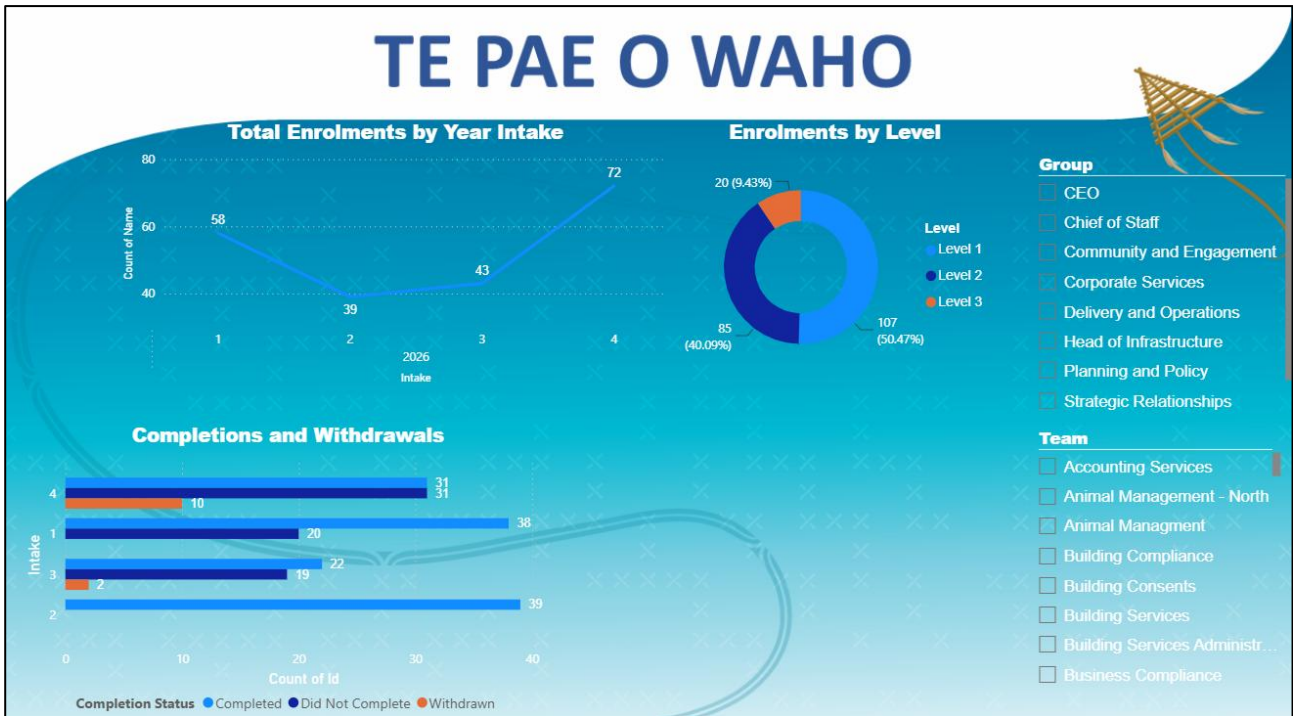
Te Pae o Waho is a Level 1-3 Te Reo and Tikanga course offered to staff and contractors of Council. The purpose of Te Pae o Waho is to provide an introduction to Te Reo Māori and Tikanga so staff have the confidence and competence to engage with Māori for Council.

Te Pae o Waho is offered across all 3 major Council sites across 3 days of the week.

Far North District Council have a dedicated staff member who delivers this course on our behalf.

Te Pae o Waho Quarterly Stats Apr – June 2026

	1st April-30th June
Classes	109
Enrolments	38
Completed	31 (Feb-Apr intake)
In progress	35 in progress (Apr-June intake)
Withdrawn (left employment, undertaking external training)	3



Te Pae Waiata:

Te Pae Waiata gives staff of Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika guidelines for improving waiata or songs to tautoko speakers for the many ceremonies hosted by Council. This empowers Te Ao Māori in all aspects of work undertaken by the Far North District Council.

Whenua Māori:

The Far North District Council has an extensive role in providing services to Māori Freehold Land Ratepayers. The below stats show the mahi that has been undertaken over Quarter 4.

The work programme is exclusive of all engagement mahi that council staff are undertaking on the Rating Relief Roadshows.

Māori Land Correspondence - MLC/IML - MFL enquiries RFS:	Online Registrations for Māori Freehold Land	Onsite customer Hui:	Offsite customer Hui:
134	3	19	15
Inhouse Training Held:	Applications:ML21/01 Balance of land not used & ML21/02 Papakainga area		
1	8		

Ka Irihia Te Reo Māori Action plan:

This action plan outlines the goals and targets council have committed to that gives effect to the Te Reo and Tikanga Policy.

The goals and targets status table below outlines where we are tracking in terms of the goals set for Ka Irihia:

Action	Action plan steps	By June 2026	Responsible Group
Dual welcome signs for the district	Install dual-language welcome signs across the district	In progress	Delivery and Operations
A procurement process that aligns with our commitment to be a reorua Māori district by 2040.	Align procurement practices with bilingual objectives, favouring activities contributing to strong te reo Māori community outcomes.	In progress	Corporate Services
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.	In progress	Communications and Engagement
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.	In progress	Te Hono
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	Achieved	Strategic Relationships
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.	In progress	Delivery and Operations
Bilingual areas at our Council Libraries with te reo Māori resources, books, signage to increase	Enhance te reo Māori resources and signage in Council libraries and community centres to	In progress	Communications and Engagement

the use of te reo Māori, e.g. at our Council Libraries and Community Centres.	promote language learning and cultural engagement among visitors.		
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	In progress	Corporate Services
Council website with full bilingual function	Council website will have full bilingual function and all te reo Māori headings in English function	In progress	Communications and Engagement
We will use technology in central spaces to tell local Māori history and kōrero tuku iho	Utilise technology to showcase local Māori history and narratives, promoting cultural understanding and appreciation within the community.	In progress	Corporate Services/Communications and Engagement

Te Kiriwaiwai o Papatuanuku-Whenua Māori Strategy:

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku is Council’s strategy to support Iwi, Hapū and Whānau occupy, develop and use whenua Māori. It provides a blueprint to do this, outlining a clear vision, values, outcomes and actions on five key focus areas to guide Council’s governance and operational decision-making in a way that supports Iwi, Hapū and whānau to utilise whenua Māori, a taonga tuku iho. The blueprint sets out a programme to review and investigate Council policies and processes with the aim of removing barriers to the use, development and occupation of whenua Māori by its landowners.

The action plan sets out Councils commitments for the 2025-2027 years with a goal of including considerations into the Long Term Plan where required.

Te Ao Marama – District Wide Reorua Strategy:

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. 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.

Te Hono will continue to support communities who are wanting to develop a Reorua strategy within their areas.

A funding resource has been developed that also supports communities to access funding when required to develop Reorua strategies.

The aims and goals of Te Ao Marama are enduring and are not defined to particular financial years. As and when communities request support to develop strategies, Council will support.

Cultural Audit:

The purpose of this Cultural Audit was to evaluate the extent to which the Far North District Council (FNDC) is honouring its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and He Whakaputanga, by examining how Te Ao Māori values, knowledge systems, and principles of partnership are embedded across Council policies, practices, and decision-making structures.

This was the first cultural audit ever conducted at FNDC. It represents a significant milestone in analysing how FNDC enacts its Te Tiriti commitments, while also upholding its statutory responsibilities and duties to ratepayers across the district. The audit focused on FNDC’s:

- Operational functions
- Policy development
- Internal systems
- External engagement

These were all examined through a cultural lens, with specific reference to Te Pae o Uta, FNDC’s internal Te Ao Māori framework designed to embed tikanga, te reo Māori, mātauranga Māori, and kawa into Council practice.

11 key recommendations were received and these are currently being implemented across various programmes of work. Reporting is also done for the Cultural Audit through the CEO KPIs.

Memorandum of Understanding, Partnership Agreements, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe update:

Under Goal 1 of Te Pae o Uta, Far North District Council committed to “developing robust systems that enable Māori participation in council decision-making”.

The Implementation of this has been done through a number of methods including:

1. Reviewing and refreshing Memorandums of Understanding including an extensive roadshow undertaken throughout 2023 and 2024.

This has resulted in a number of signed and revamped MOU alongside Iwi and Hapū.

Iwi, Hapū Entity	Signing Date	Review Date
Ngāti Kuri Trust Board	n/a	
Ngāti Kahu Iwi	n/a	
Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa	20 May 2025	20 May 2028
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Takoto	n/a	
Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa	30 September 2025	tbc
Kahukuraariki Trust	n/a	
Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-Ō-Ngāpuhi	15 August 2025	4 March 2026
Ngātiwai Trust Board	n/a	
Te Iwi o Te Roroa	5 Sept 2023	30 June 2026
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine	13 May 2016	

Te Whiu Hapū	4 Feb 2017	
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia	11 December 2024	

2. Responding to Initiations of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe

- The Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991 was amended in April 2017 to introduce a new process (Mana Whakahono ā Rohe/Iwi Participation Arrangements) for establishing Iwi participation arrangements between tangata whenua (through Iwi authorities) and councils.
- The intent of the legislation is to:
 - Improve working relationships between tangata whenua and local authorities
 - Enhance Māori participation in RMA resource management and decision-making processes
- Once a formal Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWAR) initiation is made, Council is obliged to respond and conclude the process within 18 months from receipt of the invitation. Mandatory content to be discussed, agreed, and recorded includes the following:
 - i. how an Iwi authority may participate in the preparation or change of a District Plan;
 - ii. how the participating authorities will undertake consultation requirements;
 - iii. how the participating authorities will work together to develop and agree on methods for monitoring under the RMA;
 - iv. how the participating authorities will give effect to the requirements of any relevant Iwi participation legislation;
 - v. a process for identifying and managing conflicts of interest; and
 - vi. the process that the parties will use for resolving disputes about the implementation of the MWaR.

Council have received the following initiations as at the time of this meeting:

Iwi Entity	Date of initiation	Status
Te Kahu o Taonui – Te Tai Tokerau Chairs Collective	11 March 2026	Legal review
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine	8 May 2026	Drafting phase
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia	19 May 2026	Drafting phase
Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke, Ngāti Kura	2 June 2026	Internal process to ascertain Council appetite
Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa	29 April 2026	Drafting phase
Te Iwi o Te Roroa	5 May 2026	Drafting phase

- Formalising the implementation of Iwi - Hapū Environmental Management plans

Council have 17 formally endorsed Iwi - Hapū Management plans. These plans recognise Iwi and Hapū management of natura resources within their respective boundaries. Council offer annual contestable funding towards the development or refresh of existing plans. These plans are then

gifted to Council on completion. Key specialist staff then workshop the plan alongside Hapū to gain a deeper understanding of the plan and its impacts on operational mahi.

- Developing a Hapū engagement framework and review of the Significance and Engagement Policy to include Hapū engagement and resourcing guidelines.

Council staff are working together to review the Significance and Engagement Policy alongside the Long Term Plan 2027-2037 adoption. The review will look to clarify and enhance Hapū participation in engagement processes. Staff are also developing Hapū Engagement Guidelines and External Policy Review guidelines that look to align to Te Pae o Uta principles. An additional resource developed for staff “Remuneration Guidelines for Iwi and Hapū Experts” will also be formalised alongside the Hapū Engagement Guidelines providing a consistent approach to how Iwi and Hapū are remunerated for contributions to Council mahi.

Engagement stats for quarter:

Te Hiku Ward	5 Iwi, Hapū and marae
BOI-Whangaroa Ward	11 Iwi, Hapū and marae
Kaikohe-Hokianga Ward	22 Iwi, Hapū and marae

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

Te Pae o Uta review has begun with a final review and approach for the 2027 Financial year to be brought to the September Te Kuaka hui for endorsement.

Key early findings have shown that Te Pae o Uta Goals selected by staff have shown progress on the 2024 Implementation phase with mixed achievements against goals.

As per the monitoring Dashboard view, a lot of team goals were not achieved in this financial year, therefore, due to the staging of the review, the recommendation for the 26-26 Financial Year is to carry over unmet goals and add additional strategy goals of which there are 78 In progress across all strategies of the total 107 goals committed too, to fulfil team goals against Te Pae o Uta. Early indications from staff suggests this would be more desirable so as not to rush into creating 10 additional team goals as per Year 3 Implementation plan.

A Power Bi Dashboard has been developed which will monitor the achievement of these goals alongside Managers.

Monthly reporting will be included in the Te Hono Group Operational Report alongside any requests from the CEOs office towards KPI achievements.

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. Staff make a concerted effort to select goals that are achievable within operational budgets and also within confined training allowance budgets.

Budget discussions for achieving the goals set under the strategies have all been developed within existing budgets, any new works or requests will be considered during Long Term Plan discussions (Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatuanuku specifically).

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

1. **Ka Irihia Te Reo Maori Action Plan FINAL - A5621675** [↓](#)
2. **Te Ao Marama Reorua Strategy Final 2025 - A5621664** [↓](#)

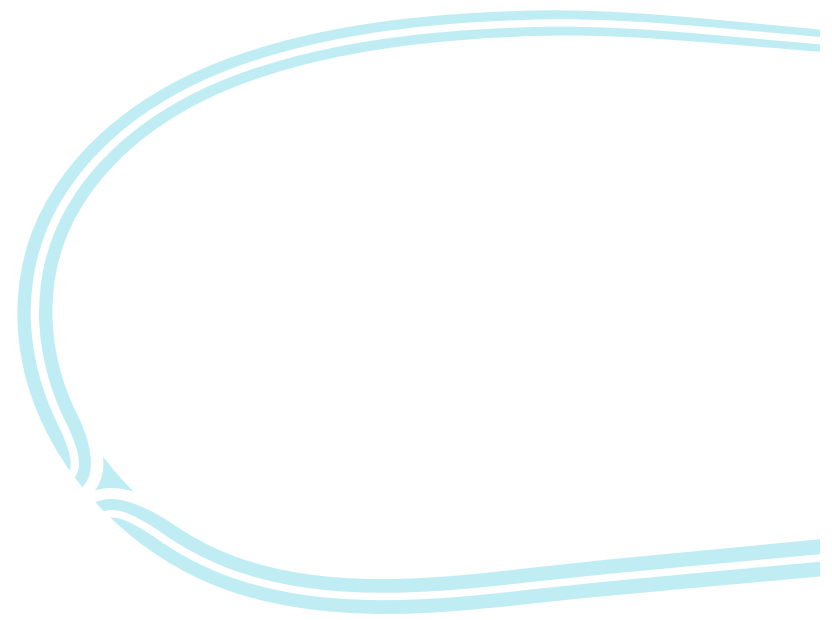
3. **Te Putea Funding 2025 - A5621647** [↓](#)
4. **Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatuanuku Action Plan - A5296046** [↓](#)
5. **Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatuanuku Whenua Maori Strategy - A5296048** [↓](#)



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 Tireni 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 Tireni 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

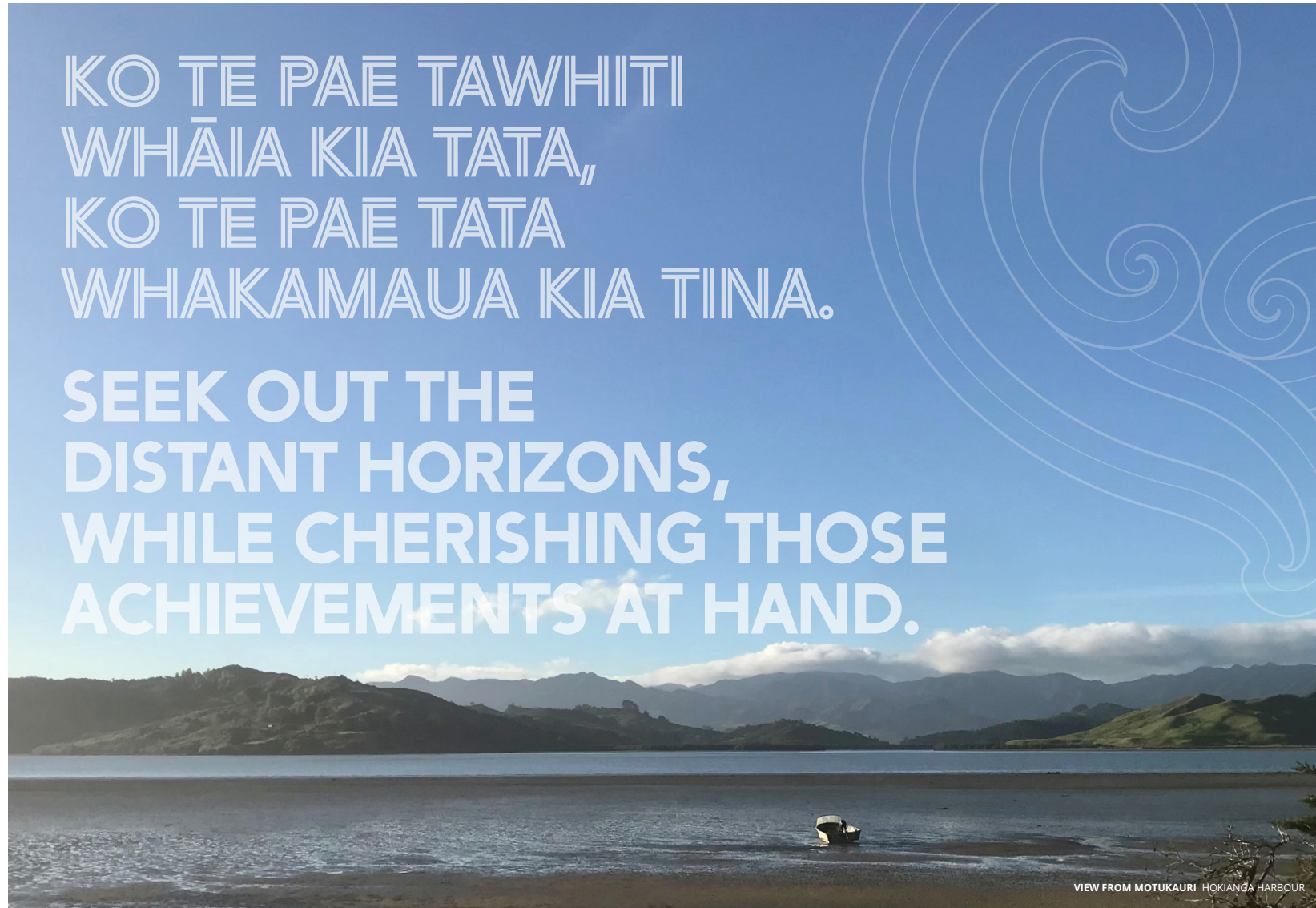
Te Pae Tawhiti – the more distant horizon, every ten years, alignment to the regular long term plan (FN2100 – Strategy)

