

AGENDA

Council
Tuesday 27 February 2024 at 10.15am

Northland Regional Council Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Mahinga Innovation Hub, 5449A State Highway 12, Kaikohe.
on Tuesday 27 February 2024, commencing at 10.15am

Recommendations contained in the council agenda are NOT council decisions. Please refer to council minutes for resolutions.

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<i>Key Health and Safety points to note:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the fire alarm goes off – exit down the stairwell to the assembly point which is the visitor carpark.• Earthquakes – drop, cover and hold• Visitors please make sure you have signed in at reception, and that you sign out when you leave. Please wear your name sticker.• The toilets are on the opposite side of the stairwell.• Please adhere to the recommended Covid alert guidance that applies.	
<i>Please note that the public section of this meeting will be recorded and livestreamed via Youtube to the NRC website. As a participant in the meeting or a member of the public gallery your presence may be recorded. By remaining present at the meeting it is understood your consent is given if your image or voice is broadcast.</i>	
<i>Opinions expressed or statements made by individual persons during a meeting are not the opinions or statements of the Northland Regional Council. Council accepts no liability for any opinions or statements made during a meeting.</i>	
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<p>ACC - Accident Compensation Corporation</p> <p>ALGIM - Association of Local Government Information Management</p> <p>AMA - Aquaculture Management Area</p> <p>AMP - Asset Management Plan/Activity Management Plan</p> <p>AP - Annual Plan</p> <p>BOI - Bay of Islands</p> <p>BOPRC - Bay of Plenty Regional Council</p> <p>CAPEX - Capital Expenditure (budget to purchase assets)</p> <p>CBEC - Community, Business and Environment Centre</p> <p>CCO - Council Controlled Organisation</p> <p>CCTO - Council Controlled Trading Organisation</p> <p>CDEM - Civil Defence Emergency Management</p> <p>CEEF - Chief Executives Environment Forum</p> <p>CEG - Co-ordinating Executive Group</p> <p>CEO - Chief Executive Officer</p> <p>CIMS - Co-ordinated Incident Management System (emergency management structure)</p> <p>CMA - Coastal Marine Area</p> <p>CPCA - Community Pest Control Areas</p> <p>CRI - Crown Research Institute</p> <p>DHB - District Health Board</p> <p>DOC - Department of Conservation</p> <p>DP - District Plan</p> <p>E350 - Extension 350 programme</p> <p>ECA - Environmental Curriculum Award</p> <p>ECAN - Environment Canterbury</p> <p>EECA - Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority</p> <p>EF - Environment Fund</p> <p>EMA - Employers and Manufacturers Association</p> <p>EOC - Emergency Operations Centre</p> <p>EPA - Environmental Protection Authority</p> <p>ETS - Emissions Trading Scheme</p> <p>FDE - Farm Dairy Effluent</p> <p>FNDC - Far North District Council</p> <p>FNHL - Far North Holdings Limited</p> <p>FPP - First Past the Post</p> <p>GE - Genetic Engineering</p> <p>GIS - Geographic Information System</p> <p>GMO - Genetically Modified Organism</p> <p>HBRC - Hawke's Bay Regional Council</p> <p>Horizons - Brand name of Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council</p> <p>HR - Human Resources</p> <p>HSNO - Hazardous Substances & New Organisms Act</p> <p>HSWA - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015</p> <p>IHEMP - Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plan</p> <p>ILGACE - Iwi and Local Government Chief Executives Forum</p> <p>IPPC - Invited Private Plan Change</p> <p>IRIS - Integrated Regional Information System</p> <p>KDC - Kaipara District Council</p> <p>KPI - Key Performance Indicator</p> <p>LAWA - Land, Air, Water Aotearoa</p> <p>LEA - Local Electoral Act 2001</p> <p>LGA - Local Government Act 2002</p> <p>LGNZ - Local Government New Zealand</p> <p>LGOIMA - Local Government Official Information & Meetings Act 1987</p> <p>LIDAR - Light detection and ranging</p> <p>LTI - Long time injury</p> <p>LTP - Long Term Plan</p> <p>MBIE - Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment</p> <p>MFE - Ministry for the Environment</p> <p>MFL - Māori Freehold Land</p> <p>MHWS - Mean High Water Springs</p> <p>MMH - Marsden Maritime Holdings Limited</p> <p>MNZ - Maritime New Zealand</p> <p>MOH - Ministry of Health</p> <p>MOT - Ministry of Transport</p> <p>MPI - Ministry for Primary Industries</p>	<p>MSD - Ministry of Social Development</p> <p>MTAG - Māori Technical Advisory Group (a subgroup of TTMAC)</p> <p>NCCMC - National Crisis Management Centre</p> <p>NDHB - Northland District Health Board</p> <p>NEMA - National Emergency Management Agency</p> <p>NES - National Environmental Standards</p> <p>NFT - Northland Forward Together</p> <p>NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation</p> <p>NIF - Northland Intersectoral Forum</p> <p>NINC - Northland Inc. Limited</p> <p>NIWA - National Institute of Water and Atmosphere</p> <p>NORTEG - Northland Technical Advisory Group</p> <p>NPS - National Policy Statement</p> <p>NPS-FM - National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management</p> <p>NZCPS - New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement</p> <p>NZTA - Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency</p> <p>NZTE - New Zealand Trade and Enterprise</p> <p>NZWWA - New Zealand Water and Wastes Association</p> <p>OFI - Opportunity for Improvement</p> <p>OPEX - Operating Expenditures</p> <p>OSH - Occupational Safety & Health</p> <p>OTS - Office of Treaty Settlements</p> <p>PCBU - Person Conducting Business or Undertaking</p> <p>PGF - Provincial Growth Fund</p> <p>PPE - Personal Protective Equipment</p> <p>RAP - Response Action Plan</p> <p>RBI - Regional Broadband Initiative</p> <p>RFI - Request for Information</p> <p>RFP - Request for Proposal</p> <p>RLTP - Regional Land Transport Plan</p> <p>RMA - Resource Management Act 1991</p> <p>RMG - Resource Managers Group (Regional Councils)</p> <p>RMZ - Riparian Management Zone</p> <p>ROI - Return on Investment</p> <p>RP - Regional Plan</p> <p>RPMP - Regional Pest Management Plan</p> <p>RPMS - Regional Pest Management Strategy</p> <p>RPS - Regional Policy Statement</p> <p>RPTP - Regional Public Transport Plan</p> <p>RRSAP - Regional Road Safety Action Plan</p> <p>RSG - Regional Sector Group</p> <p>RSHL - Regional Software Holdings Ltd</p> <p>RTC - Regional Transport Committee</p> <p>RTO - Regional Tourism Organisation</p> <p>SIG - Special Interest Group</p> <p>SIPO - Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives</p> <p>SITREP - Situation Report</p> <p>SOE - State of Environment (or) State Owned Enterprise</p> <p>SOI - Statement of Intent</p> <p>STV - Single Transferable Vote</p> <p>TAG - Technical Advisory Group</p> <p>TKoT - Te Kahu o Taonui</p> <p>Tier 1 - Site level plan or response for an oil spill</p> <p>Tier 2 - Regional level plan or response to an oil spill</p> <p>Tier 3 - National level plan or response to an oil spill</p> <p>TLA - Territorial Local Authority – City & District Councils</p> <p>TON - Top of the North (regions)</p> <p>TTMAC - Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party</p> <p>TTNEAP - Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan</p> <p>TMP - Treasury Management Plan</p> <p>TOR - Terms of Reference</p> <p>TPK - Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development)</p> <p>TWWAG - Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group</p> <p>UNISA - Upper North Island Strategic Alliance</p> <p>WDC - Whangarei District Council</p> <p>WRC - Waikato Regional Council</p> <p>WSMP - Workplace Safety Management Practices</p>
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Tauāki ā roto

