

**Name: Cr Rākena**

**Ward: Ngā Tai o Tokerau**

**Date: 27/9/23 – 1/12/23**

**Meetings Attended**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Topic</b>
3/10/23	Te Huia – Executive Review Committee Hui.
3/10/23	Te Kuaka – Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee Hui.
4/10/23	Planning & Policy Work Programme Workshop
9/10/23	Te Koukou – Transport Committee Hui.
13/10/23	Wastewater Hui
13/10/23	<p>Hui on rating for Matauri X.</p> <p>I hui ētahi o ngā kaimahi me ngā kaikaunihera ki te whānau o Matauri X. He hui tēnei kia āta rongo ai mātou i ngā nawe a ngā whānau e hāngai ana ki te ngā rēti.</p> <p>Ki ahau nei, kua roa ēnei take e tāmi ana i te iwi Māori e ngana ana ki te whakatū i ngā whare ki runga i ō rātou ake whenua. Hoi, i te mutunga mai o tēnei hui, i whakaae mātou katoa ki te noho ā-huitopa ki te wānanga i ngā mahi hei whakatutuki mā mātou.</p>
16/10/23	<p>Te Hono Hui with Ngā Tai o Tokerau.</p> <p>Kīhai mātou i whakatutuki i tēnei hui.</p>
17/10/23	LTP workshop.
19/10/23	Council Hui
30/10/23	<p>Te Koukou – Transport Committee Hui</p> <p>I am writing to express my growing frustration and concern regarding the lack of information on the repair works for the Panguru and Motuti road slips. It has been over a year since the occurrence of the first slip, and the local communities are in dire need of answers from the Far North District Council (FNDC). The absence of transparent communication on this matter is not only causing distress among residents but is also hindering the socio-economic development of the region.</p> <p>As we approach the upcoming months, thousands of whānau are expected to return to the Hokianga, only to discover that their roads have deteriorated further, with no visible progress in terms of repairs. This situation is disheartening, and I, as a Councillor from the Hokianga, feel a sense of</p>

	<p>embarrassment for failing to provide essential information and solutions to the affected communities.</p> <p>The lack of action on the road slips is not merely an inconvenience; it poses severe implications for the health, economic growth, safety, and education of the Hokianga communities. The compromised road infrastructure impedes access to medical facilities, hinders economic activities, jeopardises the safety of residents, and disrupts the education of our tamariki.</p> <p>The hauora of our communities is at risk due to delayed access to medical services, and economic growth is stunted as businesses struggle to transport goods and services. The safety of residents is compromised as the condition of the roads worsens, and the education of our tamariki is affected as they face difficulties commuting to kura.</p> <p>In summary, the prolonged lack of information and action on the repair works for Panguru and Motuti road slips is not only causing disappointment among residents but is also detrimentally impacting the overall hauora and development of the Hokianga communities. Urgent attention and transparent communication from FNDC are crucial to address these issues and restore the confidence of the affected residents.</p>
30/10/23	<p>Te Hono – Monthly Hui</p> <p>Kīhai i whakatutuki tēnei hui.</p>
30/10/23	<p>Te Koukou – Transport Committee Workshop</p>
30/10/23	<p>Kaikohe Library &amp; Civic Hub steering group hui</p> <p>We are pleased to report that the Kaikohe Library &amp; Civic Hub steering group remains steadfast in its commitment to the development of the new library. Engaging in ongoing discussions with Te Rūnanga a Iwi o Ngāpuhi, local residents, and business owners has been instrumental in shaping our vision for this community hub.</p> <p>Our next crucial step involves reaching out to the Kaikohe and surrounding communities to gather valuable feedback on their aspirations for the new whare pukapuka - library. This inclusive approach aims to ensure that the facility reflects the diverse needs and desires of the community it serves.</p> <p>Communication channels will be established to facilitate an open dialogue, inviting residents to share their thoughts on what amenities, services, and cultural elements they wish to see incorporated into the new library. By actively seeking input from the community, we are not only encouraging a sense of ownership but also guaranteeing that the Kaikohe Library &amp; Civic Hub becomes a truly inclusive and responsive space.</p> <p>We are enthusiastic about this collaborative process and believe that the shared vision arising from community feedback will result in a vibrant and dynamic hub that meets the unique needs of Kaikohe and its surrounding communities.</p>