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>



6

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)*

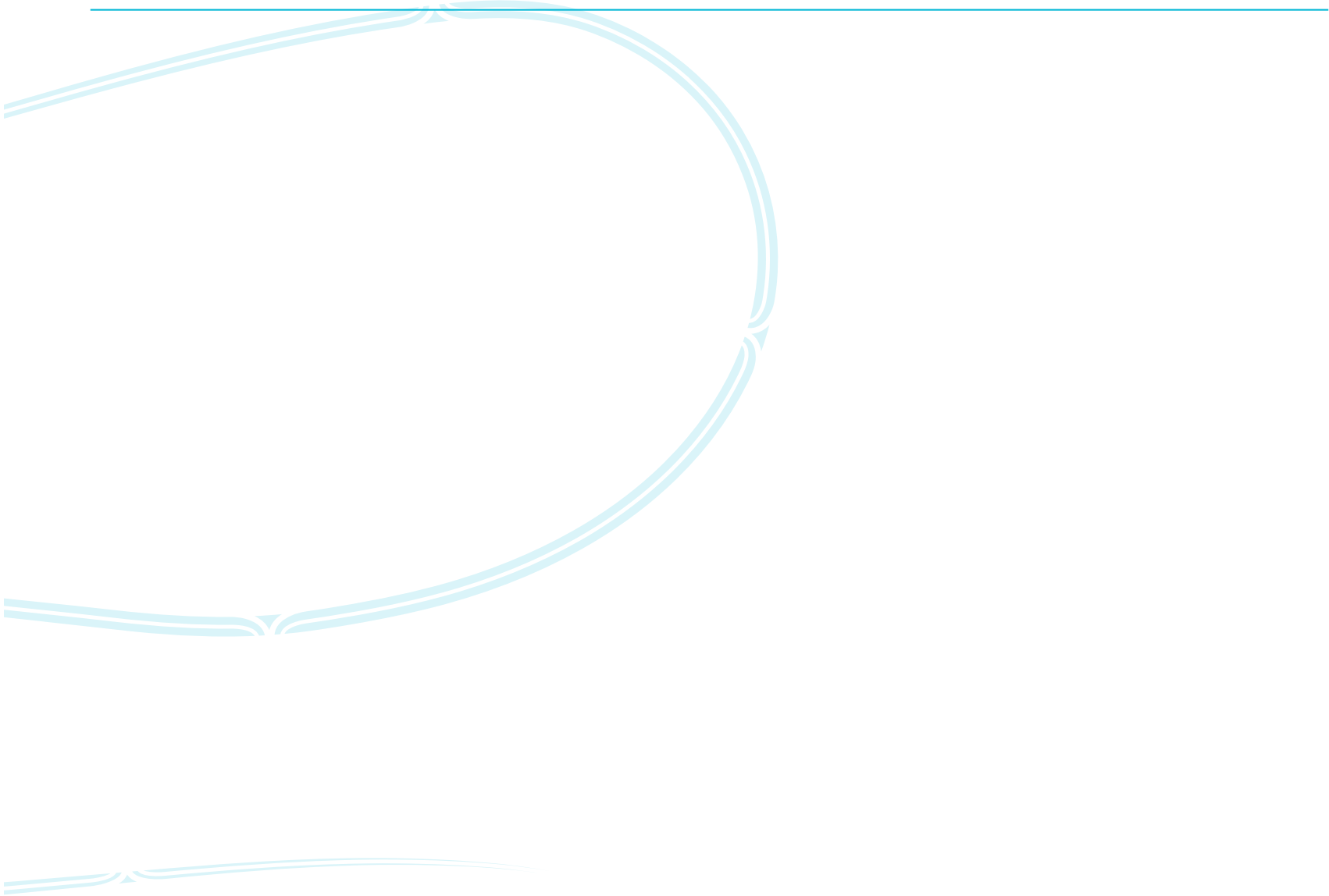
SUCCESS FACTOR	ACTION PLAN STEPS	BY 30 JUNE 2025	BY 30 JUNE 2026	BY 30 JUNE 2027
All Council external communications reflect the Tikanga and Te Reo Policy with dialect from Te Tai Tokerau.	Ensure that all external communications adhere to the Tikanga and Te Reo Policy, incorporating dialect from Te Tai 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, whakatauāki, 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 MARAMA 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.	●		



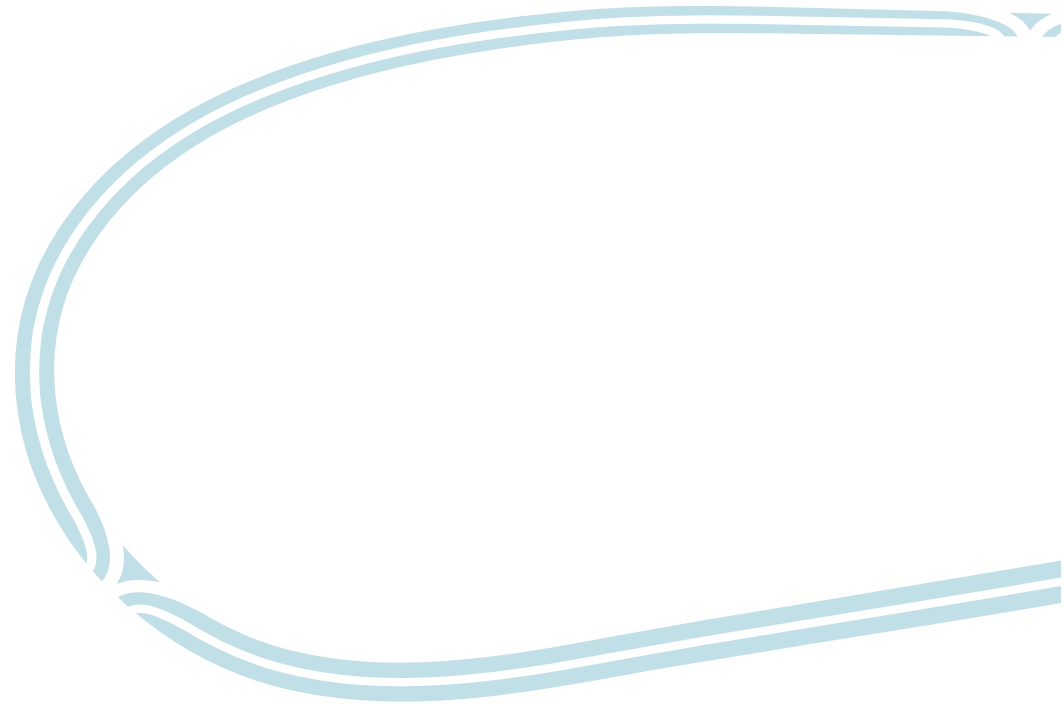




REORUA

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 ensure a bilingual future where te reo Māori and English coexist, creating an inclusive and culturally rich community that acknowledges our whakapapa and tuakiritanga as Māori.

INGĀ WHĀINGA RAUTAKI

STRATEGIC GOALS



KEI (STERN)

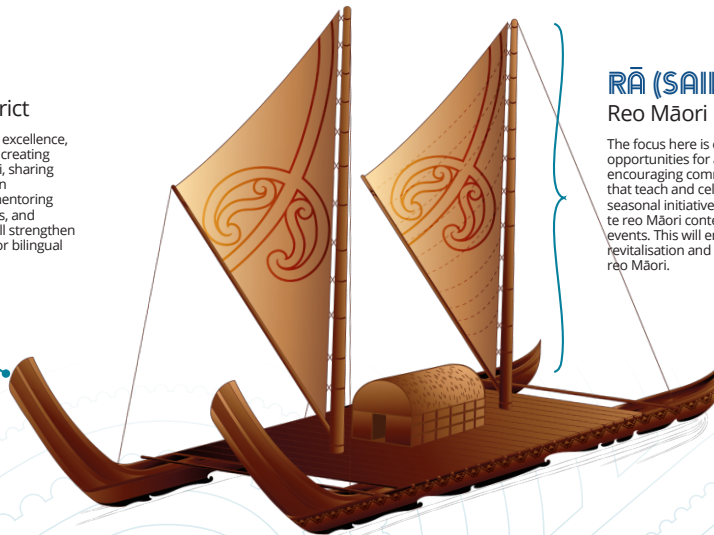
Reorua Leadership Beyond the District

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:

➤ STRATEGIC FOCUS 1
Partners will continuously build their own Reorua capacity and capability to support the revitalisation of te reo Māori.

➤ STRATEGIC FOCUS 2
Enhance the mana and status of te reo Māori within the area.

➤ STRATEGIC FOCUS 3
Increase the availability of reo Māori acquisition and learning opportunities in the area.

➤ STRATEGIC FOCUS 4
Expand the Reorua kaupapa and share insights and learnings with other regions.

	MAIHI MĀORI	MAIHI KARAUNA	TE KAUNIHERA O TE HIKU O TE IKA
Shared vision	<i>Kia Mauri Ora te reo Māori</i>		
Vision	<i>Kia Ūkaiṗō anō te Reo</i>	<i>Kia Māhorahora te Reo</i>	<i>Kia Rāhiri mai te Reo</i>
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

Ref: Māori population estimates and projections for the Far North District, New Zealand - Figure.NZ

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 Puanga, 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.










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TE PŪTEA FUNDING

FUNDER	TYPE	FUNDING ROUNDS	WEBSITE LINK	WHAT FOR/PROJECT	AREA
Far North District Council	Local Govt	Refer to weblink for dates, different funds and priorities	Funding Far North District Council (fndc.govt.nz) 	Range of Funding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Board Grants: community initiatives, events and placemaking. Creative Communities scheme. Rural Travel Fund Kai Ora. 	Far North District
Foundation North	Perpetual Trust: philanthropic grant maker	Refer to website: includes quick response grants and community grants.	Foundation North Pūtea Hāpai Oranga • Funding for your community projects 	Projects of public and community benefit. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> System approach to address: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Housing Kai 	Auckland/Northland
J R McKenzie Trust	Family philanthropic trust	Check website	J R McKenzie Trust 	Organisations working with one or more of our communities of interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children, young people and whānau Māori Pacific Peoples Communities that experience exclusion 	National
DOC: Community Fund – Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori	Govt	Check website	Get involved: New Zealand Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (doc.govt.nz) 	This fund supports community-led conservation projects on public and private land. Projects are focused on areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting and restoring our natural habitats. Halting the decline of and restoring healthy, sustainable populations of our native species. 	National








FUNDER	TYPE	FUNDING ROUNDS	WEBSITE LINK	WHAT FOR/PROJECT	AREA
Catholic Caring Foundation (Auckland)	Faith Based	Annually	https://www.caringfoundation.org.nz/an-easier-way-to-apply/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programmes and interventions that seek to strengthen families. 	Includes far north.
Fonterra Grassroots Fund	Business	Link to application form is via the contact function of the website https://www.fonterra.com/nz/en/contact-us.html appears to be apply anytime and applicants will be notified when it will be considered.	https://www.fonterra.com/nz/en/our-stories/articles/helping-hand-coming-for-kiwi-communities.html 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support communities in need with the natural goodness of dairy. We'll work to protect and regenerate the environment for future generations, and provide the care and support that keeps our communities strong 	National
Harcourts Foundation	Business	Refer to website for links and priorities	www.harcourtsfoundation.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a clear focus on providing grants to reputable community- based organisations which need funding for projects and initiatives designed to benefit as many people as possible. Prioritising applications that demonstrate that their grant will have the widest community impact. 	National
John Ilott Charitable Trust	Philanthropic	31st Oct each year: Administered by Rotary	John Ilott Charitable Trust The Rotary Club of Wellington 	The John Ilott Charitable Trust was set up with the intention of supporting smaller and individual organisations/groups	National
Maurice Paykel Charitable Trust	Philanthropic	Applications may be submitted up till 1 June. List of applications are considered for donations at July Trustee meeting each year Charities registration is required	https://www.paykelcharitabletrust.co.nz/# 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonably broad mandate, with current focus predominantly directed towards health-related activities and work benefiting children and young people, and the elderly. The funds available each year are not large and individual donations are mostly within the range of \$3,000-\$10,000 	National
Mazda Foundation Trust	Business	There are two closing dates for funding rounds every year: 31 March and 30 September. Applications can be submitted for any of these rounds by sending a submission before the due date.	www.mazdafoundation.org.nz 	<p>The Mazda Foundation will consider awarding grants to programmes promoting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the maintenance and improvement of the natural environment The advancement of culture and education to achieve excellence at all levels in the community Advancement of education and employment skills development, with particular emphasis on children from deprived backgrounds The arts where the goal is to educate and expose the NZ public on NZ culture 	National



FUNDER	TYPE	FUNDING ROUNDS	WEBSITE LINK	WHAT FOR/PROJECT	AREA
Microsoft NZ Tech Soup	Business	Register anytime	www.techsoup.net.nz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Donated and discounted IT products for the Charitable Sector. Helping charities, not for profits and Libraries save money on hardware, software and technology services 	National
Perpetual Guardian	Philanthropic	Various options available. Searchable Database	www.perpetualguardian.co.nz/philanthropy/grants-and-scholarships 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of grants available administered by Perpetual Guardian. Go to website to see what is available 	National
Public Trust	Grants and Scholarships	Various options available. Searchable Database	Find a Grant or Scholarship (publictrust.co.nz) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of grants available administered by Public Trust. Go to website to see what is available. 	National
Rural Communities Trust	Business Group	Closing dates each year: 31 March; 31 September	Home - Rural Communities Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rural Communities Trust is committed to restore an equality of life to rural communities through funding for services and amenities. 	Rural towns less than 2000 pop
Sargood Bequest	Family Trust Philanthropic	Closes 31 Dec annually	www.sargoodbequest.org.nz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects and activities in the children & youth, cultural, sports & outdoors, educational and environmental areas with a focus on access, participation and inspiration 	National
The Todd Foundation	Family Trust	No funding rounds. Before you contact us about funding, please read about our funding approach here	http://www.toddfoundation.org.nz/ info@toddfoundation.org.nz 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at website to see how and who the Todd Foundation fund <i>"We want to support real change in communities, reduce time spent on funding proposals and reporting, and promote collaboration rather than competition. For these reasons we don't run grant rounds or accept pitches from individuals or organisations. Instead we pro-actively seek out communities, groups and collectives to partner with. Our approach to resourcing long-term social change is to partner in a high-trust, long-term and relationship-focussed way."</i> 	National



FUNDER	TYPE	FUNDING ROUNDS	WEBSITE LINK	WHAT FOR/PROJECT	AREA
WWF	Environment	Two types of funds that communities can apply for: WWF's Community Conservation fund supporting hands-on habitat restoration and native species protection WWF's Environmental Education Action Fund supporting learning and skill building that empowers communities to take a lead on caring for their local environment	https://wwf.org.nz/community-conservation-and-environmental-education Telephone: (04) 499 2930 Freephone: 0800 435 7993 Education: education@wwf.org.nz Community: community@wwf.org.nz	   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WWF-New Zealand, in partnership with The Tindall Foundation, gives out donations to local environmental education and community involvement programmes. 	National
Tindall Foundation	Philanthropic Family Trust	Refer to website	Who we are - The Tindall Foundation	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports initiatives that have intergenerational impact, long term benefits and reduce inequality. 	National
Poutama Trust	Independent Charitable Trust	Flexible in funding business development: refer website for contact details	Poutama Trust	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To grow Maori Enterprise: culturally, socially and economically for the benefit of current and future generations 	National



Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku Action Plan

Actions	Outcome	Who	Timeframe	Budgeted
<p>(1) Support and increase the uptake of Council’s ratings relief and remission policies on whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land by:</p> <p>(a) Undertaking a review of Council’s rating relief and remittance policies for whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land, that considers the following factors:</p> <p>(i) The effectiveness of the existing policies, including understanding the level of uptake of these policies by whānau, hapū and iwi;</p> <p>(ii) Whether the scope and application of the policies should be broadened to include more categories of land;</p> <p>(iii) Whether the eligibility criteria of each policy is appropriate and supports an overarching outcome to support the development, use and occupation of whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land;</p> <p>(iv) The differences between cultural and commercial redress and whether there should be remission policies that apply to this land; and</p> <p>(v) Reviews other councils’ rates policies.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development • Papakāinga • Treaty Settlement Land 	<p>FNDC</p>	<p>Years 1 - 3</p>	<p>Within existing resources</p>

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Actions	Outcome	Who	Timeframe	Budgeted
<p>(2) Support the use and occupation of whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land by whānau, hapū and iwi by investigating and identifying opportunities to deliver targeted services that address the following functions:</p> <p>(a) Implementation of rating relief and remission policies on whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land;</p> <p>(b) Navigating the resource and building consenting process on whenua Māori, including a dedicated duty planner / building officer service of staff experienced with whenua Māori; and</p> <p>(c) Considers whether these services should be delivered through a 'one-stop shop' service.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papakāinga • Economic Development • Decision-making • Treaty Settlement Land 	<p>FNDC</p>	<p>Years 1 – 3</p>	<p>Unbudgeted</p>
<p>(3) Review, update and embed a premium resource consenting process to support the use and occupation of whenua Māori that allows greater flexibility for whānau, hapū and iwi by:</p> <p>(a) Developing an efficient and consistent consenting process that supports whānau, hapū, and iwi to develop whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land from concept development through to decisions;</p> <p>(b) Committing resourcing, including specialised staff, to support and implement the process;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papakāinga • Economic Development • Treaty Settlement 	<p>FNDC</p>	<p>Years 1 – 3</p>	<p>Within existing resources</p>

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Actions	Outcome	Who	Timeframe	Budgeted
(c) Establishing a specific set of fees and schedules for processing applications; (d) Taking into account different governance entities that manage whenua Māori.				
(4) Undertake a review of Council’s Engineering Standards that identifies opportunities to allow greater flexibility for how these standards are applied (e.g., practice note) to whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land and takes into account the following: (a) Engagement with whānau, hapū and iwi and consideration of mātauranga and tikanga Māori design principles; (b) Development costs of infrastructure; (c) Practical design solutions that meet the needs of landowners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and servicing • Economic development • Papakāinga • Treaty settlement land • Decision making 	FNDC	1 – 3 years	Unbudgeted
(5) Investigate opportunities to improve infrastructure and servicing accessibility to whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land by: (a) Undertaking GIS analysis that shows Council’s infrastructure assets in relation to whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land; (b) Identifying opportunities to extend networks to service whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land where it is clustered,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making • Infrastructure and servicing • Economic development 	FNDC	Within 12 months	Unbudgeted / within existing resources

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Actions	Outcome	Who	Timeframe	Budgeted
<p>cohesive and would encourage development through economies of scale;</p> <p>(c) Identifying external funding sources to improve infrastructure capacity where there is a direct benefit for connecting whenua Māori and/or Treaty Settlement Land to services;</p> <p>(d) Considering any infrastructure constraints within the next Infrastructure Strategy.</p> <p>(e) As part of the GIS analysis assess the constraints and opportunities for the development of MFL/Settlement land.</p> <p>(f) Feed this into the District Wide Spatial Planning Project.</p>				
<p>(6) Ensure that whenua Māori is considered, evaluated and provided for in future transport infrastructure within the Infrastructure Strategy by:</p> <p>(a) Conducting an audit and GIS desktop study of whenua Māori to identify areas where transport access is a barrier to development;</p> <p>(b) Assessing how the Infrastructure Strategy aligns with Te Pae o Uta;</p> <p>(c) Identifying opportunities to improve public and private connections, particularly where land may be landlocked or subject to significant natural hazard constraints; and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure and servicing • Economic development • Decision making 	FNDC	Years 1 – 3	Unbudgeted

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Actions	Outcome	Who	Timeframe	Budgeted
(d) Allocating adequate resources to address (a) - (c).				
(7) Undertake a review and update of Council’s existing processes for the disposal, acquisition and joint management of reserves with whānau, hapū and iwi, that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Includes a stocktake of council owned land that identifies any land that it may want to dispose, and as part of any disposal process include a consideration whether the land should be returned to whānau, hapū and iwi. (b) Considers whether there is a need for a separate policy about returning land to whānau, hapū and iwi. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making • Treaty Settlement land 	FNDC	Years 1 - 3	Unbudgeted
(8) Develop and maintain a digital tāngata whenua contacts database that spatially identifies indicative hapū and iwi rohe boundaries that can be utilised to guide engagement processes (e.g. resource consents), that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) takes into account overlapping iwi and hapū boundaries; (b) recognises the sensitivity and accuracy of information; and (c) uses the best available information (e.g., within IHEMPS); and mātauranga). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making 	FNDC	Underway	Within existing resources

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Actions	Outcome	Who	Timeframe	Budgeted
(9) Investigate opportunities to establish a dedicated fund that supports the use and occupation of whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land by whānau, hapū and iwi for papakāinga and economic development that supports the following: (a) The preparation of specialist reports and details for the purpose of building or resource consenting; (b) Payment of fees associated with council processing of building and resource consents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Papakāinga Economic development Treaty settlement land 	FNDC	Years 1 – 3	Unbudgeted
(10) Develop an engagement policy and framework that formalises engagement procedures with whānau, hapū and iwi on Annual Plan, Long Term Plans, District Planning and Spatial Planning documents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision making 	FNDC	Years 1 – 3	Within existing resources
(11) Support whānau, hapū and iwi to use and occupy whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land, by: (a) Reviewing and updating Te Taitokerau Papakāinga Toolkit to provide tailored best practice advice to navigate the building and resource consent process for papakāinga development;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic development 	FNDC	Years 1 – 3	Unbudgeted

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Actions	Outcome	Who	Timeframe	Budgeted
(b) Developing and rolling out a training programme based on the Toolkit within the community; (c) Allocating existing or new resources towards the delivery of (a) and (b).				
(12) Investigate opportunities for joint ventures with whānau, hapū and iwi to undertake economic development on whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land within the district by: (a) undertaking a stocktake of existing projects and work programmes being progressed within the identified focus areas; (b) establishing and implementing a joint (Council and Te Kuaka) work programme that identifies new opportunities for joint projects; (c) seeking resourcing through the 2027 – 2037 Long Term Planning cycle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development • Papakāinga • Treaty Settlement land • Infrastructure and servicing 	FNDC	Years 1 – 3	Unbudgeted
(13) Investigate and identify opportunities for the transfer or delegation of decision-making powers or operations (e.g., pursuant to section 33 of the RMA) in relation to the whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land, by: (a) Identifying actions needed by FNDC to implement the transfer of delegation and how these will be implemented; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decision making 	FNDC	Years 1 – 3	Unbudgeted

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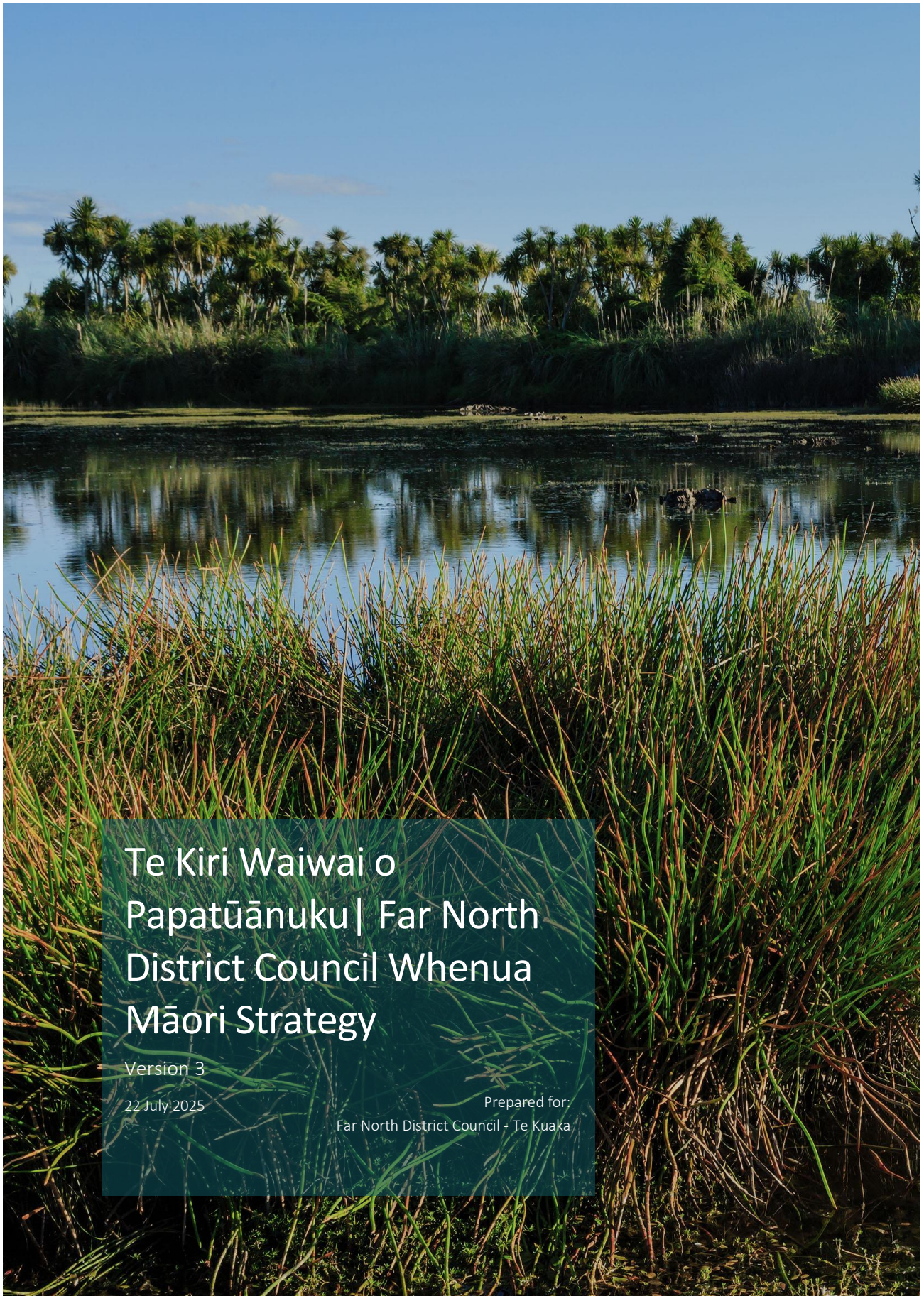


Actions	Outcome	Who	Timeframe	Budgeted
(b) Providing assistance (e.g., staff assistance or funding support to engage an independent facilitator) to the iwi or hapū that are seeking the transfer or delegation.				
(14) Develop a communications strategy to increase awareness and visibility of Council’s existing and future processes that support the delivery of Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Reviews and updates Council’s website by consolidating information and resources relating to development of whenua Māori and Treaty settlement land; (b) Promotes education opportunities delivered as part of the strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development • Papakāinga • Treaty settlement land 	FNDC	Ongoing	Within existing resources

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Te Kiri Waiwai o
Papatūānuku | Far North
District Council Whenua
Māori Strategy

Version 3

22 July 2025

Prepared for:
Far North District Council - Te Kuaka

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

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Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

1.0 Hei Whakataki Kōrero | Introduction

Barker & Associates (**B&A**) were engaged by Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika Far North District Council (**FNDC / Council**) to prepare Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku, a strategy and action plan focused on whenua Māori (Māori land) and Treaty settlement land that recognises its significance and intrinsic value as, taonga tuku iho, a treasure that is passed down through generations.

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku has been developed in collaboration with elected members, Council officers and Te Kuaka to support Council to deliver the goals of Te Pae o Uta.

1.1 What is Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku?

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku is Council's strategy to support whānau, hapū and iwi occupy, develop and use whenua Māori. It provides a blueprint to do this, outlining a clear vision, values, outcomes and actions on five key focus areas to guide Council's governance and operational decision-making in a way that supports whānau, hapū and iwi to utilise whenua Māori, a taonga tuku iho.

The blueprint sets out a programme to review and investigate Council policies and processes with the aim of removing barriers to the use, development and occupation of whenua Māori by its landowners.

1.2 Problem Definition Statement

Despite the intrinsic cultural, spiritual, social and economic value of whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land in the Far North, whānau, hapū, and iwi continue to face significant and systemic barriers to occupying, using, and developing their ancestral lands. These barriers are rooted in a complex and layered legislative environment, fragmented governance structures, limited access to infrastructure and capital, and restrictive planning frameworks that have historically not reflected te ao Māori perspectives or adequately acknowledged the multiply-owned tenure of Māori land.

FNDC recognises that current council policies, processes, and planning instruments do not adequately support the aspirations of Māori landowners. This has contributed to an underutilisation of whenua Māori, constrained housing and economic development opportunities, and inequitable outcomes for Māori communities.

There is a pressing need for a coordinated, strategic response that aligns Council's governance and operational functions with the aspirations of Māori landowners, while complementing central government reforms such as the proposed National Environmental Standard for Papakāinga and amendments to Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. Without such a strategy, the potential of whenua Māori to contribute to intergenerational wellbeing, cultural revitalisation, and regional prosperity will remain unrealised.

2.0 Te Horopaki | Whenua Māori Context

Whenua Māori is intrinsically connected to whakapapa, collective ownership, and intergenerational stewardship, reflecting a te ao Māori approach to land that differs significantly from Western property systems. This holistic relationship with whenua supports social, cultural

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and economic wellbeing, strengthening community resilience and enabling intergenerational wealth transfer. Whenua Māori plays a key role in the transmission of knowledge, preservation of cultural identity, protection of taonga species and areas of high biodiversity, and the intergenerational expression of self-determination.

The use and development of whenua Māori plays a crucial role in supporting landowners, whānau, hapū and iwi and their economic enterprises to achieve their aspirations. This contributes to positive social, cultural and economic outcomes that strengthen community resilience, cultural identity and the transmission of traditional knowledge. The unique whenua Māori tenure system can limit access, use, and development, restricting Māori economic participation and intergenerational wealth transfer.

The aspirations of landowners and the ability to both retain and develop whenua varies and may be dependent on a range of factors, such as available infrastructure, levels of investment, governance structures, the tikanga (customs and values) of the owners and the quality of the whenua. These are not inherently negative factors and maintaining the status of these may be the preference of landowners. However, for some landowners, addressing these may support them to reach their aspirations.

A te ao Māori approach to land use and development recognises the interconnected relationship between people, whenua and te taiao (the natural world). Whenua is not just a resource, but a living entity with its own whakapapa (lineage).

It is important that landowners are supported to achieve their aspirations for their whenua, whether that is to lift productivity from existing agricultural or horticultural activities, or to build papakāinga (housing on whenua Māori), operate tourism activities, invest in and develop alternative energy and participate in commercial activities (such as establishing rest homes or conference centres) etc. Other landowners also may wish to retain the land in its natural state, or to modify the land in a manner that achieves both development and protection aspirations.

2.1 Whenua Māori in the Far North

The Far North district has a resident population of approximately 74,700 people, with Māori comprising over 50% of the population (2024)¹. Ngāti Kurī, Te Aupōuri, Ngāti Kahu, Ngāi Takoto, Te Rarawa, Te Roroa, Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa, Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Wai are iwi of Te Hiku o Te Ika (Far North), with over 200 hapū, and 144 marae. Te Hiku o Te Ika is rich in cultural in history, as one of the earliest areas of settlement for both Māori and Pakeha.

Approximately 17% or 130,000ha of the district is whenua Māori and is made up of 3,856 Māori land blocks. The majority of whenua Māori is located in the Kaikohe-Hokinga Ward (approx. 54%), 28% in the Bay of Island Pewhairangi/Whangaroa Ward and approximately 18% in the Te Hiku Ward as shown in **Figure 1** below.

In comparison, neighbouring councils Whangārei and Kaipara have much less whenua Māori, with these areas summarised below:

- Whangārei District Council has approximately 11,000ha or 4% of the total land area.
- Kaipara District Council has approximately 9,600ha or 3% of the total land area.