Tēnei au
Tēnei mātou
He kaikaunihera
He kawenga i ngā whakataunga
I ngā tikanga
Ki uta, ki tai
Kia rewa ai ngā iwi katoa o
Te Taitokerau

Haumie hui e
TĀIKI E!

Here I am
Here we are
Your councillors
The bearers of sound
decision making power
Reaching inland and coastal
To uplift all peoples of
Northland

Bring forth unity
Tis Done!

TITLE: Confirmation of Minutes - 12 December 2023 and 14 February 2024

From: Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin


Authorised by: Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 19 February 2024

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 12 December 2023 and the extraordinary council meeting held on 14 February 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed council meeting minutes - 12 December 2023. [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Unconfirmed extraordinary council meeting minutes - 14 February 2024 [↓](#) 

Council Meeting
12 December 2023

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 12 December 2023, commencing at 10.15am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford

Councillors:

John Blackwell

Joe Carr

Jack Craw

Peter-Lucas Jones (*Via audio-visual link. Left at 12.19pm prior to business with the public excluded*)

Amy Macdonald

Marty Robinson

Tui Shortland (*Via audio-visual link. Left 11.47am*)

Rick Stolwerk

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Financial Advisor (*Via audio-visual link*)

Independent Audit and Risk Advisor

Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services

Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services

Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services

Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity

Group Manager - Community Resilience

Human Resources Manager

Translator

Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Finance Manager

Policy and Planning Manager

Natural Resources Monitoring Manager

Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager

Land Programme Manager (*Via audio-visual link*)

Management Accountant

Financial Accountant

Māori Cultural Technical

Policy Specialist

Nursery Manager and Soil Conservation Specialist

Māori Engagement and Governance Support Administration

Governance Specialist

Council Meeting
12 December 2023

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)

It was advised that councillors should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Receipt of Supplementary Item: Financial Report to 30 November 2023 (Item 4.0A)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

That as permitted under section 46A(7) of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 the following supplementary item be received:

- Item 6.1: Financial Report to 30 November 2023.

Carried

Confirmation of Minutes - 28 November 2023 (Item 5.1)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 28 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Robinson/Craw)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The councillor remuneration package and the merging of the Audit and Risk Subcommittee/Investment and Property Subcommittee to be workshopped with council in the New Year (including options and the pros/cons of each) with a view to a formal decision being made on both matters at the February council meeting.

Council Meeting
12 December 2023

Financial Report to 30 November 2023 (Supplementary Item 6.1)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Macdonald/Craw)

That the report 'Financial Report to 30 November 2023' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 8 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: The performance of council's managed funds was unavailable at the time of the meeting and would be circulated to elected members in due course.

