

Name: Cr Rākena

Ward: Ngā Tai o Tokerau

Date: 4/9/23 – 27/9/23

Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting Topic
4/9/23	<p>Kaikohe Library & Civic Hub steering group meeting</p> <p>The Library & Civics Hub Committee remains steadfast in their pursuit of building a new library in Kaikohe. We're actively engaging with local hapū and fostering community involvement to chart a way forward, ensuring a brighter future for Te Kaikohekohe.</p>
4/9/23	<p>Kaitāia Airport Hui</p>
5/9/23	<p>Growth Planning and Placemaking Team Initial Work Programme Workshop</p>
7/9/23	<p>Te Huia - Executive Review Committee</p>
7/9/23	<p>Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Workshop</p> <p>The workshop proved instrumental in equipping Te Kuaka Committee members with comprehensive insights into upcoming kaupapa (issues) for council consideration. This informed understanding enhances our ability to make informed and effective decisions, promoting the best interests of our communities.</p> <p>This is also an opportunity for committee members to ask questions from FNDC staff and make changes to the recommendations if necessary. These recommendations will come to the official meeting and then on to the scheduled Council hui.</p>
7/9/23	<p>Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Committee Meeting</p> <p>A follow on from the above – committee members of Te Kuaka will signal their interest in the recommendations.</p>
11/9/23	<p>Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori commences.</p> <p>Māori Ward Councillors of the Far North District Council joined forces to celebrate Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori with short videos showcasing their commitment to enhancing te reo in Aotearoa. We extend our gratitude to Harley and the film crew for their invaluable support and dedication.</p> <p>Halamai te pai e hoa mā!</p>
12/9/23	<p>Kaikohe Wastewater Treatment Plant Workshop.</p> <p>A lengthy but very important hui with elected members, Ngā Hapū o Kaikohe, FNDC and NRC staff to go over the Kaikohe Wastewater Treatment Plant issues.</p>

	<p>The recommendations from this workshop was carried at our normal Council hui on 21/9/23.</p>
13/9/23	<p>Long Term Plan Workshop.</p> <p>This was workshop no.3 for staff and elected members to go over priorities and budgets for the Far North Districts Long Term Plan (LTP).</p>
14/9/23	<p>Te Kupenga Reo Speech Competition.</p> <p>I was invited to judge at the Te Kupenga Reo Speech Competition, hosted by Ngāhuia Harawira at Te Ahu Kaitāia. I was also joined by Cr Kleskovic and Cr Halkyard-Harawira.</p>
18/9/23	<p>Pōwhiri; Cadets & New Starters.</p> <p>Attending the pōwhiri for the new kaimahi and cadets at the Far North District Council was a heartwarming experience. The support from the Ministry of Social Development and other agencies in guiding the cadets through their training journey is truly commendable. It's a great collaborative effort for our community's growth.</p>
18/9/23	<p>Comms & Engagement Portfolio Meeting.</p> <p>This is my monthly catch up with Ken from the Comms & Engagement team.</p>
20/9/23	<p>Te Ao Māori - Incorporating Te Tiriti Local Government.</p> <p>Councillor Dinnie Moeahu of New Plymouth District Council delivered an inspiring and enlightening workshop on Incorporating Te Tiriti Local Government. It emphasised the importance of honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi in local governance, fostering collaboration and understanding among communities. An awesome and impactful session that encourages meaningful progress.</p>
21/9/23	<p>Council meeting.</p> <p>I am thrilled to report the successful implementation of our Te Reo Māori strategy and Tikanga Māori policy at the Far North District Council. These initiatives reflect our unwavering commitment to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and He Whakaputanga. They signify a pivotal step towards recognising the cultural and historical significance of Māori within our district. By promoting Te Reo Māori and incorporating Tikanga Māori into our operations, we honour our commitment to partnership and collaboration, fostering a stronger, more inclusive, and culturally rich community. This achievement underscores our dedication to a harmonious future, rooted in shared principles of equity and respect.</p>

	<p>Please see below my kōrero given in support of the recommendation tabled at this council meeting. Many thanks to Interpreter Kawiti Waetford for the translation – e mihi ana e kala!</p> <p><i>“I’d like to acknowledge council staff and the Te Hono team. I understand that Simone has gone, but is still a part of our Far North District Council whānau. They went to great efforts to research and collate this information regarding our Māori language, and the customs that pertain to this organisation which umbrellas all people in the Far North.</i></p> <p><i>I think back to the year 1972 when many groups, such as Ngā Tama Toa, gathered at Parliament to deliver the Māori Language Petition, an appropriate point perhaps from which we can move forward on this journey, to open up our Māori world and reaffirm the significance of our Māori language, within this context.</i></p> <p><i>Secondly, my thoughts go back to those who established Kōhanga Reo in the year 1982 - the first of which was opened in Pukeatua, Wainuiomata. Those of us who have anything to do with Kōhanga Reo know that they did not have funding. The funding they had, came from their own pockets. Though Māori in those times had less money, they had copious amounts of love for the Māori language.</i></p> <p><i>The year 1985 saw the establishment of Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi. Today, that school is one of many leading nationally, and internationally, in several areas. Other indigenous cultures of the world look to this school, and all kura kaupapa Māori, as seen at the recent conference held in Canada which many Māori attended to give assistance and support to the indigenous peoples of that land.</i></p> <p><i>Te Whakatupuranga Rua Mano established in 1975; the first tertiary institution of Te Whare Wānanga o Raukawa established in 1981. All of these initiatives forged a pathway for the return of our self-determination - our language and our customs - and this is only beginning for us all.</i></p> <p><i>We the Far North District Council stand as a leader and example for all other councils throughout Aotearoa; so that they can see how successful the Far North is.</i></p> <p><i>We hope that the Māori language will continue to grow, that the various strands that enable us to weave the cloak of vitality, to secure a safe future and our Māori world thrives.</i></p> <p><i>I finish with this proverb by Sir James Henare, that states, “The language is the essence of the Māori prestige (mana Māori)”.</i></p>
<p>25/9/23</p>	<p>Hapū & Iwi Aspirations for the Lite LTP.</p>