¹ Statistics NZ 2023 Census.

The size of Māori land parcels varies significantly, with approximately 22% of all blocks measuring 20ha or larger. Spatially, the majority of whenua Māori is located in rural disparate locations and is not connected to Council’s three waters infrastructure. Less than 2% of Māori land is located within urban areas.

Approximately 72% of whenua Māori is utilised for primary production purposes, with forestry (35%) and sheep and beef farming (41%) being the largest sectors. The remaining 28% is categorized as ‘non-productive’ utilized for housing, recreation, community is idle or vacant land.

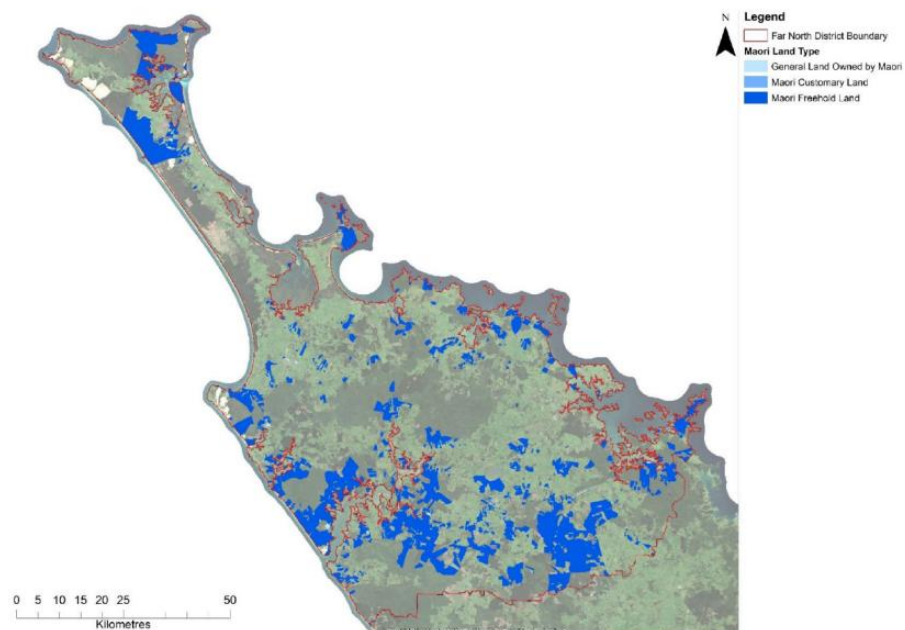


Figure 1 Map of Māori Land parcels by type in the Far North District

Figure 1: Whenua Māori Within the Far North

2.2 Treaty Settlement Land

To date, there are six Treaty Settlements between the Crown and iwi within Te Hiku o Te Ika. The relevant settlement legislation is listed below:

- Te Roroa Claims Settlement Act 2008²;
- NgāiTakoto Claims Settlement Act 2015;
- Ngāti Kuri Claims Settlement Act 2015;
- Te Aupōuri Claims Settlement Act 2015;

² Te Roroa’s area of interest spans both the Far North and Kaipara districts.

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- Te Rarawa Claims Settlement Act 2015;
- Ngatikahu ki Whangaroa Claims Settlement Act 2017

All Treaty Settlements include cultural³ and commercial redress⁴, and/or the enactment of statutory acknowledgement areas. **Figure 2** below depicts all Treaty Settlement Land and statutory acknowledgement areas within the district.

There is approximately 66,301ha of Treaty Settlement land, with majority landholdings used for primary production (farming and forestry) or is held for conservation⁵ purposes. Other uses include commercial, residential, community, and recreation.

While Treaty Settlement land is largely held in general title, these lands are also considered to be culturally significant, taonga tuku iho, that has been returned to Post Settlement Governance Entities (PSGE’s) to administer on behalf of beneficiaries.

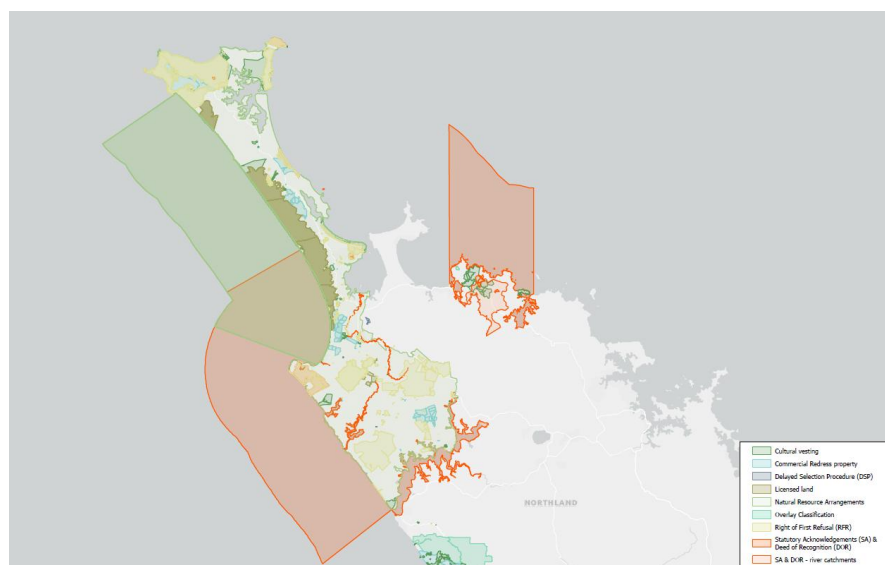


Figure 2: Treaty Settlement Land

3.0 Te Horopaki Whakaturetanga | Legislative Context

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku focuses on Council’s roles, functions and responsibilities and must be considered within the statutory context of the TTWM Act, Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), and Local Government Act 2002 (LGA). This legislative context forms the backdrop of a complex statutory system that applies to whenua Māori, and summarises the key Council plans,

³ Cultural Redress land has cultural and/or spiritual meaning to iwi, and has been returned either solely or jointly via Treaty settlement legislation.
⁴ Financial (cash) redress; Commercial Redress Property; Deferred Selection Property; Right of First Refusal (RFR) Property; and Right of Access.
⁵ Land that was previously held as Department of Conservation (DoC) estate. These lands continue to be set aside for conservation purposes, but are also subject to joint management arrangements that were established as part of Treaty Settlement legislation.

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policies, processes and strategy's that could be used to remove barriers, and stimulate economic opportunities on whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land.

3.1 Relationship to Other Legislation, Plans and Strategies

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku is a key strategic document for FNDC that will guide governance and operational decision-making as it relates to supporting whānau, hapū and iwi use, occupy and develop whenua Māori in the district. It has been shaped by the overarching directions of Te Pae o Uta, and will be implemented through other council plans, strategies, policies and processes including.

This strategy shall also provide guidance for relevant stakeholders engaging with whenua Māori affairs to make informed decisions such as iwi and hapu, Māori housing providers, trust organisations, Māori business owners etc.

3.2 Te Ture Whēnua Māori Act 1993

Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 (**TTWM Act**) was enacted in 1993 to promote the retention and facilitate the occupation, development and utilisation of whenua Māori. The preamble of the TTWM Act reaffirms the protection of rangatiratanga embodied in Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi (**Te Tiriti**) for the benefit of the owners of this land, their whānau and hapū.

TTWM Act defines Māori land as Māori customary land⁶ and Māori freehold land⁷. Te Kooti Māori / Māori Land Court (**MLC**) has specific jurisdiction over Whenua Māori. Notably, General Land Owned by Māori⁸ is not under the jurisdiction of Te Kooti Māori.

Brief Legislative History of Whenua Māori

Prior to Pākehā settlement, tangata whenua were (and still are) kaitiaki (guardians) of whenua, managing and holding whenua collectively within whānau, hapū and iwi, in accordance with their connection to whenua through whakapapa, and tikanga. This collective approach to whenua is grounded in a te ao Māori worldview, where whenua was seen as a living entity to be cared for and passed down through generations. In contrast, the nature of Māori land tenure and current ownership practises, which were shaped by different legal and economic frameworks is prevalent. These differing approaches led to significant changes to the way whenua Māori was managed and utilised.

Over time, these differing approaches, alongside land confiscation, introduced policies and acquisition practises, resulting in substantial loss of whenua Māori.

The following are key legislative changes that have contributed to the loss and alienation of whenua Māori, up to the development of TTWM Act:

- **Native Land Act 1862 and 1965:** the Native Land Court was established and the introduction of individual land titles to replace customary communal titles.

⁶ Section 129(2)(a) of TTWM Act describes this as 'land that is held by Māori in accordance with tikanga Māori', and shall have the status of Māori customary land.

⁷ Section 129(2)(b) of TTWM Act describes this as 'land, the beneficial ownership of which has been determined by the Māori Land Court by freehold order' shall have the status of Māori freehold land.

⁸ Section 129(2)(c) of TTWM Act describes this as '(c) land that has been alienated from the Crown for a subsisting estate in fee simple shall, while that estate is beneficially owned by a Maori or by a group of persons of whom a majority are Maori' shall have the status of General land owned by Maori.

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- **New Zealand Settlements Act 1862:** enables the government to confiscate land from any tribe 'engaged in rebellion'.
- **Native Lands Rating Act 1882:** introduced rates on Māori land and allowed land to be seized if rates were not paid.
- **Public Works legislation 1860s:** Māori land could be taken for government projects, with up to 5% of each block able to be taken without compensation.
- **Native Land Act 1909:** prevented the Crown from buying Māori land unless a meeting of all owners has agreed to accept the offer.
- **Native Trustee Act 1920:** established the Native Trustee and Native Trustee Office.
- **1935 & 1947:** Te Kooti Māori and the Department of Māori Affairs was established, respectively.
- **Māori Affairs Act 1953:** instructed the trustee to convert uneconomic shares in multiply-owned lands (shares values at less than £25) for sale to the other landowners or the Government.
- **Māori Affairs Amendment Act 1967:** amendments that resulted in Māori land to be converted to General land when there were fewer than 4 owners.
- **Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993:** enactment of TTWM Act.

Whenua Māori Reform

Since 1993, there have been targeted amendments to TTWM Act which are summarised below. More significant reforms were attempted between 2012-2016, however, these did not proceed. The following is a brief summary of changes to TTWM Act:

- Māori Land Amendment Act 2002: that focussed on making it easier to retain occupy, develop and use whenua Māori.
- Te Ture Whenua Māori (Succession, Dispute Resolution and Related Matters) Amendment Act 2020: which introduced a dispute resolution/mediation service based on tikanga Māori to assist whenua Māori owners to resolve disagreements and conflicts regarding their whenua.
- Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021: Which aimed to support the development of, and provision of housing on whenua Māori and to modernise the rating legislation affecting whenua Māori.
- The Māori Purposes Act 2022: Introduced a range of changes to TTWM Act, Māori Purpose Act 1959, Māori Trust Boards Act 1955 and Māori Community Development Act 1962 to promote the use of governance structures and improve decision making.

In March 2025, the Government begun public consultation on a number of targeted changes to TTWM Act. The targeted changes were focussed on improving the workability of TTWM Act, and support landowners to make timely decisions about their land. The overarching aim of the changes is to improve the use and productivity of whenua Māori and related to the following matters:

- Making court processes clearer, more efficient and accessible for both the MLC and landowners.
- Widening the types of land an agent can be appointed for and the powers of an agent.

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- Supporting access and development of whenua Māori for housing.
- Clarifying processes for beneficiaries and administrators of Māori land to manage land interests when an owner dies under intestacy (without a will).
- Enabling landowners to have more decision-making powers regarding certain types of leases.
- Miscellaneous provisions to tidy up the TTWW Act and clarify minor or non-controversial processes to reduce administrative burdens.

Consultation on these reforms are in early stages, and a Bill has not been introduced to the house.

3.3 Local Government Act 2002

The Local Government Act 2002 (**LGA**) sets out the purpose of local government, the general powers and functions of council and the associated planning and accountability requirements. The LGA sets out the strategic road map that all unitary, regional and territorial councils must give effect to. However, the core concepts are to strengthen local democracy and the sustainable well-being of communities.

The LGA is the statutory basis for the collection and assessment of rates. For whenua Māori, the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 has played an important role in reducing rating barriers for Māori landowners, recognising the complex differences between Māori and General land ownership and greater recognition of communal ownership, cultural importance of succession and providing relief to lots which contain multiple uses

FNDC implemented a range of remission policies in the Far North 2021 – 2031 Rating Relief Policies, in order to support the use and development of whenua Māori within the district. These policies acknowledge the core constraints related to whenua Māori (e.g., unused land, land locked land) while seeking to improve the overall economic wellbeing of Māori landowners. Further analysis of these policies is at **section 4.2** below.

Council has prepared a number of statutory and non-statutory documents outlining the strategic district wide direction for growth planning, infrastructure, transport, asset management, funding and regulatory responsiveness to local governments duties, functions and responsibilities. These are discussed in more detail below in **section 3.5** below.

3.4 Resource Management System

This section outlines the key statutory planning documents that manage the use and development of whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land.

3.4.1 Resource Management Act 1991

The Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) is the principal legislation that sets how the natural and physical environment should be managed. The RMA recognises and provides for a number of tangata whenua interests; in particular the duties of kaitiakitanga (guardianship), participation in decision making and the protection of taonga.

Part 2 of the RMA outlines the purpose and principles of the RMA. Section 5 sets out the core purpose of sustainable management, while section 6, 7 and 8 outline how matters of national importance, other matters and Treaty of Waitangi principles must be provided for, regarded or accounted for in achieving the purpose of the RMA. Part 2 provides the overarching fabric and

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framework over how resources and particular matters should be addressed in policies and plans made at a national, regional and district level. Sections 6 (e) (f) (g) and 7 (a) are the key sections related to tangata whenua.

A number of other sections of the RMA are relevant to tangata whenua, this includes section 33; the transfer of powers to iwi authorities', section 36 (b) the ability for councils and iwi authorities to jointly manage natural resources and formalising partnership through a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe section 58 (m) and 58 (u). Other sections of the RMA recognise and acknowledge the need for tangata whenua involvement in the preparation of plans and policy statements (section 61, 66 and 67) and consideration of cultural effects on resource consent applications (section 104).

3.4.2 Resource Management System Reform

The Government has embarked on major reform to the resource management system. **Figure 3** summarises the Government's current timeline and approach to the system reform. At the time of preparing Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku, the Government has just released Phase 2 – National Direction package of its resource management system reform which involves four packages as summarised below:

- **Infrastructure:** Targets infrastructure, papakāinga housing, granny flats and natural hazards and involves the following:
 - Establishing a new National Policy Statement for infrastructure that will include new objectives for expected infrastructure outlines within the resource management system. It also involves amendments to the existing national policy statement and national environmental standard for electricity transmission.
 - New national environmental standard to provide a consistent regulation to establish one 70m² granny flat per site.
 - New national environmental standard for papakāinga to provide a nationally consistent framework to provide for papakāinga and ancillary non-residential activities. At the moment, the new regulation would permit up to 10 homes and certain non-residential activities within rural, residential and Māori purpose zoned land. It also includes rules for medium scale papakāinga development as restricted discretionary activities and larger scale papakāinga developments as discretionary activities.
 - New national policy statement for managing the risks of natural hazards.
- **Primary Sector:** involves removing LUC 3 land from the National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL) with immediate legal effect following its commencement. It also involves other changes focussed on enabling growth and reducing costs for the primary sector.
- **Freshwater:** Will be carried out in two phases and is focussed on reducing compliance costs and supporting economic and primary sector growth. It will involve changes to both the National Policy Statement for Freshwater (NPS-F) and National Environmental Standard for Freshwater Management (NES-FM)
- **Going for Housing Growth:** Will be implemented in phases and involves changes to the National Policy Statement for Urban Development (NPS-UD). Later phases will also focus on improving infrastructure funding and financing settings to replace the development contributions regime and Infrastructure Funding and Financing Act 2020.

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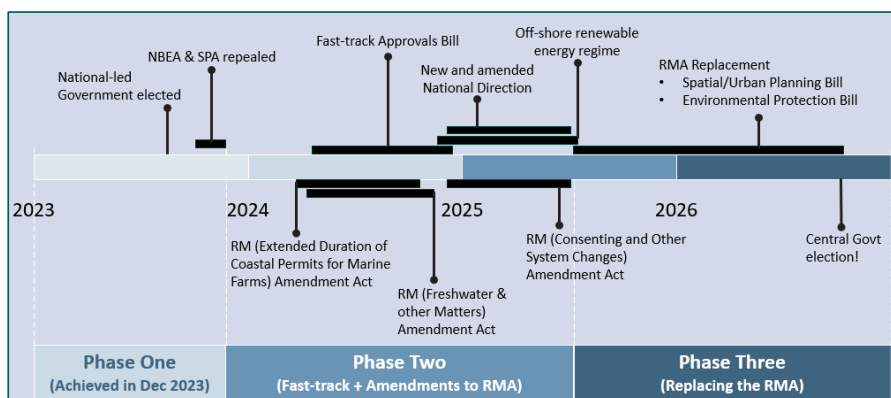


Figure 3: Timeline of Resource Management System Reform

Of particular relevance is the new National Environmental Standard for Papakāinga (**NES-P**) that will put in place a nationally consistent rule framework to enable the development of papakāinga. Phase 2 – National Direction package is currently being consulted on and the Government has signalled that this will come into effect in late 2025.