Treasury Risk Management Policy including Liability Management and Investment Policies (Item 6.2)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

1. That the report 'Treasury Risk Management Policy including Liability Management and Investment Policies' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 29 November 2023, be received.
2. That council adopt the Treasury Risk Management Policy including Liability Management and Investment Policies (*included as **Attachment 1** pertaining to Item 6.2 of the 12 December 2023 council meeting agenda*).

Carried

(Councillor Carr abstained from voting)

Secretarial Note: The Northland Regional Council's Procurement Policy and Procedures to be forwarded to Councillor Carr.

Proposed Regional Plan - operative in part (Item 7.1)

Report from Michael Payne, Policy Specialist

Moved (Craw/Stolwerk)

1. That the report 'Proposed Regional Plan - operative in part' by Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and dated 29 November 2023, be received.
2. That council resolves to make the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland (*as set out in **Attachment 1** pertaining to Item 7.1 of the 12 December 2023 council meeting agenda*) operative in part.
3. That staff take the steps set out in Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act to make those parts of the Proposed Regional Plan as set out in Attachment 1 operative.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Clarification was provided that the provisions for the use of vehicles on beaches and marine protected areas had been separated out to expedite the approval process with Minister to ensure they were operative for the Summer period. The provisions became operative as soon as council formally ratified the decision, with a public notice to be issued the following week.*

Council Meeting
12 December 2023

- *A communications package would need to be developed to educate the community on these new provisions.*
- *Appreciation was extended to all staff involved in the development of the Proposed Regional Plan.*

Review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland (Item 7.2)

Report from Ingrid Kuindersma, Policy Planner

Secretarial Note: Due to an administrative error this item was missing its supporting information and was deferred to the February 2024 council meeting.

Interim Infrastructure Committee (Item 7.3)

Report from Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Interim Infrastructure Committee' by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience and dated 28 November 2023, be received.

Carried

(Councillors Craw and Stolwerk voted against the motion)

It was further moved (Craw/Blackwell)

2. That the Chair, Councillor Geoff Crawford, and Councillor Joe Carr be mandated to engage with Ministers relating to the infrastructure needs of Northland whilst the Infrastructure Committee is being established.

Secretarial Note: In accordance with Standing Order 23.4 'Substituted Motion' the motion was amended with the agreement of the mover and seconder as follows:

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

- 2a. That the Chair, Councillor Geoff Crawford, and Councillor Joe Carr be mandated to engage with Ministers relating to the infrastructure needs of Northland whilst the Infrastructure Committee is being established.
- 2b. That the Chair and Councillor Carr inform and seek input from councillors to report to Ministers and report back to councillors on the result of interactions.

Lost

(Councillors Craw, Macdonald, Robinson and Stolwerk voted in favour of the substituted motion and Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Crawford, Jones and Shortland voted against)

Secretarial Note: In accordance with Standing Orders the meeting resumed debate on the original motion 2.

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

2. That the Chair, Councillor Geoff Crawford, and Councillor Joe Carr be mandated to engage with Ministers relating to the infrastructure needs of Northland whilst the Infrastructure Committee is being established.

Carried

(Councillors Robinson and Stolwerk voted against the motion)

Council Meeting
12 December 2023

Poplar and Willow Nursery Investment Options (Item 7.4)

Report from Lester Bridson, Land Programme Manager and John Ballinger, Nursery Manager and Soil Conservation Specialist

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Poplar and Willow Nursery Investment Options' by Lester Bridson, Land Programme Manager and John Ballinger, SHaRP Manager and dated 14 November 2023, be received.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

It was further moved (Macdonald/Craw)

2. That council approve the use of the Afforestation Grant funding to support nursery recovery at the existing site over financial years 2023/24 to 2025/26.
3. That staff undertaking a market investigation to explore future supply and commercial investment options, bringing this back to council within six months from the date of this report.
4. That a decision on investing the capital budget allocated for the nursery expansion is deferred until the market investigation set out in Resolution 3 above is completed and brought back to council for a decision.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

Lake Ōmāpāre Trust Relationship Agreement (Item 7.5)

Report from Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao

Moved (Carr/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Lake Ōmāpāre Trust Relationship Agreement' by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and dated 4 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all who had been involved in finalising the agreement.*
- *Going forward, actions would be developed in accordance with the principles of the agreement.*
- *There was general agreement that council should meet with the Trust and visit Lake Omapere at the earliest opportunity.*

It was further moved (Carr/Craw)

2. That council enter into the relationship agreement with the Lake Ōmāpāre *(included as Attachment 1 pertaining to Item 7.5 of the 12 December 2023 council meeting agenda)*.
3. That Chair Geoff Crawford is delegated authority to sign the relationship agreement on behalf of council.

Carried

Council Meeting
12 December 2023

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.1)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Craw/Blackwell)

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 28 November 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all involved in the completion of the Otiria Moerewa Flood Mitigation Spillway and Pokapu Bridge, which was an example of a successful partnership project.*
- *Councillor Carr declared a conflict of interest, owning property in the Waima River Catchment, and requested further information regarding E.coli concentrations in the Kaikohe Waste Water Treatment Plant discharge and Waima River Catchment.*
- *The agenda of the National Science Managers conference to be forwarded to Councillor Robinson.*
- *Appreciation was extended to all staff that would be working over the Christmas/New Year period.*

Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter One of the 2023/24 Year (Item 8.2)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

That the report 'Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter One of the 2023/24 Year' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 29 November 2023, be received.

