

4 April 2018

LTP 2018-2028 submissions
Far North District Council
Private Bag 752
Kaikohe 0440

Email: submissions@fndc.govt.nz

LONG TERM PLAN 2018-2028 SUBMISSION

We enclose the Northland Regional Council's submission on your Long Term Plan 2018-2028 proposals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Officers would be happy to clarify any matter or provide any other assistance that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely



Bill Shepherd
Chairman



Malcolm Nicolson
Chief Executive Officer

Ref: A1045591

Submission

To: LTP 2018-2028 submissions
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Kaikohe 0440

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By: Northland Regional Council

1. The Northland Regional Council (NRC) wishes to thank the Far North District Council (FNDC) for the opportunity to make this submission on their draft Long Term Plan 2018-2028.
2. NRC acknowledges that this LTP outlines historic issues and bold proposals.
3. The consultation document, *Creating Great Places: He Ara Tāmata* does a good job of presenting those issues and the options to Far North communities. NRC supports and encourages the overall focus on core infrastructure.
4. NRC has also taken this opportunity to highlight several matters for consideration by FNDC, which are not specifically included within the consultation document.
5. NRC wishes to speak in support of this submission at hearings in either Kaikohe or Kerikeri.

Matters raised in Consultation Document and Supporting Documents

Transport

The NRC fully supports all efforts by FNDC to upgrade and strengthen roads, and improve the unsealed network, particularly in its mitigation of dust pollution.

NRC supports the promotion of alternatives to private motor vehicles. NRC supports:

- the proposed option (full replacement alongside) for a permanent cycle trail from Opuā to Taumarere; and
- the proposed option (long game option) for extending the Twin Coast Cycle Trail. The Trail is an important asset for the district and region that should continue to be developed.

In addition to the capital costs for the proposed improvements to the trail, we highlight the importance of ensuring adequate funding is available for the delivery of the projects and that adequate funding is set aside for the maintenance of the cycle trails. We also encourage you to ensure sufficient resource is allocated to provide

associated infrastructure to support the trails (e.g. public toilets and rubbish disposal).

We support FNDC's continued collaboration with Northland Inc and other councils on the Draft Northland Regional Walking and Cycling Strategy, and in applications to the Provincial Growth Fund.

We also take this opportunity to encourage FNDC to:

- focus on road safety for all users, including motorists, cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders
- make funding available for the provision of public passenger transport infrastructure and Total Mobility services.

Potable Water Supply

NRC notes that Far North town water supplies are treated. We encourage FNDC to ensure it has sufficient resource to ensure the integrity of those water supplies.

NRC supports implementation of a safer water supply for the residents of Te Kao.

NRC congratulates FNDC in obtaining the Ministry of Health subsidy for the Omanaia water supply and supports the construction of the new water treatment plant and raw water storage to reduce the demand on Petaka Stream.

NRC also supports the improvement in drought resilience of the Ōmāpere-Opononi water supply scheme and development of the Water Demand Management Plan for the scheme.

NRC is concerned with FNDC's delay in acting on the 'Sweetwaters' consent. A more resilient water supply for Kaitāia has been needed for many years, and further delays make Kaitāia more vulnerable to water shortages during dry weather periods, which are predicted to get worse with climate change. NRC strongly encourages FNDC to address this issue as a matter of high priority.

Wastewater

NRC strongly supports the proposed Kaitāia upgrade and Kerikeri expansion of sewage reticulation systems.

The NRC is increasingly concerned that FNDC has not resolved the ongoing non-compliance of the Paihia wastewater treatment system. NRC strongly encourages FNDC to address this issue as a matter of high priority.

NRC notes that resource consenting requirements for the Taipa sewerage scheme are still not resolved due to ongoing consultation processes being run by FNDC. However, the consultation process has taken an unacceptable period of time to complete. If an acceptable resolution to this situation is not achieved urgently, the NRC may have no option but to proceed to hear and make a decision on the replacement consent for the scheme.

Stormwater

NRC supports FNDC's ongoing maintenance and upgrades of the stormwater network, and its plans to improve information and develop a stormwater strategy.

Note that the Proposed Regional Plan identifies that stormwater management plans will be required in Kaitaia, Kaikohe, Kerikeri and Paihia.

NRC takes this opportunity to request that FNDC allocates funds to armour roadside drains to prevent erosion and sediment entering waterways, and reduce erosion from stormwater diversions off roads onto private property.

NRC is concerned about plastics entering coastal waters by way of stormwater systems. We ask that FNDC consider incorporating a catchment or filter system into the stormwater network, to prevent plastic pollution of coastal waters.