The Government has also finalised reporting on the Resource Management (Consenting and Other Systems) Amendment Bill, which will come into effect in October 2025.

3.4.3 Regional Policy Statement for Northland 2016

The Regional Policy Statement for Northland 2016 (**RPS**) is a mandatory document that provides the overarching direction for resource management in Te Tai Tokerau (Northland).

The RPS includes issues, objectives, policies and methods. The RPS outlines eight guiding principles that informed its development⁹. The RPS is broken into eight resource management themes with issue statements, objectives, policies and methods to support them. The following objective and provision themes are considered most relevant to Whenua Māori and tangata whenua.

- Economic potential and social wellbeing;
- Regional form;
- Tangata whenua role in decision making and resource management;
- Natural character, outstanding natural features, outstanding natural landscape and historic heritage; and
- Natural Hazards.

There are a number of objectives and policies that provide for tangata whenua involvement and participation in resource management. These directions support the role of kaitiaki over whenua Māori.

⁹ RPS Principles: People; Economy within the environment; Partnership (landowner, community and stakeholder); Partnership with tangata whenua; affordability; adaptive management and effectiveness.

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3.4.4 Proposed Regional Plan for Northland

All appeals against the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland (February 2024) (**RPN**) have been resolved and all rules must now be treated as operative in accordance with Section 86F of the RMA.

The RPN is a combined air, land, water and coastal plan for the region, which sets controls for the sustainable management of natural and physical resources for Tai Tokerau. The RPN applies to all air, freshwater, land, and coastal waters of the territorial sea to twelve nautical miles.

In relation to whenua Māori the RPN recognises tangata whenua's role in decision making while providing greater directives and tools to provide for the protection and management of the relationship, culture and traditions of tangata whenua to their ancestral lands, waters, wāhi tapu and other taonga.

3.4.5 Operative Far North District Plan

The operative Far North District Plan (**ODP**) is the primary document that sets out the framework for managing land use and development within the district.

The ODP provides for papakāinga housing and integrated development on Whenua Māori in the rural and coastal environments but does not specifically provide for papakāinga housing on Māori land in the urban environment, or in other zones. The other key limitations under the ODP is that it does not recognise or provide for Treaty Settlement land that has been returned as commercial or cultural redress.

This can result in onerous and costly resource consent processes for iwi entities when seeking to develop their land for the benefit of its iwi members, which relies heavily on councils' discretion. All in all, creating further barriers for Māori land owners to access their land for social, cultural, economic and/environmental wellbeing.

3.4.6 Proposed Far North District Plan

The proposed Far North District Plan (**PDP**) provides a more permissive framework to support the use and development of Māori land and Treaty Settlement land for papakāinga development and other smaller scale commercial activities. It proposes a new Māori Purpose Zone that encompasses all whenua Māori, and a Treaty Settlement Land Overlay that applies to Treaty Settlement Land.

The PDP presents a planning framework that seeks greater flexibility when using and developing their land than compared to the operative plan. This includes a revised and integrated tangata whenua Chapter approach which provides clear guidance on the matters of importance to tangata whenua.

3.5 Local Policy Context – Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o te Ika

3.5.1 Long Term Plan and Annual Plans

Under the LGA, all councils are required to prepare Long Term and Annual Plans. A Long Term Plan (**LTP**) sets out the Council's strategic directions, priorities, and financial strategies over a 10-year period. Importantly, they set out how Council will raise revenue (rates and debt) to fund projects and operation costs for that period which are reviewed and adopted every three years. Whereas an Annual Plan is a yearly update on how Council's projects and budgets are tracking, with any updates for the upcoming financial year.

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The current LTP was adopted in 2024-2027, and did not include any specific new funding for supporting whānau, hapū and iwi develop whenua Māori. Any new projects or initiatives adopted as part of Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku would need to be, in the short term, delivered within existing resources or new funding may be required in future LTP's.

In relation to rates, Council already has a range of several rates remission and relief policies that were adopted once the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 commenced. These are discussed in more detailed at **section 4.1**, below.

3.5.2 Te Pae o Uta – Te Ao Māori Framework

Te Pae o Uta has been developed to guide FNDC staff to responsiveness and inclusion of Te Ao Māori across the organisation. Three goals advocate councils' commitment to working and building relationships with Māori kaimahi internally and Māori across the wider district.

Te Pae o Uta includes three Whāinga | Goals which are summarised below:

- (1) **Tū Kotahi | Increased participation in Council structures and decision-making processes:** seeks to strengthen relationships with mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori approaches, by giving Māori agency in matters than interest them.
- (2) **Whanake Tahī | Creating enablers across staff to response more effectively to Māori:** seeks to build organisation capability, capacity and cultural competency; ensure there is effective consideration and understanding of Māori needs and issues in policy development; and improve processes and systems to provide for Māori in decision-making.
- (3) **Kōkiri Tahī | Empowered communities, working collaboratively:** focuses on effective communication, Council's ability to contribute to Māori wellbeing, and building capacity and capacity of Māori. Kōkiri Tahī includes a commitment that Council will work on the following areas in achieving this goal:
 - o Papakāinga and Māori housing;
 - o Whānau and Tamariki wellbeing;
 - o Marae development;
 - o Te Reo Māori;
 - o Māori identity and culture;
 - o Māori business, tourism and employment;
 - o Realising rangatahi potential; and
 - o Kaitiakitangi / Te Taiao.

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku has been prepared in response to Kōkiri Tahī.

3.5.3 Far North 2100

Far North 2100 is a non-statutory strategy document outlining the general direction for land-use, infrastructure and service planning. Supporting future district plans, long term plans and infrastructure plans. For the wider district it is expected to provide guidance for investment decisions, community development and cultural identity.

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

The plans vision is “*He whenua rangatarira | A district of sustainable prosperity and wellbeing*” and sets Council’s overarching vision for all strategic planning documents.

There are five drivers for change that lay a high-level road map for what the district futures state will have to consider and the necessary steps council will have to commit to meet these obligations. These are:

- Drive of change 1: putting the wellbeing of the communities and people first;
- Driver of change 2: Promoting resilient economic growth for sustainable prosperity;
- Driver of change 3: Active response to Climate Change;
- Driver of change 4: Connecting people, businesses, and places;
- Driver of change 4: Protect the natural environment for future generations.

Far North 2100 includes a wide range implementation plan covering a range of themes to meet these obligations.

3.5.4 Infrastructure Strategy – 2024

The Far North Infrastructure Strategy 2024 (**Infrastructure Strategy**) sets out the priorities and needs to deliver more resilient and better management infrastructure assets and services. Council owns \$3.1B of infrastructure assets comprising of transport assets (roading network, bridges, footpaths, cycleways, ferries), community assets (community buildings, halls, offices, libraries and public toilets), maritime assets, open spaces, solid waste, three waters assets (water supply, stormwater and wastewater reticulated networks and treatment facilities).

The strategic priorities of the Infrastructure Strategy are as follows:

- Address affordability
- Better asset management
- Enable sustainable and economic development
- Adapt to climate change
- Protect our water supply
- Deepen our sense of place and connection

Developed with the effects of the severe impacts of weather events throughout the Te Tai Tokerau Northland Region, its proposed to facilitate infrastructure recovery. Designed for a 5-year planning horizon this approach is intended to provide the upfront strategic planning and supporting underlying data gathering for effective resilient strategies to be actioned in the 2027 Infrastructure Strategy.

Table 10 of the Infrastructure Strategy sets out interim and future growth goals and how this aligns with nga whāinga Te Pae o Uta, and while these don’t specifically relate to whenua Māori or Treaty Settlement land provide clear direction on how future Council intends to strengthen relationships, develop planning tools and provide for tangata whenua decision making in managing its infrastructure.

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

3.5.5 Development Contributions Policy

Development contributions policies are crucial for ensuring that costs on infrastructure needed to support growth, such as roads, water supply, wastewater and other community infrastructure is fairly, equitably and proportionately funded by developers rather than falling on existing rate payers or the wider community.

In 2014 Council amended its Development Contribution Policy to suspend the collection of development contributions that came into effect in 2015 which is still in place now. This change was in direct response to the Global Financial Crisis, and was intended as an incentive to support economic growth within the district. Under Council's Development Contribution Policy 2015, there is an ability to collect development contributions for significant developments through Development Agreements.

Since the repeal of Three Waters legislation by central government, Council has been working through a best practice approach to re-introduce a development contributions policy which will be made publicly available in August 2025.

3.5.6 Integrated Transport Strategy – 2021

The Far North Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS) sets out how Far North will address and manage the key transport problems faced by the district. This includes safety and network resilience, level of service and climate change risks, growth planning, community connectivity and a shift to multi modal transport response in urban areas.

The Far North Integrated Transport Plan (ITP) accompanies the ITS to layout out action-based solutions by outlining specific transport project upgrades, expansions and safety improvements.

These two documents are aimed to inform on a number of statutory and non-statutory documents over the next 10 years and provide a regionally prioritised investment map for the district. At present, Whenua Māori is not specifically mentioned and or addressed in the ITS, however the common themes of network repairs and improvements, natural hazard risks and network resilience apply to the spatial concentrations of Whenua Māori.

3.5.7 Te Rerenga – Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Wellbeing Pathway

Te Rerenga – Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Wellbeing Pathway (**Te Rerenga**) is a long term 100-year plus vision with three horizon timelines of 2024, 2040 and 2140. Te Rerenga focuses on three key themes, being the environment, people and the economy and sets out a high-level plan with goals and actions to work towards the 'future state' for each theme. The aspirations for each theme are summarised below:

- Our environment: Develop the environmental foundations and conditions necessary to support a resilient, sustainable environment and a thriving regional economy.
- Our people: Empower our people to reach their full potential, be in good health and actively engage in the workforce and community, in the place of their choice.
- Our economy: Support the development of a progressive and successful economy where people of Taitokerau Northland have a raised standard of living comparable to the rest of New Zealand.

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

Te Rerenga highlights the importance of Māori economic development and the need to acknowledge the Māori economy is distinctly different. The Māori economy takes a tikanga-based approach with an emphasis on intergenerational wellbeing, environmental sustainability, and rangatiratanga (self-determination). It also notes, that to 'unlock' Māori economic potential there must be genuine partnerships, equitable access to education and employment, and infrastructure investment.

Te Rerenga was endorsed by Council in September 2024 with the expectation that the Far North District Council will request that the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee investigates a tranche of work to ensure the plan can be enabled through Council Statutory Documents.

The Far North District Council is a shareholder in Northland Inc alongside Northland Regional Council, Kaipara District Council and Whangārei District Council. Northland Inc's activities are determined via an annual Statement of Intent that is approved by the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee. The Far North District Council has two Councillors appointed to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee.

To give effect to Te Rerenga and implement the resolution to endorse the Council in September 2024 Council has commenced the development of an Economic Development Strategy with a 10 year strategic planning horizon for approval by Council and the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee. The goal is to have this approved by the incoming Council in the first quarter of 2025.

3.5.8 Te Tai Tokerau Papakāinga Toolkit

The Te Tai Tokerau Papakāinga toolkit is designed to help Māori land owners understand and navigate the process for undertaking a papakāinga development on their ancestral lands. It is a practical guide designed for whānau, hapū and iwi to utilise to consider, plan and undertake development on whenua Māori. The key steps are summarised in the **Figure 4** below.

While this toolkit is a good starting point, the Toolkit was developed for the Far North, Kaipara and Whangārei District Council's and could be improved by tailoring the steps to align with FNDC's processes, including by adding discussion around financing tools and rates policies.

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

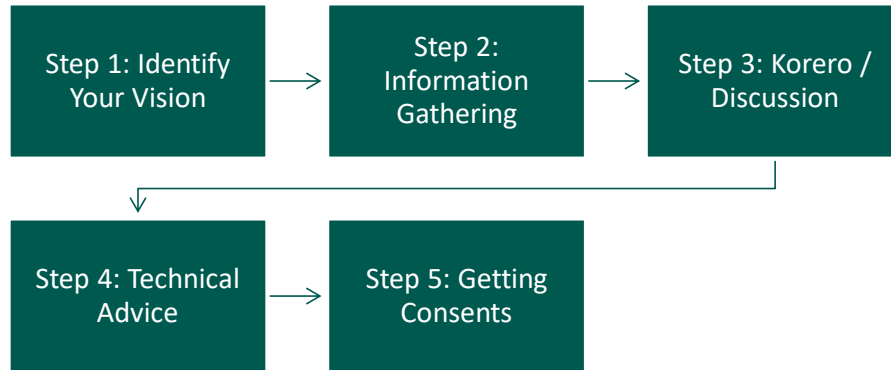


Figure 4: Key Steps to Follow - Papakāinga Toolkit.

3.5.9 Far North Housing Strategy

Council is in the process of developing a housing strategy for the district. The Far North Housing strategy will take a 10 – 20-year view of housing and focusses on increasing affordable housing options for communities, to ensure homes are healthy, warm, and sustainable with a focus on improving housing options for Māori.

A Housing and Business Development Capacity (HBA) was prepared in 2024 that projects the current and future demand for residential and business activities to understand whether there is sufficient capacity over the short, medium and long terms.

The HBA projects an increase of 7,255 additional households over the next 30 years, with the rate of growth projected over the short, medium and long term as follows:

- Short (2023 – 2026): + 1,195
- Medium (2026 – 2033): +2,445
- Long (2033 – 2053): +3,615

The HBA highlights that there is an affordability challenge for the supply of housing with the Far North, particularly in Kaikohe and Kaitaia where there is lower sale potential and high construction costs to developing new housing stock.

The HBA does not consider whenua Māori land tenure or how it could contribute to housing supply for future whānau. This is likely due to the HBA being an ‘urban’ focused assessment, and only 1% of whenua Māori is located within urban zones. Additionally, it must be noted that traditional development economics would be different on whenua Māori given assets typically are not ‘sold’, rather these assets are transferred or succeeded.

3.5.10 Open Spaces Strategy

Council is working on the first Open Spaces Strategy which will set the direction for how we protect, provide and manage our district’s public open space networks (parks, reserves, cycleways,

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beaches, rivers, and playgrounds) to make sure the community can access and enjoy them for futures to come. The Far North Open Spaces Strategy looks ahead to the next 30 years, and will examine the existing open space network, what the community values about it, and any issues that impact the current use and future supply. It will also identify goals, and consider factors such as population growth, development, and include recommendations on how Council will achieve its goals such as identifying projects and actions.

There have been many legacy statutory processes that have resulted in the acquisition, gazetting or vesting of land as public reserves that are now owned and administered by Council. This includes land that was taken under the Public Works Act, or land that was vested to Council for a particular purpose. During the workshops, both staff and elected members raised examples of scenario's where whānau or hapū have made enquiries for the return of land that may have been acquired or vested to Council in the past for a particular purpose, where that use or purpose has not eventuated.

The process to dispose of Council owned land is subject to a number of statutory processes, however, there are opportunities to review the land disposal process that could strengthen considerations on whether land that could or should be returned to whānau, hapū or iwi as the original landowners.

4.0 Ngā Araitanga | Common Barriers

In recent years, councils and central Government have taken a concerted effort to understand the complexities and challenges for developing whenua Māori, which is inextricably linked to the multi-ownership tenure of land, layered legislative context that applies, limited access to reticulated infrastructure (three waters and utility), and limited financing tools available to developing whenua Māori. These common barriers have been summarised below.

4.1 Complex Decision-Making

Managing, using and developing whenua Māori is inherently more complex when compared to general land tenure. This is due to the layered statutory context and multiply-owned ownership model that can make decision-making slow and onerous. TTWM Act promotes the use of governance structures to provide efficient decision-making over whenua Māori. The most common types of governance structures are summarised below:

- **Māori Land Trust** – Where blocks of land are held in a trust with appointed trustees whose responsibility is to make decisions about the land for the benefit of all of the owners.
- **Ahu Whenua Trust** – This is the most common Māori land trust and is designed to promote the use and administration of the land in the interest of the owners. These trusts are often used for commercial purposes.
- **Whānau Trust** – Combines the shares in whenua Māori from a group of related owners, or an individual, into one holding legally owned by the whānau trust.
- **Pūtea Trust** – Allows the landowners of small and uneconomic interest in land to pool their interests together.

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- **Whenua Tōpū Trust** – Are iwi or hapū based trusts that are designed to facilitate the use and administration of the land in the interest of the iwi or hapū. This type of trust is also used for receiving Crown land as part of any settlement.