Carried

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Macdonald)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board – 17 November 2023
- Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee – 27 November 2023
- Audit and Risk Subcommittee – 29 November 2023
- Investment and Property Subcommittee – 29 November 2023
- Joint Regional Economic Development Committee – 30 November 2023

be received.

Carried

Council Meeting
12 December 2023

Working Party Updates (Item 9.2)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

That the report 'Working Party Updates' be received.

Carried

Kaupapa ā Roto/Business with Public Excluded (Item 10.0)

Moved (Carr/Robinson)

1. That the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider confidential matters.
2. That the general subject of the matters to be considered whilst the public is excluded, the reasons for passing this resolution in relation to this matter, and the specific grounds under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 for the passing of this resolution, are as follows:

Item No.	Item Issue	Reasons/Grounds
10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 28 November 2023	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting.
10.2	People and Culture Report	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(a).
10.3	Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting.
10.4	The Future of a Council Held Asset Class	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h).

3. That the Independent Advisors be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded.

Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 12.19pm and reconvened at 12.25pm to address business with the public excluded.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.56pm with a karakia by the Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor.

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Extraordinary Council Meeting
14 February 2024

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Extraordinary meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 14 February 2024, commencing at 10.15am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford
Deputy Chairperson, Tui Shortland (*via audio-visual link*)
Councillors:
John Blackwell
Joe Carr
Jack Crow
Peter-Lucas Jones
Amy Macdonald (*via audio-visual link*)
Marty Robinson
Rick Stolwerk

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services
Group Manager - Community Resilience
Governance Specialist (x2)

Part Meeting

Independent Financial Advisor (*via audio-visual link*)
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM – Biosecurity
Pou Tiaki Taiao - Group Manager Environmental Services
Corporate Planning Specialist
Digital Co-ordinator
Māori Engagement & Governance Support Administration

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.15am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by Councillor Jones.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)

It was advised that councillors should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Extraordinary Council Meeting
14 February 2024

Governance structure review and actions (Item 5.1)

Report from Gavin Dawson, Governance Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

1. That the report 'Governance structure review and actions' by Gavin Dawson, Governance Specialist and dated 31 January 2024, be received.
2. That the Audit and Risk Committee and its membership be disestablished.
3. That the Property and Investment Committee and its membership be disestablished.
4. That the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee be established.
5. That the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee terms of reference be adopted (*included as Attachment 3 pertaining to Item 5.1 of the 14 February 2024 extraordinary council meeting agenda*).
6. That the following elected members are appointed to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee:
 - Cr Peter Lucas (Chair of Committee)
 - Cr John Blackwell (Committee Member)
 - Cr Joe Carr (Committee Member)
 - Cr Jack Craw (Committee Member)
 - Chair Geoff Crawford (ex-officio Member).
7. That the Infrastructure Committee be established.
8. That the Infrastructure Committee terms of reference be adopted (*included as Attachment 2 pertaining to Item 5.1 of the 14 February 2024 extraordinary council meeting agenda*).
9. That the following elected members are appointed to the Infrastructure Committee:
 - Cr Joe Carr (Chair of Committee)
 - Cr John Blackwell (Committee Member)
 - Cr Geoff Crawford (Committee Member).

Carried

(Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Crawford, Jones and Shortland voted in favour of the motion. Councillors Craw, Macdonald, Robinson and Stolwerk voted against the motion)

Secretarial Note:

- *The appointments to the Infrastructure Committee left an intentional vacancy in the membership of the committee. This was to enable the flexibility to temporarily second a councillor who had expertise in a specific area.*
- *Clarification was provided that the Infrastructure Committee had delegated authority to establish and disestablish working groups to address specific matters within the ambit of the committee's business. This did not extend to the establishment and disestablishment of working groups in general.*

Extraordinary Council Meeting
14 February 2024

Review of Councillor Portfolios (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Secretarial Note: As per Standing Order 23.3 'Motions expressed in parts' it was requested that the motion expressed in parts be decided part by part.

Moved (Carr/Jones)

1. That the report 'Review of Councillor Portfolios' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 31 January 2024, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Jones/Carr)

2. That council confirms the following councillor portfolios:

Memberships / Delegation	Councillor
Kaipara Moana Working Party	Cr T Shortland and Cr P Jones
Northland Conservation Board	Cr G Crawford
Shareholder representative for Northland Marsden Maritime Holdings Ltd <i>(delegating all necessary authority to represent the council's interest including but not limited to exercising council's vote)</i>	Chair of council
Shareholder representative for Northland Inc Ltd <i>(Delegating all necessary authority to represent the council's interest including but not limited to exercising the council's</i>	Chair of council
Shareholder representative on Regional Software Holdings Ltd. <i>(Delegating all necessary authority to represent the council's interest including but not limited to exercising the council's</i>	Chair of council
Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA)	Chair of council
Zone one (LGNZ)	Chair of council

Carried

(Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Craw, Crawford, Jones, Robinson, Macdonald, Shortland voted in favour of the motion. Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

It was further moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)

3. That council notes that councillor portfolios for Appeals on the Regional Plan and for the Northland Sports Facilities Plan are no longer required.