District Facilities

In the Far North district, Te Hiku Sports Hub and Sportsville Kaikohe have been identified as potentially suitable for support from funds collected through NRC's Regional Sporting Facilities Rate. Only sports facilities identified in the Northland Sports Facilities Plan, and financially supported by the relevant district council, will be considered for funding with this rate.

NRC supports the proposed options for the toilets and showers in the Hundertwasser Centre and the creation of a Hundertwasser Square.

While supportive of these initiatives, NRC wishes to ensure spending on projects (such as the Kaikohe Hub) does not compromise FNDC's ability to fund core potable water, wastewater and storm water infrastructure projects.

Funding review

NRC strongly supports FNDC's plan to conduct a comprehensive review of all funding mechanisms, including rates within the next two years.

Economic development

NRC encourages a collaborative approach to economic development across Northland. We support FNDC's proposed approach to greater involvement regionally, including through the Northland | Forward Together, the Northland Transportation Alliance, and Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan.

NRC wishes to again highlight that there are significant advantages for the Far North district, and the wider region, of progressing a new delivery model where the regions respective council's economic development activities are provided through a jointly owned Council Controlled Organisation (CCO). In the interim, NRC encourages FNDC to engage with and financially support Northland Inc, and to consider its proposals for funding of placemaking projects, community infrastructure, and events and festivals in the regional context.

Other matters for consideration

Climate change

NRC takes this opportunity to request that FNDC factors climate change into its LTP, particularly adaptive planning for infrastructure and communities that are vulnerable to climate change effects (coastal, flood plains, and those with water scarcity issues etc.). We encourage FNDC to work together with NRC, and ensure sufficient staff resource is available to engage in this process.

Flood control

NRC acknowledges the FNDC planning and proposed budget for flood control mitigation works in the Panguru and Matangirau catchments, and the willingness of

FNDC to work collaboratively with NRC to mitigate the effects of flooding on these communities. We note that the proposed works for these areas as outlined by FNDC may not be the most appropriate approach to mitigate the flooding issues currently experienced by these communities, particularly in the Matangirau catchment. We intend to continue this collaboration, and look forward to ensuring that the works are designed and delivered to mitigate flood risk to the highest possible standard in the circumstances that prevail.

NRC has recently received feedback from the community in the Otiria and Moerewa area that the stormwater and drainage network is currently inadequate to deal with high intensity rainfall events. We welcome collaboration with FNDC on these issues, to ensure that any stormwater and drainage solutions are coordinated with NRCs proposed flood protection works.

NRC also encourages FNDC to continue collaboration with other councils through the Four Waters group.

Biosecurity

We ask that FNDC supports NRC's marine biosecurity standards. We do not expect FNDC or its subsidiaries to engage NRC in legal action when we collectively aspire for Northland to have a thriving coastal environment that is not impacted by introduced marine pests.

NRC is proposing an increase in pest management activity to move toward an aspirational vision of a 'pest free Northland', and asks that FNDC supports NRC in this, including that FNDC ensure biosecurity hygiene standards are maintained, and provision is put in place to protect Kauri on public land. This applies to any land owned by FNDC with Kauri, and in respect to contractors that are working for FNDC (i.e. earthmoving), which could be a vector to spreading Kauri dieback disease. Public health and water safety

Cyanobacteria and algal blooms are expected to become more frequent. These affect public water supply and recreational use of water, and some blooms will have negative health impacts. Sufficient resource has not always been available to advise the public when these blooms occur (e.g. prompt installation of signage). NRC asks that FNDC address this in its public health and safety role.

One Billion Trees programme

NRC encourages FNDC to identify areas that may be suitable for tree planting, and to work with NRC to make an application to the Provincial Growth Fund for these plantings.

Northland | Forward Together

NRC recognises Northland | Forward Together and the benefits of investigating joint services across the region. We encourage FNDC to support this inter-council initiative and the specific projects and opportunities that are being progressed through it.

Mangonui boardwalk

NRC notes that FNDC has still not resolved the long outstanding issue of constructing a safety barrier on the Mangonui boardwalk. If not resolved urgently,

the NRC may have no option other than to proceed with formal enforcement action to ensure an appropriate safety barrier is constructed.

Cycle trails

NRC would be supportive of any applications made by FNDC to central government, for funding facilities for cycle trails.



Bill Shepherd
Chairman



Malcolm Nicolson
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 4 April 2018

On behalf of Northland Regional Council
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