Despite there being several management or governance structures available for Māori landowners to administer their land, only 58% of whenua Māori is held by governance entities¹⁰. The most common governance entity is Ahu Whenua Trusts.

Approximately 42% of Māori land is not under any governance entity. In some instances, this is because the land has only one or just a few owners, or because the land is unsuitable for any form of development and owners have decided to leave it in its natural state. However, a number of blocks of Māori land held in multiple ownership that are suitable for development are also without any governance entity. This may be because the owners have consciously chosen to not put one in place, or have attempted to do so and have been unsuccessful, or have not turned their minds to the options. The failure to put in place a governance entity is often because the owners are disengaged, or they are implacably opposed, or there is no one suitably qualified and willing to put themselves forward as trustees.

4.2 Rating

For decades, keeping on top of rates has been an ongoing challenge for whenua Māori landowners and Council. There are many reasons for this, but the key challenge often comes back the difficulties associated with making efficient decisions over multiply owned land.

In April 2021, the Government passed changes to reduce rating barriers for Māori landowners in the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021. The purpose of these changes was to reduce rating barriers for Māori landowners, align with TTWM Act, provide greater consistency and clarity on how Māori land is rated, and to stimulate regional development. Notable changes introduced the ability for rates arrears to be removed by local authorities, along with the ability to make targeted rates policies to address unused Māori land, multiply owned land, and broadening councils' ability not to rate land use for urupā or marae.

Following this, Council implemented rating policies to support Māori landowners, that gave effect to these legislative changes. These policies apply to Māori Freehold and Treaty Settlement Land and are contained in the Rating Relief Policies 2021 – 23. Council's existing policies are summarised as follows:

- **R21/13 – Incentivising Māori Economic Development:**
 - Applies to Māori freehold land and Council to remit rates, using a sliding scale, over a nine-year period. The policy can apply to land or a portion of land which is suitable for economic development, but it not currently used for that purpose.
- **R21/14 – Treaty Settlement Lands:**
 - Applies to Treaty Settlement Land (general or Māori freehold land), to incentivise economic development on commercial redress lands. The policy allows Council to remit rates on an eight-year sliding scale.
- **ML21/01 – Māori Freehold Land Not Used:**

¹⁰ Discussion on Māori Governance by Judge Craig Coxhead published 2013.

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- Applies to Māori Freehold land and provides the ability to grant remission on portions of land that is not occupied or used, as a result of granting Licence to Occupy (LTO) or any other informal arrangements over part of a rating unit.
- **ML21/02 – Māori Freehold Land used for the purposes of Papakainga or other housing purposes subject to occupation licenses or other informal arrangements:**
 - Applies to Māori freehold land and allows Council to remit rates where there are multiple Uniform Annual General Charges (UAGC).
- **R23/15 – Enabling Housing Development on Māori Freehold Land:**
 - Applies to Māori freehold land and provides standardised rates remission on whenua Māori under development on a sliding scale for a term of eight years.

It is important to note that, at the time of drafting Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku, FNDC has commenced public consultation on updated its Rates Relief Policies 2025, including proposed changes to policies R21/13, R21/14, R23/15, MLS21/01 and ML21/02 mentioned above. Key changes proposed include clearer definitions, simpler wording, recognition of the foundation principles of TTWM Act, and better guidelines to support decision-making.

Despite the comprehensive package of existing and proposed rating relief policies, Council staff have raised concerns that the level of uptake of these policies by landowners has been low, and consider a more targeted review would be beneficial to understand the effectiveness of the policies. Including to understand the level of uptake of the policies by landowners, and actively monitor the economic impact on these policies on landowners of Treaty Settlement and Māori land.

4.2.1 Access to Capital

Access to capital has always been a challenge to when using, occupying or developing on whenua Māori, either for housing or business. Historically, access to lending (debt or financing) on whenua Māori was largely unavailable due to protections over the land to prevent alienation under TTWM Act. This meant financial institutions, such as banks, generally did not offer lending to Māori landowners. In recent years, this has changed and more banks are now offering mortgages to Māori landowners, either as sole, shared owners or via a trust or Māori incorporation subject to oversight and approval from the Māori Land Court.

Despite this, access to capital still remains a significant barrier due to the communally-held nature of whenua Māori tenure¹¹ and the requirement for mortgages to be approved by the Māori Land Court processes. These constraints often impact loan terms and determine how development can be undertaken (i.e., foundation design) to provide the necessary security in order to be eligible for lending.

In recent years, Government has made specific funding available to support the development of papakāinga housing, infrastructure, and business on whenua Māori or Treaty Settlement Land. However, these investments are cyclical and do not provide a sustainable pathway for undertaking development on whenua Māori.

While Council does not have the ability to assist with access to capital, there are potential opportunities to support whānau, hapū and iwi through a range of other mechanisms by:

¹¹ Page 6 of the Improving Māori Access to Capital Report 2021 prepared by the Reserve Bank.

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- Establishing specific fee structures for regulatory services (i.e., building and resource consents) where development is proposed on whenua Māori or Treaty Settlement land.
- Establishing a dedicated contestable fund to support the development of papakāinga, similar to the 'Papakāinga Fund' offered by Whāngarei District Council, that supports regulatory costs associated with resource and building consent applications, investigations for contaminated land, vehicle crossing permits, or costs associated with specialist reports that are required when making applications.
- Identifying opportunities to undertake joint ventures, in particular, through council-controlled organisations where there are shared benefits.

4.3 Infrastructure and Servicing

Supporting year round safe, accessible and well-connected linkages of services to urupa, marae, papakāinga and culturally significant sites is difficult due to the isolated nature of whenua Māori.

Māori Land is primarily located in rural, often isolated, areas with limited access to infrastructure. Onsite servicing is typically the only option available for three waters infrastructure, and with limited access to telecommunications and electricity. In relation to access (legal and physical), there are instances where Māori Land is 'land locked', which is when a land title is surrounded by other land parcels and does not have a legal access route through an adjoining parcel, further complicating the process of accessing and using Māori land owners' ancestral lands.

Due to the isolated nature of whenua Māori, there are often high costs for undertaking development such as upgrades to power lines, transformers, and roading that can make development unaffordable.

Council has a limited role in delivering network utilities such as electricity and telecommunications, as this is determined by the network utility providers. However, there may be opportunities to support whānau, hapū and iwi through targeting infrastructure investment for roading and three waters infrastructure in locations where there is a concentration of whenua Māori or Treaty Settlement land. Infrastructure delivery would need to be balanced with affordability and considered within Council's LTP, Infrastructure Strategy and District Wide Strategy.

4.4 Resource Consenting

Resource consent approvals are often required to undertake development on whenua Māori, and are becoming more relevant considerations for iwi authorities as they begin to develop their Treaty Settlement land.

Currently, the operatively Far North District Plan does provide for papakāinga development (housing and ancillary non-residential activities) in the rural and coastal environment, and the proposed Far North District Plan seeks to strengthen these provisions to make it easier to develop of whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement land.

Central government is also planning to introduce a new National Environmental Standard for Papakāinga (NES-Papakāinga) regulation. This new regulation will set consistent rules across the country for papakāinga development (housing and non-residential ancillary activities). It is expected to include:

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- Permitted activity rules: Small-scale papakāinga developments (housing and ancillary non-residential activities) that meet bulk and location standards will not need a resource consent.
- Restricted discretionary activity rules: Medium-scale papakāinga developments that will require resource consent, but councils will be limited in what they can assess.
- Discretionary activity rules: Larger-scale papakāinga developments will need resource consent, and councils can consider all potential adverse effects.

Both the proposed Far North District Plan and new NES-Papakāinga have similar rule frameworks, and will likely make it easier to establish a papakāinga development on whenua Māori or Treaty Settlement land, provided the land is not affected by sensitive environment overlays. However, Māori land in the Far North is often disproportionately impacted by various planning controls and overlays. These include outstanding natural landscapes and features, extensive natural hazard zones (such as coastal erosion and flooding), coastal environments, or significant native bush.

Council's Engineering Standards are another key document that informs development, and is considered at the time of resource consent approval. The Engineering Standards set out minimum design or assessment standards for roading, footpaths, and on-site three-waters infrastructure design. This is a highly technical document, and does not account for Te Ao Māori perspectives, including mātauranga and tikanga Māori that are often key design considerations that inform papakāinga layouts. Compliance with Council's Engineering Standards often requires costly, and specialised engineering advice to support resource consent applications, and results in costs construction costs at time of undertaking development.

Overall, even with the new provisions, district-wide rules will still apply. This means resource consent applications will need to address issues like transport, earthworks, and environmental overlays. While the new rules should reduce the number of resource consents needed for papakāinga development, they will not eliminate the need entirely. Technical reports will still be required, especially for land in remote or environmentally sensitive areas, which can be costly.

There is a general consensus, that the resource consenting process lacks appropriate recognition of te ao Māori, and there is an opportunity to optimise how Council delivers regulatory services to whānau, hapū and iwi in a way that acknowledges the many constraints that apply to whenua Māori.

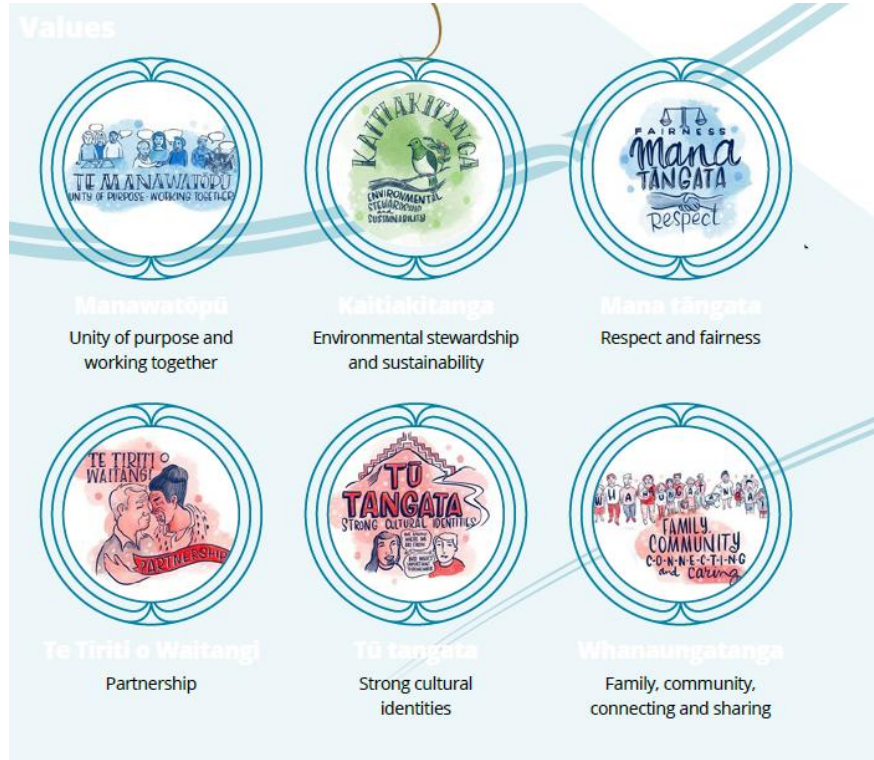
5.0 Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku Vision, Values, Focus Areas and Outcomes

5.1 Vision

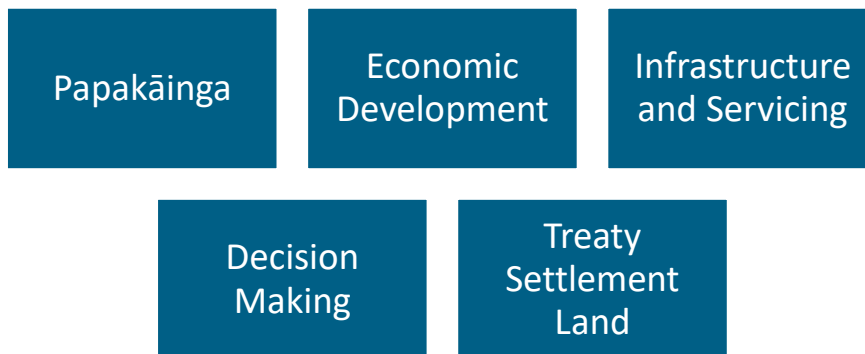
He Whenua Rangatira | A District of sustainable prosperity and well-being.

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

5.2 Values



5.3 Focus Areas



5.4 Outcomes

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku has eight strategic outcomes focussed on supporting whānau, hapū and iwi to utilise whenua Māori and Treaty Settlement Land within the district. These are based

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

on the five focus areas of papakāinga, economic development, infrastructure and servicing, decision-making and Treaty Settlement Land as follows:

Papakāinga

- Whānau are thriving and can occupy and use their whenua.
- Whānau live in safe, healthy and good quality homes that provide their wellbeing.

Economic Development

- Development on whenua Māori is supported and enabled by Council.
- Economic development is compatible with the protection and enhancement of the ecological, spiritual and cultural values of whenua Māori.

Infrastructure and Servicing

- Infrastructure and servicing is affordable, fit-for-purpose and meets the needs of whānau, iwi and hapū.
- Delivering infrastructure that meets the wellbeing outcomes of current and future generations.

Decision-Making

- Whānau, hapū and iwi are supported to achieve their aspirations in council decisions and operations.

Treaty Settlement Land

- Post-settlement governance entities are supported and enabled to use, occupy and develop Treaty Settlement Land.

6.0 Te Anga Whakamua | Action Plan

Insert table in graphic design version.

7.0 Te Arotake me te Whakatinanatanga | Implementation and Review

7.1 Timeframes

Actions include timeframes for when actions are expected to be progressed, from the date Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku is formally adopted by Council. These timeframes are:

- Underway – means that the action is actively being implemented, with further work required.
- Within 12 months – means that work on the action must commence within 12 months of adoption of Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku.
- Years 1 – 3 – means that the action must be completed within three years of adoption of Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku.

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku | Far North District Council Whenua Māori Strategy

Completion of any unbudgeted actions occurring within the allocated timeframes is subject to funding being allocated as provided in 7.2.

7.2 Long Term Plan and Annual Plan Funding

Actions are listed in terms of whether budget is already allocated or not, or not required. This will help guide Council elected members and staff make decisions to seek or allocate new funding at any Long Term Plan or Annual Plan process. Decisions regarding the prioritisation, funding, and implementation of unbudgeted actions will be considered as part of those processes, subject to Council approval and community consultation where applicable.

7.3 Monitoring and Review

Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku is designed to be iterative and will evolve over time to respond to new challenges and opportunities. Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku shall be reviewed as follows:

- Every three years, 1 year prior to any LTP process, for its efficiency and whether specific actions have been adequately implemented.
- At any time, following a special request of Te Kuaka (or equivalent) or full Council.
- At least one annual update shall be provided to Te Kuaka (or equivalent) to shown continual progress towards the implementation of Te Kiri Waiwai o Papatūānuku.

6.3 NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI - MATTERS OF IMPORTANCE TO MĀORI

File Number: A5824239

Author: Llani 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 (Te Kuaka) with an update on Ngā Kaupapa Māori - Matters of Importance to Māori since the last report tabled on 19 May 2026.

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 assists Council, as appropriate, in conducting and maintaining effective, good-faith working relationships with Māori communities.
- 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 these matters.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Ngā Kaupapa Māori - Matters of Importance to Māori – July 2026.

TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND

This report serves as a mechanism to provide Te Kuaka with updates on kaupapa Māori / matters of importance pertaining to Māori that Council is involved with.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS

NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI MAY – JULY 2026 TE HIKU WĀRI.

22 May 2026 – Te Oneroa a Tōhe Beach Board Meeting.

Attended the Te Oneroa a Tōhe Beach Board meeting, contributing to governance and operational discussions relating to the ongoing management of Te Oneroa a Tōhe. Key discussions focused on governance roles and responsibilities, future administrative arrangements, and the Board's work programme.

The meeting confirmed the establishment of the Technical Steering Group (TSG) to provide technical advice and support the implementation of the Board's priorities, with secretarial support functions returning to the Far North District Council.

Council staff are working on developing a clearer communications pathway for the Board, including revitalising its social media presence, with the aim of engaging more rangatahi in the work of the Board.

25 May 2026 – Te Hiku Iwi - Hapū Engagement Hui – Roma Marae

Facilitated the Te Hiku Iwi and Hapū Engagement Hui at Roma Marae to strengthen relationships between Council, Iwi, Hapū, and marae representatives. The hui focused on information sharing, Council priorities, and improving engagement processes. Key outcomes included the updating of Hapū and Marae representative contact information, identification of preferred communication

channels, and strengthened engagement pathways to support more effective consultation and participation in current and future Council projects and initiatives. These hui give effect to the Hapū Engagement Strategy committed to in 2025.

Te Whakapapa o te Wai Series

Planning and preparation continues for the next instalment of the Te Whakapapa o te Wai series, building on the successful Hokianga focused recordings and expanding the initiative to include knowledge holders from across Te Hiku. The upcoming episodes will feature Haami Piripi, who will share Te Rarawa perspectives on the whakapapa of wai, cultural narratives, and the enduring relationship between tangata whenua and the natural environment.