Carried

(Unanimously)

Extraordinary Council Meeting
14 February 2024

Review of Elected Members' Remuneration (Item 5.3)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Secretarial Note: As per Standing Order 23.3 'Motions expressed in parts' it was requested that the motion expressed in parts be decided part by part.

Moved (Jones/Craw)

1. That the report 'Review of Elected Members' Remuneration' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 5 February 2024, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Jones/Craw)

2. That based on the allocation of responsibilities and Methodology One, outlined in the body of the report, council approves and recommends the following distribution of the governance remuneration pool to the Remuneration Authority as follows:

Office	Positions	Remuneration (\$)	Total (\$)
Deputy Chairperson	1	80,619	80,619
Chairperson of the Regional Transport Committee and Chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee	1	73,619	73,619
Chairperson of the Audit Risk and Finance Committee	1	71,819	71,819
Chairperson of the Whangarei Public Transport Working Party	1	72,419	72,419
Councillor with no additional responsibilities	4	70,618.5	282,475
Total	8		580,951

An amendment was moved (Carr/Shortland)

2. That based on the allocation of responsibilities and Methodology Three, outlined in the body of the report, council approves and recommends the following distribution of the governance remuneration pool to the Remuneration Authority as follows:

Office	Positions	Remuneration (\$)	Total (\$)
Deputy Chairperson	1	84,556	84,556
Chairperson of the Regional Transport Committee and Chairperson of the Infrastructure Committee	1	73,056	73,056

Extraordinary Council Meeting
14 February 2024

Chairperson of the Audit Risk and Finance Committee	1	71,256	71,256
Chairperson of the Whangarei Public Transport Working Party	1	71,856	71,856
Councillor with no additional responsibilities	4	70,056.75	280,227
Total	8		580,951

Carried

(Councillors Carr, Crawford, Jones, Macdonald, Robinson and Shortland voted in favour of the motion. Councillors Blackwell and Stolwerk voted against the motion).

Secretarial Note: The Chair then put the substantive motion which was carried. Councillors Carr, Crawford, Jones, Macdonald, Robinson and Shortland voted in favour of the motion. Councillors Blackwell and Stolwerk voted against the motion.

It was further moved (Craw/Jones)

3. That the higher duties allocation, as approved by council, and the necessary supporting information be provided to the Remuneration Authority prior to 23 February 2024.

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 11.24am

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Authorised by: Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 19 February 2024


Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to enable the meeting to receive the current action sheet.

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

That the action sheet be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Council Action Sheet - February 2024 [↓](#) 

Council Action Sheet as at 19/02/2024

Id	Meeting	Target Date	Description	Request Details	Most Recent Comment
7128	Council 28/11/2023	31/12/23	Translation Services	That consideration be given to providing translation services from English to Te Reo for council meetings (noting the current arrangement was to provide translation services from Te Reo to English).	COMPLETE. Staff recommend that no further funding be applied to translate from English to Te Reo in council meetings.
7139	Council 28/11/2023	31/12/23	Letter of Acknowledgement	That council write a letter to formally acknowledge Haami Piripi from Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa who was finishing his tenure as Chairperson of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board.	COMPLETE. Letter sent 7 December 2023.
7141	Council 28/11/2023	28/02/24	Notices of Motion in relation to the Governance Structure	That the Audit and Risk Sub-Committee and Investment and Property Sub-Committee be merged, within three months, noting a review of membership will be necessary and terms of reference amended to support the merge.	COMPLETE. Matter addressed at the 14 February 2024 extraordinary council meeting.
7142	Council 28/11/2023	27/02/24	Notices of Motion in relation to the Governance Structure	That the current NRC councillor remuneration package is reviewed, with a view to council agreeing on an improved remuneration structure and package at the 27 February 2024 council meeting.	COMPLETE. Matter addressed at the 14 February 2024 extraordinary council meeting.

Council Action Sheet as at 19/02/2024

7159	Council 12/12/2023	12/06/24	Poplar and Willow Nursery Investment Options	That staff undertake a market investigation to explore future supply and commercial investment options and bring the results back to council within 6 months (by 12 June 2024).	Work in progress
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TITLE: Financial Report to January 2024

From: Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Authorised by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 13
Group Manager/s: February 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report is to inform council of the year to date (YTD) financial result to 31 January 2024. Council has achieved a YTD surplus after transfers to and from reserves of \$2.9m, which is \$624k YTD favourable to budget.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Financial Report to January 2024' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 12 February 2024, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

SUMMARY OPERATING RESULTS			
	000's ACTUAL YTD	000's BUDGET YTD	000's VARIANCE YTD
Revenue (including other gains)	\$46,208	\$46,618	(\$410)
Expenditure	\$40,505	\$44,223	\$3,718
NET (COST)/SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES	\$5,703	\$2,396	\$3,308
Transfer From (To) Special Reserves	(\$2,840)	(\$157)	(\$2,683)
NET (COST)/SURPLUS AFTER TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES	\$2,863	\$2,239	\$624

Managed Funds

No managed fund gains or losses have been accrued for the month of January, due to the Eriksens Global report not yet being available. Fund performance for January 2024 will be included in the February 2024 financial report. The gains reported here are for December 2023 gains, against January 2024 YTD budgets.