1/11/23	<p>Te Huia - Executive Review Committee Hui.</p> <p>The Te Huia - Executive Review Committee hui serves as a pivotal forum for Councillors to engage in a comprehensive assessment of key operational aspects within the Far North District Council (FNDC). The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), provided an invaluable opportunity for Councillors to receive detailed reports on FNDC's ongoing operations.</p> <p>The Hui emphasised open dialogue and transparent communication, allowing Councillors to address and discuss crucial kaupapa relevant to the Far North District. The CEO's report provided insights into the organisation's achievements, challenges, and strategic initiatives, fostering a deeper understanding among Councillors about the intricacies of FNDC's functions.</p> <p>This collaborative platform encouraged active participation, enabling Councillors to voice their perspectives on matters of significance. The hui not only facilitated a review of operational efficiency but also promoted an environment conducive to strategic planning and decision-making.</p> <p>As we move forward, the outcomes of this hui will contribute to the continued enhancement of FNDC's operations, ensuring that it remains accessible to the evolving needs and aspirations of the Far North communities.</p>
1/11/23	<p>Councillors catch up with the Kahika</p> <p>The recent Councillors' catch-up with the Kahika (Mayor) proved to be a critical and insightful hui, providing a platform for candid discussions on the issues that preoccupy our minds in the Far North District. Aptly titled <b>"What Keeps Us Up at Night,"</b> this meeting was a crucial opportunity for Councillors to share updates, seek support, and collectively address major issues affecting our community.</p> <p>The hui commenced with an open and supportive atmosphere, setting the tone for frank and constructive conversations. Councillors took turns providing updates on ongoing projects, challenges faced within their respective wards, and progress made on strategic initiatives. The Mayor, in turn, offered guidance and shared valuable insights to advance collaboration and cohesion among Councillors.</p> <p>The heart of the hui was the exploration of the issues that weigh heavily on each Councillor's mind. This open discussion allowed for a deeper understanding of the unique challenges faced by different areas within the Far North District. From infrastructure concerns to community well-being, the diverse array of issues highlighted the multifaceted nature of our responsibilities.</p> <p>Moreover, the hui served as a supportive platform for Councillors to seek assistance and solidarity in addressing complex problems. The collective wisdom and shared experiences of the group proved to be an invaluable resource in navigating the challenges faced by individual Councillors.</p>

3/11/23	<p>Northland Businesses Awards in Whangārei.</p> <p>I had the privilege of attending the Northland Businesses Awards in Whangārei, an event that showcased the exceptional achievements and innovation within our local business community. The evening was a celebration of entrepreneurial spirit and dedication to excellence, as businesses across Northland were recognised for their outstanding contributions. It was inspiring to witness the diversity of industries represented and to network with fellow attendees who share a passion for driving economic growth in our region. The awards not only served as a platform to acknowledge success but also adopted a sense of camaraderie and collaboration among businesses. This experience has reinforced my belief in the importance of supporting and celebrating the resilience and ingenuity of our local business community.</p>
6/11/23	<p>Citizenship Ceremony.</p> <p>I had the honour of attending the Far North District Council (FNDC) citizenship ceremony alongside Kahika Moko Tepania, Te Hono staff, and representatives from Democracy Services. It marked the largest ceremony during my elected tenure, welcoming over 70 individuals into Aotearoa citizenship. The event, made possible by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), highlighted the unique and special character of the Far North District. Witnessing diverse backgrounds converging to embrace New Zealand citizenship was a testament to the rich tapestry of our community. The ceremony not only celebrated the new citizens but also underscored the FNDC's commitment to fostering inclusivity and unity. It was a poignant reminder of the warmth and diversity that makes our district cool, special, and truly unique.</p>
7/11/23	<p>Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori Extraordinary Hui.</p> <p>The Te Kuaka Committee convened an extraordinary meeting due to the previous calendared hui lacking quorum. This special session provided an opportunity for members to hear community deputations and address crucial issues relevant to Māori concerns, promotion a dedicated platform for thoughtful discussion and resolution.</p>
7/11/23	<p>FNHL/FNDC Statement of Intent Workshop.</p>
10/11/23	<p>Matauri X Hui.</p> <p>This was a follow on from our first hui concerning the Matauri X whānau. It was also a time to check on where everyone was in terms of providing updated information for rating, mapping and rating policy updates.</p>
14/11/23	<p>LTP Workshop.</p> <p>Our recent Council Long Term Plan (LTP) workshop proved to be a focused and productive session. Councillors actively engaged in comprehensive discussions, reviewing key elements of the proposed plan. The workshop offered a valuable forum for exchanging ideas, addressing concerns, and refining strategic priorities. It is evident that the collaborative efforts during</p>