The series aims to broaden understanding of the significance of wai through mātauranga Māori, preserving intergenerational knowledge while strengthening awareness of local histories, cultural values, and kaitiakitanga. Preparatory work included coordination with key stakeholders, filming logistics, and content development, with recording scheduled to recommence on 9 July 2026. The project, led by the FNDC Waters team as well as Community and Engagement, continues to support Council's commitment to building cultural capability and fostering a deeper understanding of Te Hiku's unique cultural landscapes through authentic Iwi-led storytelling.

NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI MAY – JULY 2026 PĒOWHAIRANGI KI WHANGAROA WĀRI.

Kororipo Pā Celebratory Hākari – Whitiora Marae, Te Tii – 23 May 2026.

This kaupapa was originally scheduled to occur on 27 March alongside the signing of Kororipo Pā, with significant organising, rehearsals, and invitations sent widely across the district and the motu. However, due to the impact of the March weather event, the official ceremony at the pā was cancelled.

The hākari was well attended by Ministers of the Crown, Cr Allen and Cr Stratford, alongside staff, as well as Iwi and Hapū members from the wider district, who enjoyed the hospitality of Ngāti Rēhia. During the pōwhiri, Ngāti Rēhia shared their stories of this significant site in Kerikeri and its relevance to wider New Zealand histories.

Council was honoured to have been in attendance as we look to increase and build our relationships with Ngāti Rēhia under Te Aro Manatū – Memorandum of Understanding and enter into a Mana Whakahono ā Rohe, as initiated by Ngāti Rēhia.



Kororipo Pā, Kerikeri. Image courtesy of Te Papa Atawhai – The Department of Conservation – Kerikeri Office.

Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust – Te Ahuwhenua Trophy Awards Evening – 5 June 2026.

As mentioned in the 19 May 2026 report for Te Kuaka, Te Pēowhairangi – Whangaroa Ward, Ngāti Hine Forestry Trust was named as a finalist for the prestigious Ahuwhenua Trophy 2026.

Trust kaimahi Robert Manuel of Ngāti Hine was also nominated as a finalist for the 2026 Ahuwhenua Young Māori Grower Award.

The winners of the 2026 Ahuwhenua Trophy Excellence in Māori Horticulture Award and the Ahuwhenua Young Māori Grower Award were announced at a formal awards dinner at McKay Stadium, Kensington, Whangārei, on Friday, 5 June 2026. The awards dinner also hosted Iwi and Hapū from Te Arawa, Tauranga Moana, and Ngāti Kahungunu, who also had finalists in the competition.

On the evening, another finalist, Mātai Pacific Iwi Collective from Te Puke, Bay of Plenty, emerged as the winner of the Ahuwhenua Trophy, with Te Rina Joe from Ngāti Pahauwera Commercial Development Ltd named the Young Māori Grower Award winner for 2026.



Mātai Pacific Iwi Collective – Winners of the 2026 Ahuwhenua Trophy. Image courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri – Ministry of Māori Development.



Te Rina Joe – Winner of the 2026 Young Māori Grower Award – Image courtesy of Te Puni Kōkiri – Ministry of Māori Development.

NGĀ KAUPAPA MĀORI MAY- JULY 2026 KAIKOHE-HOKIANGA WĀRI

Te Māhurehure Rugby League Rangatahi

He rōpū taitamatāne from Hokianga, Kaikohe, and Moerewa have come together to form a U15 Māori Rugby League team for the 2026 Aotearoa Māori Rugby League Tournament in Rotorua. The

team sits under Hokianga Storm, connected to Te Māhurehure Marae in Pt Chevalier, and represents the Kaikohe ki Hokianga Ward. The team is coached by Andrew Wharton, Henry “Rock” Wiki, and James Tavaga, with Kiri Tavaga as manager.

As uri of our Iwi, Hapū, Marae, the team took part in a kaupapa that strengthens both whakapapa and rangatahi development. With support from Ōpononi Area School, the taitamatāne spent a day in Ōpononi for high-performance training, swam in the awa, followed by a hīkoi to the summit of Whiria maunga. These activities help ground the boys in the stories, whenua, and tikanga of their rohe.

The coaching team invited Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori to share kōrero about the history of Hokianga, its links to Kaikohe, and whakapapa connections through to Ngāti Hine. This wānanga supported the boys to understand who they are, where they come from, and why their connections to whenua matters.

This kaupapa aligns with the Far North District Council’s current and future focus on a Rangatahi Strategy (Youth Education and Leadership Pathways). It supports:

- Strong identity and belonging
- Healthy, active lifestyles
- Safe spaces and positive role models
- Cultural, social, environmental and economic wellbeing
- Growing confident future leaders for the North

The day created a powerful space for these taitamatāne to learn, grow, and connect. It showed how sport, whakapapa, and whenua can work together to build strong, grounded rangatahi who will carry our communities forward.

This kaupapa helps support Council in activating rangatahi engagement into Council by providing information sharing and providing funding pathways for organisations to access to support their groups with travel, development and leadership pathways.



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

There are no financial implications or budgetary provisions required in receiving the report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

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

File Number: A5851379

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 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 plays an important role in strengthening relationships between FNDC and Māori, including Iwi and Hapū.
- Following approval from Te Kuaka Chair, Cr Tāmami Rākena, and the Group Manager – Te Hono, Te Kahu o Taonui Appointed Representatives and Hapū Representatives with signed MOUs may provide regular verbal updates at Committee meetings.
- These updates will provide an opportunity for Iwi and Hapū to share current priorities, aspirations, issues, and opportunities directly with the Committee.
- The initiative supports kaupapa Māori governance, strengthens transparency and communication, and helps elected members remain informed about matters of significance to Māori communities.
- Verbal updates 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

FNDC has established formal relationship arrangements with Māori entities to support partnership, collaboration, and information sharing.

Te Kahu o Taonui is a signatory to the Whanaungatanga Kī Taurangi Relationship Agreement with FNDC, recognising its role as a mandated Iwi authority and strategic partner to Council. FNDC has also entered into Memoranda of Understanding with individual Hapū, acknowledging Hapū rangatiratanga and creating pathways for ongoing engagement on matters of shared interest.

Inviting Te Kahu o Taonui and Hapū representatives to provide regular verbal updates aligns with the intent of these agreements and supports meaningful, tikanga-based engagement. It also strengthens relationships between Māori and Council by providing elected members with direct insight into Iwi and Hapū priorities, perspectives, emerging issues, and opportunities.

The Local Government Act 2002 supports this approach. Section 14(1)(d) recognises the Crown's responsibility to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to local authority decision-making. In addition, Schedule 7, Clause 27 requires councils to adopt standing orders governing meeting conduct, which may include provisions for invited speakers and standing 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.

To support these outcomes, verbal updates will become a standing item on Te Kuaka Committee agendas for the remainder of the 2025–2028 triennium.

Meeting procedures, including speaking order and time allocations, will continue to be managed in accordance with the Committee's standing orders and at the discretion of the Chairperson.

This report is provided for information only and does not require a formal decision from the Committee.

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

1. Te Kahu o Taonui Ngahure Panui FINAL - A5851381 [↓](#)

Issue #1 NAU MAI HAERE MAI KI TĒNEI PĀNUI O TE KAHU O TAONU I Ngahuru 2026



TE KAHU O TAONU I
Me mahi tahi tātou mō te iwi te take



Ngātiwai



Te Rarawa



Ngāti Kurī



Ngāti Kurī



Te Aupōuri



Ngāti Kahurangi



Ngāti Takoto



Ngāti Takoto



Te Roroa



Ngāpuhi



Kahukuraariki



Whaingaroa



Ngāti Hine



Ngāti Hine



Ngāti Whātua

He Mihi

Kia hipokina ngā kaupapa ki Te Kahu o Taonui
 Hipokingia o tātou mokopuna ki te kahu aroha o te whānau
 E ngā uri o ngā tini maunga whakahi me ngā tini awa whakaterere taniwha, koutou e kaha tautoko nei i te āpōpō hou mō o tātou tamariki mokopuna, nei rā te mihi ki a koutou, otirā, ki a tātou tae atu ki te tangi o aitua, ko rātou ki a rātou, ko mātou e mahue mai nei ki a mātou, huri noa i Te Tai Tokerau whānui, Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā rā tātou katoa.



Harikoa katoa ana mātou o Te Kahu o Taonui i tō hono mai ki tēnei pānui tuatahi mō te tau 2026!

Our aim is to keep you informed about the mahi of our iwi leaders supporting the many kaupapa and priorities across Te Tai Tokerau, all progressing under the collective manaaki of Te Kahu o Taonui. Each edition will provide a snapshot of key activities, important milestones, and the people leading this vital mahi. Our pānui will be distributed quarterly to ensure ongoing visibility of the work being advanced throughout Te Tai Tokerau.



<https://www.tkot.org.nz/>



<https://www.facebook.com/TeKahuOTAonui>



[tekuhuotaonui](https://www.instagram.com/tekuhuotaonui)

He whakapapa o Te Kahu o Taonui

Te Kahu o Taonui is a Tai Tokerau Iwi Chairs Forum, and was established in 2006/7, as a collective of Iwi in Te Tai Tokerau. Te Kahu o Taonui now includes representation from the following 12 Iwi: Ngāti Kuri, Te Aupōuri, Ngāi Takoto, Ngāti Kahu, Te Rarawa, Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa (Kahukuraariki Trust), Whaingaroa, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine, Ngātiwai, Ngāti Whātua and Te Roroa. For Te Kahu o Taonui, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, together with He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī, forms the foundational agreement that enabled the emergence of a new nation and defines the relationship between Māori and all New Zealanders as represented by the Crown and local government. The Waitangi Tribunal’s 2014 finding that Northland Māori who signed Te Tiriti did not cede sovereignty remains a position consistently upheld by successive Te Tai Tokerau leaders.



Ngā Uara: Our Core Values That Guide Our Mahi



WHANAUNGATANGA

TIKA

AROHA

PONO

MANA MOTUHAKE

Whanaungatanga – We acknowledge and respect our shared whakapapa, tikanga and history.

Tika – We are transparent in our intent and collective mahi.

Pono – We work with integrity.

Aroha – We have love and respect for others.

Mana Motuhake – We value and respect that each Iwi has their own Mana Motuhake.

Strategic Priorities

- 1.Sovereignty | Mana Motuhake | Constitutional Transformation
- 2.Infrastructure (including Digital)
- 3.Economic Development
- 4.Housing and Kai Sovereignty

Ngā Heamana



Te tangi a Tukaiaia paorooro kau ana ki nga paringa o Te Akau Roa o Ngātiwai. He reo mihi, he reo whakaoho. Kati, e ngā mana, e ngā tapu, ngā ihi, ngā wehi anei ra te reo mihi o Ngātiwai ka tukua ra ki a koutou.

Aperahama Edwards (Co-Chair) has whakapapa to Ngātiwai, Ngāti Kahungunu, Tainui and Ngāpuhi. Aperahama is an experienced Māori leader and advocate with strong involvement across hapū and iwi, environmental initiatives, language revitalisation, and community development sectors throughout Te Tai Tokerau and Aotearoa. His work reflects a deep commitment to strengthening whānau wellbeing, protecting cultural identity, and advancing kaupapa Māori initiatives that create meaningful and lasting impact for future generations.

More recently, Aperahama was confirmed as Te Pāti Māori candidate for Te Tai Tokerau in the upcoming General Election. His decision to seek parliamentary representation reflects an ongoing commitment to ensuring the voices and aspirations of Te Tai Tokerau are represented at a national level. Te Kahu o Taonui acknowledges Aperahama continued leadership and service to Māori and te taiao across the north.

Other leadership pōtae

- The Ngātiwai Trust Board
- Kī A Ora Ngātiwai
- Te Whānau a Rangiwahakaahu Trust
- Te Mātāwai
- National Iwi Chairs Forum
- Pou Tikanga
- Hinemoana Halo

Te Kahu o Taonui welcomes **Toa Faneva** (Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa, Ngāpuhi) as the newly elected interim Co-Chair. Toa is the Chair of Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa and previously served as CEO, leading the delivery of health, education, emergency housing, financial capability, and social services to the community. He was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in June 2023 for his services to Māori.



Toa brings impressive senior leadership experience across the public sector and iwi organisations. He currently serves as Place-based Director for Te Tai Tokerau at Housing and Urban Development (HUD), where he leads regional housing delivery and works closely with iwi, local government, and community partners to align national priorities with local needs.

More recently, Toa was appointed as the Regional Public Service Commissioner for Te Tai Tokerau for a two-year term, and is the Regional Director for Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD). The position carries a significant mandate to unite decision makers across the public service landscape, strengthening collaboration between agencies, local government, iwi, and regional and community leaders across the social, economic, workforce, and environmental sectors. We extend our congratulations to Toa on this well-deserved appointment.

Other leadership pōtae

- Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa
- Ministry of Social Development; Te Kainga Atawhai
- Ngā Ngaru
- Regional Public Service Commissioner
- Regional Director MHUD

Te Kahu o Taonui acknowledges and sincerely thanks **Katie Murray** for the significant contributions she made during her time as Co-Chair. Katie’s leadership was marked by a deep commitment to whānau, hapū, and iwi across Te Tai Tokerau. Her guidance helped progress several important kaupapa, including:

- Sovereignty | Mana Motuhake | Constitutional Transformation
- Energy Bridge
- NICF Pou Representation
- Kai Sovereignty



Kaiwhakahaere

Ngāti Kahu and Te Kahu o Taonui Chief Executive, **Dee-Ann Wolferstan** brings extensive experience across governance, social services, and financial oversight, with more than a decade spent leading within Iwi and Māori organisations as Kaihautu. Dee-Ann's mahi has centred on strengthening outcomes for our hāpori of Te Tai Tokerau and supporting those affected by social and systemic inequities. Additional to her leadership background, Dee-Ann has built strong expertise in financial

governance and audit, holding advisory and chairing roles with the Northland Regional Council Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, and the Risk and Audit Committee for Tātau Tātau o te Wairoa.

Dee-Ann places strong value on whānau and relationships. Her husband of 30 years, their two children, and the future legacy of her two mokopuna are central to her sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Te Kahu o Taonui Amorangi

Kiri Sloane-Hobson, (Ngā iwi o Muriwhenua) has been a driving force behind Te Kahu o Taonui for over six years, playing a central role in the organisation's operations and the delivery of kaupapa across a wide range of regional priorities. As Operations Manager, she supports the collective direction of iwi leadership by translating governance decisions into practical action, strong systems, and effective relationships across agencies, partners, and our communities. With experience spanning strategic coordination, communications, funding oversight, and stakeholder engagement, Kiri is integral to the organisation's responsiveness and day-to-day function.



"It has been a privilege to lead the operations for Te Kahu o Taonui. Over the past six years I have witnessed immense change - the strength, resilience, and strategic sharpness of a dynamic collective navigating central and local government policy decisions that impact every corner of our whānau and communities.

Through it all, what has remained constant is the shared commitment to making a difference - for now, and for our mokopuna to come.

During my time, I acknowledge the former leadership and manaaki of Kahurangi Whaea Naida Glavish, Harry Burkhardt, and Mariameno Kapa-Kingi, for their contributions, and the essence of their kōrero to the collective mahi.

And always - through every hui, connection, decision, and transaction - I carry the guidance of our Poropiti, Aperahama Taonui, whose prophecy continues to guide, steady, and ground the mahi we carry out:

"He taniwha kei te hāere mai - he taniwha tae kuhu, tae huna e kore rawa koutou e kitea, e kore koutou e mōhio kua tae mai, kia kitea rano i ngā kanohi a o mokopuna. Ina tae ki tēnā, kua e patua i o mokopuna - engari hipokingia o koutou mokopuna ki te kahu aroha a te whānau."

Our Iwi leaders are innovative, future-focused, and deeply committed to their people, grounded in their whakapapa and the legacy of their tūpuna. I acknowledge the time, knowledge, and sacrifices they and their whānau make to carry out this mahi.

As we move into Hōtoke and the winter season of Matariki - a time for reflection and planning - I hope everyone takes the time to fill their kete with uninterrupted whānau time, to acknowledge loved ones who have passed, and to plan ahead as we embrace our Māori New Year".

Ngā Taiohi o Te Kahu o Taonui



Over 50 taiohi from across all member iwi of Te Kahu o Taonui have participated in a range of wānanga and kaupapa aimed at growing the next generation of taiohi leaders across Te Tai Tokerau and beyond.

Since February 2026, our taiohi collective have attended two cross-iwi leadership wānanga hosted by Ngāpuhi and Te Aupōuri, participated in the National Iwi Chairs Forum in Waitangi, contributed within the Waitangi Forum Tent and other kaupapa during Waitangi commemorations led by Ngahua Harawira, attended the Doctrine of Discovery wānanga facilitated by Tina Ngata, and participated in the Online Safety kaupapa at Waahi Pā led by Amokura Panoho and representatives from Ngā Rangatahi A Iwi.