At the end of January 2024, the variance of \$984k does not include gains on long-term funds used as general funding. If we had utilised gains as general funding as per the budget, the variance after transfers to reserves, at the end of January would have been \$1.5m

MANAGED FUNDS			
	December 000's ACTUAL YTD	January 000's BUDGET YTD	000's VARIANCE YTD
Short Term Funds	\$211	\$250	(\$39)
Long Term Funds	\$1,912	\$1,774	\$138
TOTAL FUND GAINS/(LOSSES)	\$2,123	\$2,024	\$99
Transfer From (To) Special Reserves representing reinvestment	(\$1,920)	(\$1,023)	(\$897)
NET GAINS/(LOSSES) AFTER TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES	\$203	\$1,001	(\$797)

Revenue

Year to date revenue is \$46.2m, which is \$410k or -0.9% below budget.

YTD REVENUE VARIANCE INDICATORS BY REVENUE TYPE			
	FAV / (UNFAV)		Commentary
	\$	%	
			<div> <div></div> = negative unfav variance over 10% <div></div> = negative unfav variance under 10% <div></div> = positive favourable variance </div>
Rates	\$47,075	0.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher than budgeted rates due to an increase in land values and SUIP's
User Fees and Sundry	\$572,304	13.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher than budgeted RMA application fees \$384k Higher than budgeted mooring fees of \$133k due to timing of invoicing
Grants and Subsidies	(\$975,544)	(11.8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher than budgeted MPI subsidies for Wilding conifer programmes of \$205k Higher than budgeted Better Off funding for Whangaroa \$248k Higher than budgeted Adaptive Pathway funding of \$106k Offset by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower than budgeted NZTA subsidies of \$252k due to timing. Lower than budgeted TLA subsidies for civil defence emergency management of \$671k due to invoice timing. Lower than budgeted MPI subsidies for Wild Rice and Kauri protection works of \$82k Lower than budgeted MfE subsidies for Land management project of \$241k. Lower than budgeted subsidies allocated for emergency management recovery of \$134k, due to cost matching. Lower than budgeted subsidies allocated for cyclone regional recovery of \$121k, due to cost matching.
Investment Interest Income and Other Gains	\$41,774	16.6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher than budgeted rates of interests earned on Cash and ASB banking facilities of \$84k Higher than budgeted internal interest of \$70k Offset by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower than budgeted interest on Infrastructure investments of \$76k Lower than budgeted interest on Nest loan of \$36k
Investment Property Income	(\$19,657)	(0.9%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower than budgeted rent income on investment properties of \$19k
Dividend	(\$175,616)	(9.6%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower than budgeted dividend received of \$175k
Long Term Fund Gains	\$138,111	7.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual December returns of 3.3% are higher than the budgeted 2.71% (5.42% annualised). Note that no long term fund gains accrued for the month of January are included in this report. The budget for January gains are included in this report
Short Term Fund Gains	(\$38,717)	(15.5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual December returns of 3.4% are higher than the budgeted 2.11% (4.21% annualised). No short term fund gains are accrued for the month of January. The budget for January gains are included in this report.
Total	(\$410,269)	(0.9%)	

Expenditure

Year to date expenditure is \$40.5m, which is \$3.7m or 8.4% below budget.

In February the CEO will meet the group managers to review the progress of current work programs and proposals to complete work programs by the end of the year.

	<div> <div></div> = negative unfav variance over 10% <div></div> = negative unfav variance under 10% <div></div> = positive favourable variance </div>	FAV / (UNFAV)	Commentary	Offset by:		Not offset FAV / (UNFAV)
				Subsidies	Reserves	
	\$	%				
Regulatory Services	(\$513,525)	(18.4%)	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$119K
			• Lower than budgeted contractors cost for compliance monitoring			\$112K
			• Higher than budgeted consultants expenditure relating to consents and monitoring			(\$427K)
			• Higher than budgeted RMA hearing costs, due to higher applications			(\$312K)
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group			(\$6K)
Environmental Services	\$1,751,397	21.8%	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$856K
			• Lower than budgeted consultants and contractor field work costs for biodiversity work programmes			\$91K
			• Lower than budgeted consultancy for planning and policy, and hydrology work			\$139K
			• Lower than budgeted consultants and contractors for natural resources management			\$124K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on Catchment Efund, and Environment funding			\$186K
			• Lower than budgeted field operations, lab testing, and monitoring.			\$97K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on Hill Country Erosion Fund	\$115K		
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on software services across the group		\$112K	
Biosecurity	\$689,845	10.0%	• Other accumulated variances within this group			\$31K
			• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$338K
			• Lower than budgeted contractors for biosecurity incursion works	\$104K		\$23K
			• Lower than budgeted biosecurity incursions, marine and partnerships field operation costs		\$29K	\$122K
			• Lower than budgeted costs for environment funds for partnerships			\$73K
			• Lower than budgeted costs for Kauri protection work programme	\$63K		\$0K
			• Higher than budgeted costs for the biosecurity marine work programme			(\$64K)
Governance and Engagement	\$278,326	5.9%	• Other small accumulated variances within this group			\$2K
			• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$241K
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure on community development projects		\$127K	
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure for environmental educations			(\$40K)
Community Resilience	\$808,659	8.3%	• Higher than budgeted expenditure for community representation activities			(\$46K)
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group			(\$4K)
			• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$285K
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure for climate change water resilience grants	Offset by (\$116K)	\$24K	\$0K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on consultants for climate change work			
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure for cyclone emergency recovery work	(\$252K)		
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for civil defence consultation and emergency mangement recovery implementation	\$114K		
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for civil defence training and field equipment	\$70K		
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for tsunami siren testing and signage			\$43K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for harbour safety pilotage and insurance			\$153K
Corporate Services	\$562,962	5.5%	• Lower than budgeted expenditure for river clearance schemes	\$107K		
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on regional passenger transport programmes	\$346K		
			• Other accumulated variances within this group			\$35K
			• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$161K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on information systems software, maintenance and enterprise		\$374K	(\$89K)
CEO Office	\$140,249	8.1%	• Lower than budgeted audit fees due to timing of audit		\$51K	\$23K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for HR operational activities			\$39K
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group			\$4K
			• No variance to budgeted salaries			\$0K
			• Higher than budgeted training offset by		(\$17K)	\$16K
Total	\$3,717,913	8.4%	• Lower than budgeted consultants costs			
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on CEO commercial projects		\$90K	\$52K
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group			(\$1K)
				\$551K	\$790K	\$2,377K