	this session will contribute significantly to shaping a robust and forward-looking LTP that aligns with the needs and aspirations of our community.
14/11/23	I-Sites Libraries Presentation by Marian Reed from LGNZ.
14/11/23	<p>Health &amp; Safety Workshop</p> <p>Health and safety workshops are essential for the Far North District Council as they ensure a secure work environment. By emphasizing best practices and compliance with safety protocols, these workshops mitigate risks and protect the well-being of employees and the community. Regular training promotes a culture of awareness, equipping staff with the knowledge to identify and address potential hazards. The commitment to health and safety not only safeguards individuals but also upholds the Council's responsibility to provide a secure and conducive workplace for optimal productivity and community service.</p>
15/11/23	<p>Whenua Māori Rating Hui</p> <p>The recent hui between myself, Councillor Halkyard-Harawira, Te Hono, and Te Kuaka staff was instrumental in addressing the critical issue of rating for whenua Māori within the Far North District Council (FNDC). The focus of our discussions centred around the implications of the Whenua Māori Act and the importance of understanding our internal processes to rectify persistent challenges with inaccuracies in rating for whenua Māori and papakāinga.</p> <p>The Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 holds significant relevance as it establishes a legal framework for the administration and governance of Māori land. Acknowledging the nuances and intricacies of the past legislation is imperative in ensuring fair and accurate rating assessments. The Act not only outlines the rights and responsibilities associated with Māori land but also underlines the need for transparency and consultation in decision-making processes.</p> <p>Our hui underscored the critical nature of FNDC staff being well-versed in the intricacies of the Local Government (Rating of Whenua Māori) Amendment Act 2021 to prevent the recurrence of inaccuracies in rating, which have been a persistent issue. Understanding our internal processes is integral in aligning our practices with the legal requirements and cultural considerations associated with Māori land.</p> <p>The changes are part of the Government's wider commitment to supporting whānau and regional development through whenua by;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. reducing the barriers for owners of Māori freehold land who want to use, occupy, build houses on and develop their whenua, particularly for those who have rates arrears.</li> <li>2. stimulating regional development – the value of fully utilising and developing Māori land could result in benefits of up to \$1.4 to \$2 billion over 40 years.</li> <li>3. providing greater consistency, equity and clarity around the rating of Māori land for the benefit of Māori landowners and local authorities.</li> </ol>

*Wholly unused land to be non-rateable:*

**Before:** Owners of wholly unused Māori land blocks are legally obliged to pay rates.

**After:** Historic rate arrears on unused Māori land will be automatically removed and no further rates will be charged on wholly unused land blocks.

**Benefits:** This clears the way for Māori landowners to develop unused Māori land and pay rates once this land comes into productive use. It also ensures unused Māori land does not accumulate rates arrears in the future.

**Came into effect 1 July 2021**

*Ability to write-off arrears*

**Before:**

Local authorities do not have the ability to write-off rates that were considered to be unrecoverable.

**After:**

Local authorities must write off outstanding rates on any land that they consider unrecoverable, including rates debt inherited from deceased owners.

**Benefits:**

This change alleviates one of the major barriers to Māori landowners engaging, using and developing land which currently has rates owing. It also reduces the administrative costs for local authorities who may be trying to collect unrecoverable rates.

*Rates remission for Māori freehold land under development*

The remission of rates involves reducing the amount owing or waiving the collection of rates altogether.

**Before:**

Local authorities across the country take different approaches to the remission of rates on whenua Māori. While some local authorities remit or postpone rates payments on unused land, others do not.

**After:** Local authorities are now able to remit rates on Māori land in order to encourage development, regardless of what their current policy states.