These experiences have strengthened the confidence, leadership capability, cultural identity, and professional development of our taiohi, while deepening their understanding of issues impacting Te Tai Tokerau, taiohi Māori, and indigenous peoples across the globe. The wānanga have also reinforced the importance of collective iwi leadership and created valuable opportunities for taiohi through whakawhanaungatanga across iwi, creating enduring relationships and a shared commitment to the future wellbeing and advancement of Te Tai Tokerau.

Te Taumata Hauora o Te Kahu o Taonui Iwi Māori Partnership Board (IMPB)

Iwi-Māori Partnership Boards (IMPBs) play a pivotal role in ensuring that Māori and Iwi voices shape the future of hauora in Aotearoa.

Established under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022, IMPBs advocate for the aspirations of Māori communities and hold the health system accountable for delivering equitable access, outcomes, and investment into hauora Māori.

The IMPB for Te Tai Tokerau remains guided by the declarations of leadership in He Whakaputanga and the obligations articulated in Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

One of the most recent pieces of mahi was the tabling of our Te Āpōpōtanga |

Māmā and Pēpi Report, that collates the intelligence of amazing and resilient Māmā detailing how they powerfully navigated their way through health systems that were designed with the health system at the centre not te oranga o te pēpi. Those systems that have led to inequitable outcomes, barriers to access, and contributed to the erosion of whānau and community trust and confidence in our health and other government systems.

Heoi, from those powerful words of our māmā, solutions were found; some innovative, some common sense, and many long overdue.

The IMPB will work closely with the Hauora Māori Advisory Committee who provide expert advice directly to the Minister of Health the Hon. Mr. Simeon Brown to advocate for those statutory changes required to entrench better outcomes for māmā, pēpi me te whānau katoa hoki.



The current whānau priorities across the rohe include: Māmā and Pēpi, Access to Services, Mental Health and Addictions, and Housing – acknowledging there are other urgent priorities in pockets of our communities that we also hear and carry to the ‘tables’, people, and systems we are privileged to work with and advocate to on behalf of the rohe. Supporting those priorities are the IMPB Strategic Priorities of Oranga Whānau, Oranga Ratonga, Oranga Mokopuna, Oranga Hinengaro, Oranga Wairua, and Oranga Kaupapa.



Stakeholder & Engagement Highlights

Te Kahu o Taonui hosting the National Iwi Chairs Forum 2026

The National Iwi Chairs Forum (NICF) held from the 1st to the 4th of Pēpuere 2026 was an outstanding success. The Forum brought together iwi leaders from across Aotearoa at the historic setting of Waitangi. With 327 registered iwi delegation members and 40 dedicated Kaimanaaki, the gathering represented one of the most comprehensively coordinated NICF in recent memory.

The political panel sessions were noted as a highlight from several participants, drawing strong engagement from both iwi representatives and government participants. The presence and active participation of the Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers, and Opposition Political Parties reflected the Forum’s standing as a premier engagement platform for the iwi-Crown relationship.

Strategic Partnership and Opportunity: Acciona



Te Kahu o Taonui Iwi Chairs and Chief Executives recently met with Acciona and Invest New Zealand to explore a transformative infrastructure opportunity for Te Tai Tokerau.

The Northland Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) leverages the region’s exceptional wind and solar resources. However, current grid constraints prevent large-scale renewable generation from connecting to the national network.

Acciona has expressed a commitment to working directly with iwi and hapū, ensuring local aspirations shape the development and delivery of this initiative.

This aligns strongly with Te Kahu o Taonui Draft Economic Development Strategic Intent, particularly the Energy Bridge, regional infrastructure, access to capital, and empowering our people (Tangata).





Te Kuaka

The establishment of the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee (Te Kuaka) provides a strengthened platform for Te Kahu o Taonui participation in Councils decision-making.

As a Standing Committee of Council, Te Kuaka strengthens the Far North District Council’s (FNDC) decision-making by embedding te ao Māori perspectives, ensuring a genuine Te Tiriti-based partnership, and providing recommendations to FNDC. Te Kahu o Taonui and hapū with existing MoU hold full speaking and voting rights on the Committee. However, It can only provide recommendations to the full Council and thus cannot override the FNDC elected representatives' responsibilities. At the April Extraordinary FNDC meeting, Mane Tahere and Wallace Rivers were confirmed as Te Kahu o Taonui representatives, with eight further appointments to come from iwi and hapū with existing MoU.



This affirms the inclusion of Māori, hapū and iwi representatives supporting FNDC’s obligations under the Local Government Act 2002, including:



- Section 4 – recognising and providing for Māori participation in decision-making.
- Section 14(1)(d) – providing opportunities for Māori to contribute; and
- Section 81 – establishing and maintaining processes for Māori participation.

On the 3rd of Pipiri, Te Kahu o Taonui responded to the announcement by Local Government Minister Simon Watts that the government will amend the Local Government Act 2002 to remove voting rights from non-elected council committee members - changes explicitly justified by referencing Te Kuaka participation in Far North District Council committees.

Te Kahu o Taonui condemns the use of our communities to justify legislation that strips Māori of hard-won representation in local government decision-making.

We reject, unreservedly, the framing that our representation in local government processes is "antidemocratic." It is the opposite. Our participation reflects decades of Treaty partnership-building, legal recognition of our mana whenua status, and the practical reality that decisions about land, water, and environment in Northland cannot be made well without the knowledge we bring.

Te Kahu o Taonui calls on the Minister to meet with us directly before any amendment proceeds. We call on all members of Parliament to consider the signal this legislation sends about the Crown’s commitment to genuine partnership.



Tai Tokerau Emergency Resilience Proposal

Recent severe weather events have highlighted significant gaps in emergency readiness across Te Tai Tokerau. Impacts have included:

- Flooded homes
- Landslides
- Damaged bridges
- Displaced whānau
- Restricted access to remote communities

In Whirinaki, South Hokianga, repeated flooding has led the community to consider relocation to higher ground – a trend increasingly seen nationwide.

Te Kahu o Taonui submitted a proposal to the Prime Minister advocating for a Te Tai Tokerau Emergency Response and Resilience Hub.

The proposal outlines a coordinated, iwi-led, community-responsive approach to strengthen readiness, response, recovery, and long-term resilience.

Northland Water Done Well (NWDW)

NWDW continues to progress alongside wider Local Government and Resource Management reforms. FNDC is considering joining Northland Waters Ltd (NWL) as a Council-Controlled Organisation, shifting day-to-day water services to a new entity while retaining council ownership.

FNDC has confirmed that existing relationships and agreements with iwi and hapū will remain intact. While operational responsibility may shift, the relationship between Māori and the whenua and wai does not.

NWL is expected to initially maintain existing council-led working groups, with future development of its own iwi/hapū MOUs. FNDC will also engage mana whenua to inform its Statement of Expectations for NWL.

Te Kahu o Taonui will continue to engage to ensure whānau, hapū, iwi and hapori voices remain central as reforms progress.



Q. What do you call a kangaroo with a sore foot? A 'paka-roo'!

He aha kei mua i te aroaro?



Kaupapa

- 10 June - Te Taumata Hauora Iwi Māori Partnership Board
- 18 June - Te Kāhui Hononga Regional Leadership Group Hui
- 10 July - Matariki
- 16 July - Te Kahu o Taonui Chief Executives hui
- 17 July - Te Kahu o Taonui Chairs hui
- 9-31 July - National Iwi Chairs Forum



Hōtoke Winter

Pipiri (May – Jun)

The earth and its people are cold as the weather cools down. The first month of the Māori lunar calendar is marked by the star cluster Matariki. This is a time of new beginnings and celebrations.

Hōngōngoi (Jun – Jul)

People are now very cold and make fires to keep warm.

Hōngōngoi is the coldest time of the year. A time to gather around the fire and share stories. This was one way of preserving oral traditions, history, and whakapapa.

Hereturikōkā (Jul – Aug)

The warmth of the fire can be seen on the knees of people.

Hereturikōkā is a significant time for inanga (whitebait) as they migrate through fresh waterways, preparing to spend their adult lives there. This is also when people catch inanga to eat.

6.5 NORTHLAND WATERS UPDATE - JULY 2026

File Number: A5855023

Author: Andy Dowdle, Change Specialist - Organisational Development

Authoriser: Charlie Billington, Group Manager - Corporate Services

TAKE PŪRONGO / PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide Te Kuaka Committee for Strategic Māori Relationships (Te Kuaka) with an update on the development of the Northland Waters Council Controlled Organisation (CCO)

WHAKARĀPOPOTO MATUA / EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Northland Waters Limited is the new publicly owned water services organisation being established by Far North, Kaipara and Whangārei District Councils under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025. The company was incorporated on 11 May 2026 and will assume responsibility for drinking water and wastewater services across Northland from 1 July 2027. Stormwater and land drainage functions will remain with individual councils.

Since the previous update

- FNDC joined the Northland Waters CCO
- Established the Shareholder Representative Group

In joining the CCO council adopted the company constitution, shareholders agreement and transition agreement. These documents establish the governance framework for Northland Waters and provide the structure for shareholder oversight, company establishment, funding, and transition of services.

The governance framework recognises the importance of environmental and cultural stewardship and provides mechanisms through which existing council relationships, commitments and engagement arrangements with Iwi, Hapū and Māori organisations can be carried forward into the new organisation. While the governance documents do not create specific Māori governance representation, they establish pathways for shareholder councils to influence how Northland Waters engages with tangata whenua and recognises existing commitments.

The Shareholders Representative Group (SRG), comprising elected members from each shareholder council and an independent chair, has been established to oversee the company on behalf of the shareholders. The SRG is responsible for monitoring establishment progress, appointing directors, overseeing development of the Statement of Expectations (SoE) and ensuring Northland Waters is established in accordance with shareholder objectives.

A key upcoming milestone is development of the first Statement of Expectations (SoE), which must be adopted by November 2026. The SoE will set out the strategic expectations of the shareholder councils and will guide development of Northland Waters' Water Services Strategy. Northland Waters is required to give effect to the SoE when conducting its business and preparing that strategy. The SoE also provides an important opportunity for shareholder councils to influence how engagement, relationships and existing commitments to Māori are reflected within the future operating framework of Northland Waters.

The immediate focus for Northland Waters is establishment planning, recruitment of specialist resources and refinement of the transition programme to ensure organisational readiness for commencement of services on 1 July 2027. Councils are continuing to operate water services and maintain existing relationships with Iwi and Hapū during the transition period while arrangements for future engagement with Northland Waters continue to be developed.

TŪTOHUNGA / RECOMMENDATION

That Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships receive the report Northland Waters Update - July 2026.**TĀHUHU KŌRERO / BACKGROUND**

The government has been reviewing delivery of water services across New Zealand / Aotearoa particularly following the failing of the Havelock North water supply. The recommendation was to aggregate councils water services and run them under a separate structure. The initial programme, labelled Three Waters, looked at establishment of 5 large water entities. This framework was changed after the last election to enable greater local government input and enabled territorial authorities to work together to form Council Controlled Organisations to deliver water services (*Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025*).

Since the last report there have been significant developments:

- The Far North District Council joined Northland Waters Ltd
- There are three equal shareholders; Whangarei, Kaipara and Far North district councils
- The Shareholders appointed five directors; Murray Bain (Chair), Marlon Bridge, Michael Sage, David Rankin and Steve Couper. The previous advisory board.
- The Shareholders adopted the Shareholder Agreement and Constitution
- The Shareholders and Northland Waters adopted the Transition Agreement

Northland Waters (NW) is currently establishing itself under the direction of the Implementation Director (David Rankin) who will hold the role until a chief executive is in place. The current focus is on appointment of contracted staff to lead various workstreams through establishment and refine the detailed plan to enable a 1 July 2027 date for operating the water services.

MATAPAKI ME NGĀ KŌWHIRINGA / DISCUSSION AND NEXT STEPS**Foundation documents overview****Constitution**

The Constitution is the foundational governance document for Northland Waters Limited. It establishes the company's purpose, governance arrangements, powers, shareholder rights, reporting obligations, and Board structure. It gives effect to the requirements of the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and confirms Northland Waters as a publicly owned regional water services organisation.

While it does not establish specific Māori representation mechanisms, it explicitly recognises environmental and cultural stewardship and provides a framework through which Iwi and Hapū relationships can be embedded through future strategic and operational documents.

Shareholder Agreement

The Shareholders' Agreement sets out how the three shareholder councils will work together as owners of Northland Waters, how key decisions will be made, and how oversight of the company will occur. It establishes the arrangements between the councils rather than the relationship between the company and customers.

The governance framework anticipates that existing council relationships, commitments and engagement arrangements with Iwi, Hapū and Māori organisations will be carried forward into Northland Waters. The Shareholders' Agreement specifically enables shareholder councils to require Northland Waters, through the Statement of Expectations, to recognise and give effect to relevant council commitments and agreements with Iwi and Hapū, and to establish clear arrangements for ongoing Māori engagement.

Transition Agreement

The Transition Agreement establishes the framework, funding arrangements, governance oversight, support services and establishment activities required to prepare Northland Waters Limited to assume responsibility for water service delivery across Northland from 1 July 2027.

The Agreement recognises the need to maintain continuity of stakeholder, Iwi and Hapū relationships throughout the establishment period and includes mechanisms for monitoring progress through regular reporting to shareholder representatives.

It includes a draft Establishment Plan that sets out a high-level programme for establishment of the company. This plan will be updated during the establishment period.

Shareholders Representative Group

The Shareholders Representative Group was appointed at the first Shareholders meeting. It is the joint shareholder governance body for Northland Waters Limited, comprising elected representatives from Far North, Kaipara and Whangārei District Councils together with an independent chair.

The SRG provides collective shareholder oversight of Northland Waters, including monitoring establishment progress, appointing directors, overseeing development of the Statement of Expectations, and ensuring the new organisation is established in accordance with the objectives and expectations of the shareholder councils.

The SRG has an important role in shaping expectations regarding engagement with Iwi, Hapū and Māori organisations through the Statement of Expectations and other shareholder governance processes. The makeup of the SRG is as below.

Shareholder Representative Group (SRG)			
Council	Role Type	Position	Name
Far North District Council	Elected Member	Mayor	Moko Tepania
Far North District Council	Elected Member	Councillor	John Vujcich
Far North District Council	Alternate	Councillor	Kelly Stratford
Far North District Council	Alternate	Councillor	Arohanui Allen
Kaipara District Council	Elected Member	Mayor	Jonathan Larsen
Kaipara District Council	Elected Member	Councillor	Luke Canton
Kaipara District Council	Alternate	Deputy Mayor	Gordon Lambeth
Kaipara District Council	Alternate	Councillor	Snow Tane
Whangarei District Council	Elected Member	Mayor	Ken Couper
Whangarei District Council	Elected Member	Councillor	David Baldwin
Whangarei District Council	Alternate	Councillor	Paul Yovich
Whangarei District Council	Alternate	Councillor	Deb Harding
SRG	Independent	Chair	David Hawkins

Statement of Expectations (SoE)

Overview

The Statement of Expectations (SoE) is a statutory document required under the Local Government (Water Services) legislation. It is jointly prepared by the shareholder councils and sets out their collective expectations for Northland Waters Limited. It is intended to guide the overall strategic direction of the organisation and inform development of its Water Services Strategy.

The Shareholders Representative Group (SRG) leads the development process on behalf of the shareholder councils and only one SoE may be in place at any time. Northland Waters must be given a reasonable opportunity to comment on the draft before it is finalised.

- The SoE informs the preparation of the company's Water Services Strategy.
- The company **must** give effect to the contents of the Statement of Expectations when conducting its business and setting its Water Services Strategy.
- The Board must report against requirements contained within the SoE through statutory reporting processes.

Timing

Under the Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025, the first SoE must be adopted within six months of the incorporation of the water organisation. Northland Waters was incorporated on 11 May 2026, meaning the first SoE is required to be completed by approximately November 2026.

Māori Participation Perspective

The Shareholders' Agreement specifically provides for the SoE to contain expectations relating to:

- Relationships with Hapū, Iwi and Māori organisations.
- Community and stakeholder engagement.
- Recognition of obligations and commitments councils may already have with Iwi, Hapū or Māori organisations.
- Expectations regarding how Northland Waters works with Māori in delivering water services.

The SoE provides a significant opportunity for shareholder councils to articulate expectations regarding engagement with Iwi, Hapū and Māori organisations, and to ensure existing council commitments and relationships with Māori are recognised within the future operating framework of Northland Waters.

Next steps

Council have requested an agenda item at the 17 July 2026 Te Kahu o Taonui hui to gain input into the creation of the SoE.

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

There are no financial impacts directly associated with this report.

ĀPITIHINGA / ATTACHMENTS

Nil

7 KARAKIA WHAKAMUTUNGA / CLOSING PRAYER

8 TE KAPINGA HUI / MEETING CLOSE