Salary Variance

Across council there is a \$1.7m net favourable adjusted salaries variance predominantly due to vacancies across council to November.

SALARY VARIANCE	000's
Gross salary variance	\$2,128
Add: Annual leave movement	\$170
Less: YTD redirected salary savings	(\$250)
Less: Other employment costs higher than YTD Budget	(\$48)
NET SALARY VARIANCE	\$2,000
Less: Annual redirected salary savings	(\$345)
ADJUSTED SALARY VARIANCE	\$1,655

Transfers to reserves

For the year to date there has been a net transfer to reserves of \$2.8m compared to a budgeted net transfer to reserves of \$157k. The variance of \$2.7mk is due to;

- lower than budgeted transfers from the Enterprise reserve of \$448k, due to lower than budgeted expenditure on the enterprise project
- lower than budgeted transfer from the Equalisation reserve of \$557k due to lower than budgeted expenditure for long-term strategic and planning projects.
- higher than budgeted transfers to Investment and Growth Reserve of \$151k, Property Reinvestment fund of \$608k, and Regional Project Reserve of \$530k due to higher than budgeted interest and managed funds gains no required as general funding.
- Higher than budgeted transfers to Whangārei Bus Reserve of \$314k, due to higher than budgeted surplus across the transport program, due to timing of costs.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure YTD amounts to \$7.6m and is \$2.3m lower than the corresponding budget at this stage of the year due to;

- delays in the commencement of design of the Waipapa service center of (\$385k) behind budget.
- delays in the development plan and funding for the Joint Emergency Co-ordination Centre (\$515k) behind budget.
- delays in the progressing of the Hannah Street development (\$1.7m) behind budget.
- delays on the Awanui river flood protection programme (\$488k) behind budget due to weather challenges.
- progress on the Otiria-Moerewa Spillways scheme is \$360k higher than budget, which is supported by Northern Transport Alliance.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2023

From: Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Authorised by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 02
Group Manager/s: February 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The three district councils administer the collection of the regional council rates on our behalf. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the collection of this year's current rates and the rate arrears owing to the regional council by each district council.

Table One below summarises the level of rates collected in the first two quarters of the 2023/24 financial year and the total outstanding rate balances as at 31 December 2023.

Table One Summary Q2, 31 December 2023	WDC		KDC		FNDC		TOTAL	
	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23
Amount of Current Year Rates Collected	\$15.1M	\$13.7M	\$4.5M	\$4.2M	\$8.6M	\$7.9M	\$28.2M	\$25.7M
Percentage of Current Year Rates Collected	55.7%	55.5%	53.6%	53.7%	45.0%	45.6%	51.6%	51.8%
Amount of Rate Arrears Collected	\$279K	\$205K	\$180K	\$180K	\$473K	\$344K	\$932K	\$730K
Percentage of Rate Arrears Collected	35.9%	33.7%	20.4%	20.5%	12.6%	11.1%	17.2%	15.9%
Total Current Rates outstanding at end of quarter	\$12.0M	\$11.0M	\$3.9M	\$3.6M	\$10.5M	\$9.4M	\$26.4M	\$24.0M
Total Rate Arrears outstanding at end of quarter	\$497K	\$403K	\$702K	\$697K	\$3.3M	\$2.8M	\$4.5M	\$3.9M
Total Overall Rates outstanding at end of quarter	\$12.5M	\$11.4M	\$4.6M	\$4.3M	\$13.8M	\$12.2M	\$30.9M	\$27.8M

Overall, the three district councils collected a total of 51.6% of our annual rate strike in the six months to 31 December 2023. As a comparative, 51.8% was collected for the same period in the prior financial year.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2023' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 2 February 2024, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

Whangarei District Council (WDC)

The Whangarei District Council collected 55.7% of our annual rate strike to the end of December of this financial year (2022/23: 55.5%).