**Benefits:**

All Māori landowners will be able to apply for rates remission while their land is under development and if the applications is successful, it will provide some rates relief for Māori landowners while they bring their land into greater use. This will encourage local authorities to consider the mutual benefits to Māori landowners and the local community of developing Māori land in the region.

<https://www.tpk.govt.nz/docs/tpk-rating-maori-land-2021.pdf>

**Enabling Housing Development on Māori Freehold Land**

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

	<p><b>Policy Objective:</b> To provide a remission for Māori landowners to enable the development of housing opportunities on Māori Freehold Land.</p> <p><b>Scope:</b> This policy applies to Māori Freehold Land only and can be applied to any number of dwellings on a site. It will not apply to service connections, which will remain payable if the property is connected to Council reticulation.</p> <p><b>Policy Statement:</b> Council will remit rates on Māori Freehold Land for the purposes of enabling housing development.</p> <p><b>Conditions and Criteria:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Council will remit rates under this policy on an eight year sliding scale as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Years 1 - 3 - 100% remitted</li> <li>• Years 4 - 5- 75% remitted •</li> <li>Year 6 - 50% remitted</li> <li>• Year 7 - 25% remitted</li> <li>• Year 8 - 0% remitted</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p><i>Remission will apply from 1 July in the year of application.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The land, or portion of the land, for which relief is sought must be considered suitable for development and apply and be granted a resource consent.</li> <li>3. Applications must apply for and be granted a building consent and a code of compliance certificate upon completion</li> <li>4. Notification of the above consents and certifications must be made to the Council rates team to ensure the continuation of the remission.</li> <li>5. A meeting with Council staff will be required to determine any other necessary documentation.</li> <li>6. Key considerations by Council will include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Suitable professional advice has been obtained.</li> <li>b. Appropriate financial arrangements for the development of the land have been made.</li> </ol> </li> <li>7. Each application will be submitted to Council for review and assessment. The decision of Council to approve or not approve is final.</li> <li>8. If the development on which the remission is based does not proceed or is unable to meet the requirements to be compliant with the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Building Act 2004, the remission will cease at the end of the rating year in which this is identified.</li> </ol> <p><a href="https://www.fndc.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/2/objectivedocuments/policy-and-planning-pol/policies/council-external-policies/rating-relief-policies-2021-31.pdf">https://www.fndc.govt.nz/files/assets/public/v/2/objectivedocuments/policy-and-planning-pol/policies/council-external-policies/rating-relief-policies-2021-31.pdf</a></p>
15/11/23	Hui with Waka Kotahi – Thomas Ōtene, Hēmi Clendon and Te Hono staff regarding the Right of Way (ROW) at Mangamuka.
16/11/23	Hui with Scott May, planners, Te Hono and Community Board Member Tanya Filia. This hui was in held to address some of the miscommunication between FNDC and mana whenua of the Rāwene community.

16/11/23	Council Hui.
20/11/23	<p>Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Zone 1 hui</p> <p>Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) is a significant advocacy and support organization representing the interests of New Zealand's local authorities. Established in 1989, LGNZ serves as a unifying force for the country's 78 local councils, advocating for effective local governance and promoting sustainable development. LGNZ plays a crucial role in facilitating collaboration and knowledge-sharing among councils, fostering best practices, and influencing national policies that impact local communities. With a commitment to enhancing the well-being of New Zealanders, LGNZ engages in policy development, research, and advocacy, contributing to the overall strength and resilience of the nation's local government sector.</p>
20/11/23	Northland Forward Together Workshop
22/11/23	<p>Hui with Te Hono</p> <p>Māori Ward Councillors prioritize monthly hui (meetings) with Te Hono staff in Council for cultural connection, collaboration, and informed decision-making. These gatherings cultivate a deeper understanding of Māori perspectives, strengthen relationships with the community, and ensure effective representation. The hui serve as a vital platform for dialogue, enabling better integration of Māori values into local governance.</p>
23/11/23	<p>Kaikohe Library &amp; Civic Hub Steering Group Meeting</p> <p>Happy to report that comms have been put out to the community to gather ideas on what they would like to see in and around our proposed library space.</p>
27/11/23	Te Raupō Rāwene WWTP hui with Te Mauri o Te Wai, Ngāti kaharau, Ngāti Hau and Hokianga communities.
28/11/23	<p>Te Huia - Executive Review Committee Hui.</p> <p>The Te Huia - Executive Review Committee hui serves as a pivotal forum for Councillors to engage in a comprehensive assessment of key operational aspects within the Far North District Council (FNDC). The Chief Executive Officer (CEO), provided an invaluable opportunity for Councillors to receive detailed reports on FNDC's ongoing operations.</p> <p>The Hui emphasised open dialogue and transparent communication, allowing Councillors to address and discuss crucial kaupapa relevant to the Far North District. The CEO's report provided insights into the organisation's achievements, challenges, and strategic initiatives, fostering a deeper understanding among Councillors about the intricacies of FNDC's functions.</p> <p>This collaborative platform encouraged active participation, enabling Councillors to voice their perspectives on matters of significance. The hui not only facilitated a review of operational efficiency but also promoted an environment conducive to strategic planning and decision-making.</p>