	<p>Ngā Tai o Tokerau sat with staff to go over some of the issues that our Māori communities are facing in terms of the LTP. As elected Māori Ward Councillors, we have a responsibility to carry forward issues that relate specifically to Māori.</p>
26/9/23	<p>Comms & Engagement hui ā-kanohi.</p> <p>My meeting with the Far North District Council's Comms & Engagement Team was enlightening. As an elected councillor, sitting ā-kanohi (face-to-face) with staff is vital for comprehending their roles' significance in our district. We discussed several critical aspects, including videography, community engagement, signage, website updates, te reo Māori messaging, enhanced live streaming, and te reo Māori translation devices. I was deeply impressed by the team's dedication and the scope of their workload, reaffirming their essential role in fostering transparent communication and community involvement within the Far North District. Our collaborative efforts will undoubtedly contribute to the betterment of our district.</p>
26/9/23	<p>Political Candidates Evening.</p> <p>Kōwhai Kelly and I attended the Political Debate in Kaikohe to actively engage in our democratic process and make informed decisions ahead of the upcoming election. It was an opportunity to hear directly from political leaders representing various parties, including National, Labour, The Māori Party, NZ First, The Green Party, Democracy NZ, and the NZ Loyal party.</p> <p>As Aotearoa citizens, it is crucial for us to vote because our voices matter. By participating in the electoral process, we contribute to shaping policies that directly impact our communities and advance our collective interests.</p> <p>In the 2019 general elections, the voter turnout in the Te Tai Tokerau electorate was approximately 62%, with 55.2% of eligible Māori voters participating. These statistics highlight the importance of Māori political engagement, emphasising that our votes can influence election outcomes and bring attention to issues that matter to our communities.</p> <p>Attending the political debate allowed us to assess the candidates' positions on critical matters such as healthcare, education, and land rights, helping us make informed decisions at the ballot box. Our participation was not only an exercise of our democratic rights but also an assertion of our commitment to our people and our future.</p>
27/9/23	<p>Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board.</p> <p>I managed to join via Teams to listen to the deputations delivered by members of the public. Heoi, ka nui āku mihi ki a Mema Filia e noho ana ki te tūru heamana, ā, e kaha pīkau ana i ngā kaupapa maha o Kaikohe me Hokianga – it definitely isn't an easy job.</p>

Community Matters

This section should be completed for matters arising within the community, which Council need to be aware of. It could be related to ongoing projects, requests, feedback etc.

Topic	Comment
Tā Patu Hōhepa	25/9/23 I tae atu a māo ko Cr Kleskovic ki te tuku i ngā mihi poroporoaki ki tō tātou rangatira a Tā Patu Hōhepa.
Ngā rori o West Coast Rd, Hokianga	28/9/23 I haere atu ahau ki Mitimiti ki te kite i ōku whanaunga, kātahi ka tuki atu ahau ki ngā rori kino rawa atu. Ka nui taku aroha ki ngā whānau o Hokianga e noho ana ki Matawera, Motutī, Panguru, Pawarenga, Waihou, Te Karaka, Te Rangi me Mitimiti!! Kua roa nei rātou e whanga ana ki ngā pūtea me ngā mahere whakatika huarahi. Ko te hiahia kia tae atu te tumu me ngā Kaikaunihera ki ēnei wāhi ki te kite i ngā rori nei. *tirohia ngā pikitia kei raro iho nei.
Te Tumu Hou	E mihi ana ki a Guy i tōna tūranga hou hei tumu mō Te Kaunihera o Te Hiku o Te Ika. Ko te tūmanako, kei ōna ringaringa te rongoā hei whaktikatika i ngā ngoikoretanga me te tautoko hoki i a mātou ngā Kaikaunihera.
Te Miromiro	Nā runga i te nui o āku mahi, kua heke iho ahau i taku tūranga hei mema ki te kōmiti o Te Miromiro.
Ngā hui kua mahue	There may be some meetings, information and conversations that I have left out due to the nature their privacy.