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28/11/23	Te Kuaka Hui – Te Ao Māori Committee
30/11/23	Mangamuka Gorge Site Visit
1/12/23	MoU Hui with Te Roroa – Snow Tane

### **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.*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comment</b>
FNDC Kaimahi back in the office	<p>The return of Far North District Council (FNDC) staff to the office marks a significant and positive development, signalling a return to normalcy in our work environment. This shift is anticipated to have multifaceted benefits, contributing to increased productivity, heightened camaraderie among colleagues, clearer communications, enhanced overall well-being, and the successful completion of targeted outcomes.</p> <p>Having staff back in the office is expected to cultivate a more collaborative and dynamic work atmosphere. The proximity and face-to-face interactions will undoubtedly facilitate swift and clear communication, minimizing the potential for misunderstandings that can arise in remote work setups. The spontaneous exchange of ideas and the ability to seek immediate feedback will nurture a more efficient decision-making process.</p> <p>Research from world-leading universities supports the notion that working in an office setting is more effective than remote work. Studies indicate that physical proximity enhances team cohesion and creativity, encourages a conducive environment for idea generation and problem-solving. Moreover, the structured routine of office work has been linked to improved mental well-being and reduced feelings of isolation.</p> <p>The return to the office is poised to boost overall staff well-being, as the social interactions and shared experiences contribute to a positive workplace culture. The renewed sense of connection and collaboration is anticipated to translate into increased job satisfaction and a more motivated workforce.</p> <p>Importantly, the return to the office aligns with FNDC's commitment to providing outstanding services to our district's communities. The in-person collaboration will ensure that our teams are well-positioned to address challenges promptly and efficiently, offering a more responsive and personalised approach to community needs.</p> <p>In closing, I eagerly anticipate witnessing the positive impact of this return to the office on the completion rates of work tasks over the next 6 and 12 months. The inherent advantages of in-office work, supported by research findings, affirm the decision to prioritize a return to the workplace as a strategic move</p>

	<p>towards achieving our organizational goals and serving our communities more effectively.</p>
Tō mātou Tumu	<p>The impact of CEO Guy Holroyd's tenure at the Far North District Council (FNDC) has been both significant and invigorating. Since assuming his role, Mr. Holroyd has exemplified a commitment to transparency and honesty, promoting an atmosphere of openness and trust with Councillors. His leadership style has not only prioritised accountability within the staff but also recognised the paramount importance of the overall hauora, or well-being, of our team.</p> <p>Mr. Holroyd's commitment to transparency has been evident from the outset, setting a tone that encourages open communication and collaborative problem-solving. This approach has played a pivotal role in advancing a culture of trust and cooperation among Councillors and staff alike. By holding regular and regular discussions, Mr. Holroyd has ensured that everyone is well-informed and aligned with the strategic direction of the organisation.</p> <p>His emphasis on staff accountability goes hand-in-hand with a genuine concern for the hauora of our team. Mr. Holroyd acknowledges that a positive and healthy workplace culture directly contributes to increased productivity and job satisfaction. This dual focus on accountability and well-being has not only enhanced operational efficiency but has also created an environment where individuals feel valued and supported.</p> <p>In the spirit of holistic leadership, Mr. Holroyd's commitment to the hauora of our staff aligns with the Māori concept of well-being, acknowledging the interconnectedness of physical, mental, spiritual, and social health – Te Whare Tapawhā.</p> <p>As we navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, Mr. Holroyd's leadership inspires a unified sense of purpose. In the words of the whakataukī, "kia kotahi tō tātou hoe ki uta" – let our paddles move in unison towards the shore. This metaphor reflects the collaborative spirit Mr. Holroyd has cultivated within FNDC, emphasising the importance of collective effort and shared goals as we navigate the journey ahead.</p>
Ngā Tai o Tokerau	<p>The presence of Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward Councillors within the Far North District Council (FNDC) during this triennium has been immensely effective and positive, heralding a new era of cultural understanding, collaboration, and representation. The strong team, consisting of Councillors Halkyard-Harawira, Kapa, and Kleskovic, brings a wealth of knowledge and a deep understanding of te reo, Mātauranga Māori, and the ability to navigate seamlessly between Te Ao Māori and Te Ao Pākehā.</p> <p>The roles of these Māori Ward Councillors have proven integral in attending hui and making decisions that impact all residents of the Far North District. Notably, they have prioritised being 100% available to Māori constituents, ensuring that the concerns and aspirations of the community are effectively represented within the Council.</p> <p>The commitment of our Māori Ward Councillors extends beyond the Council chambers. They have attended hui addressing issues ranging from inaccurate ratings on whenua Māori to papakāinga builds, whenua occupations, hui mate, hui ora, and much more. Their active involvement demonstrates a dedication to addressing the specific challenges and opportunities facing Māori communities within the Far North.</p> <p>We extend our gratitude to the previous Councillors who voted in favour of implementing Māori Wards, recognising the historical significance of this</p>

<p>A mihi to my kaitautoko</p>	<p>decision. Special acknowledgment goes to Kahika Moko Tepania for his leadership in championing this crucial kaupapa.</p> <p>While much has been achieved, the journey is ongoing. The support of marae, hapū, and iwi has been instrumental in shaping the positive impact of Māori Ward Councillors within FNDC. Their collaborative approach, guided by the whakatauhā "tū kotahi, kōkiri tahi" (stand in unity, move as one), reflects the spirit of unity that propels us forward.</p> <p>Moving forward, there is acknowledgment that much more work remains. The commitment of Ngā Tai o Tokerau Māori Ward Councillors, coupled with the support of the broader community, positions FNDC for continued progress in creating a more inclusive, culturally responsive, and representative local government.</p> <p>In conclusion, the presence of Māori Ward Councillors has proven transformative, enhancing cultural awareness, advancing collaboration, and ensuring the voices of Māori constituents are not only heard but actively considered in decision-making processes. As we continue, we do so in unity, appreciating the strength that comes from standing and moving as one.</p> <p>Kia ora koutou katoa,</p> <p>As I reflect on the completion of my first year as a Councillor, I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support that has surrounded me throughout this journey. A heartfelt thank you goes out to each person who has played a role in guiding and supporting me along the way.</p> <p>Special acknowledgment to Kahika Moko Tepania and Kōwhai Stratford, whose wisdom and experience have been invaluable in helping me navigate the intricacies of local government. I extend my sincere appreciation to my fellow Councillors for their guidance and collaborative spirit.</p> <p>To the diligent and helpful staff who consistently respond and assist, thank you for your dedication and commitment to our communities.</p> <p>A very special and honourable mention goes to my immediate whānau, who have been my taituarā (backbone) since day one. To my māmā, pāpā, karani, in-laws, siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, tamariki, and close friends – your unwavering support has been the driving force behind my journey as a Councillor. A profound thanks to my partner, whose encouragement and understanding have been the cornerstone of my resilience and success.</p> <p>As the year ends, I eagerly anticipate a sweet Raumatī (summer) holiday with my whānau, cherishing moments of connection and relaxation.</p> <p>In the spirit of the season, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and a reminder to be safe on the roads, around the water, and to stay sun smart. I am turning my emails off until mid-Feb for a well-deserved break hahahaha.</p> <p>Once again, thank you to each and every one of you for being a part of this incredible journey. Your support has made this first year as a Councillor a truly enriching experience.</p> <p>E kole ēnei mihi e mimiti and make sure you buy heaps of Taiao gears for all your thousands of whanaunga</p>
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