35.9% (\$279k) of the WDC outstanding rate arrears balance (2022/23: 33.7%; \$205k) was also collected in the first six months of this financial year resulting in a closing rate arrears balance (excluding outstanding current year rates) still to be collected of \$497k.

Kaipara District Council (KDC)

The Kaipara District Council collected 53.6% of our annual rate strike to the end of December of this financial year (2022/23: 53.7%).

20.4% (\$180k) of the KDC outstanding rate arrears balance (2022/23: 20.5%; \$180k) has also been collected in the first six months of this financial year resulting in a closing total rate arrears balance (excluding outstanding current year rates) still to be collected of \$702k.

Far North District Council (FNDC)

The Far North District Council has collected 45.0% of our annual rate strike to the end of December of this financial year, (2022/23: 45.6%).

12.6% (\$473k) of the FNDC outstanding rate arrears balance has also been collected in the first six months of this financial year, (2022/23: 11.1%; \$344k), resulting in a closing rate arrears balance (excluding outstanding current year rates) still to be collected of \$3.3m.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Withdrawal of the Planned 2023-24 Annual General Funding Contribution from the Managed Fund Portfolio

From: Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 13 February 2024

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

The purpose of this report is to seek council approval to withdraw \$1.95M of gains and interest from the managed fund portfolio in February 2024 representing the 2023/24 annual general funding requirement.

The \$1.95M of withdrawn funds will be placed into Term Deposits and held until year end, at which time council can assess the final application of these funds taking into consideration the overall year-end financial result.

This proposed strategy was discussed at the November 2023 Investment and Property Subcommittee meeting and is supported by EriksensGlobal in an endeavour to reduce the risk of a market downturn eroding the gains that have already been generated over the past 6 months. It is also subject to EriksensGlobal confirming that sufficient gains and interest continue to exist at the end of February 2024 in order for the \$1.95M to be withdrawn.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'Withdrawal of the Planned 2023-24 Annual General Funding Contribution from the Managed Fund Portfolio' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 8 February 2024, be received.
2. That \$1,944,953 is withdrawn in February 2024 from the fund managers recommended by EriksensGlobal and invested into Short Term Fund term deposits maturing in August 2024.

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Withdraw \$1.95M of gains earned in the first 6 months of the 2023-24 financial year and invest into fixed term deposits in February 2024.	Protect the gains generated over the past 6 months and have the planned annual general funding contribution secured in term deposits and available for council application at year end.	Earn a lower rate of return, associated with term deposits.
2	Do not withdraw any gains from the Managed Fund Portfolio in February 2024	Take advantage of a higher rate of return should the managed fund portfolio perform well in the remaining months of	Maintain an exposure to the risk of a market downturn eroding the Fund Manager gains that have already been

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
		the 2023-24 financial year.	generated over the past 6 months, and the possibility that annual gains earned on the managed fund portfolio are not sufficient to cover the required annual general funding contribution

The staff's recommended option is 1.

Considerations

Being a purely administrative matter, Climate and Environmental impacts, Community Views and the Māori Impact statement are not applicable.

1. Financial implications

A reduction in growth assets (equities) and income assets (bonds) at this stage of the year helps maintain the level of Managed Fund gains already earned this financial year. The strategy proposed in this report is intended to defend against the negative impacts of any downturn occurring before 30 June 2024 by removing the operating funding contribution from exposure to any volatility in the financial markets.

Holding funds in term deposits is a low risk - lower return investment option. The opportunity cost associated with a term deposit is the forgone gains that the investment could have earned in the Managed Fund Portfolio. As an indication the 6-month return of the Long-term fund is 6.6% per annum, and a 6-month term deposit with a NZ trading bank will return 6.18%. However, it should be noted that returns from managed funds can fluctuate over a given time and historical returns do not necessarily form the basis for forecasted returns.

2. Implementation issues

At the time of writing there are no known implementation issues.

3. Significance and engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is considered to be of low significance when assessed against council's Significance and Engagement Policy because it is part of council's day to day activities. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that council is able to make decisions relating to this matter without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

4. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

The activities detailed in this report are in accordance with council's Treasury Management Policy (which stipulates full council must approve withdrawals from the Long-Term investment fund), the 2023-24 Annual Plan, and the 2021-31 Long Term Plan - all of which were approved in accordance with council's decision-making requirements of sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Background/Tuhinga

The \$1.95M of gains proposed to be withdrawn from the managed fund portfolio provides funding for council's day to day operations and was planned and signalled in the 2023-24 Annual Plan. The \$1.95M contribution reduces the reliance on rating revenue and reduces the burden on the region's ratepayers.

Historically, the practice has been to withdraw this general funding contribution at the end of the financial year, however as the level of actual gains earned to 31 December 2023 exceeds the entire annual general funding requirement it is proposed that \$1.95M of gains is withdrawn at the end of February 2024. This proposal is presented in an endeavour to reduce the risk of a market downturn eroding the gains that have already been generated over the past 6 months.

The gains will be withdrawn from Fund managers in line with a recommendation provided by EriksensGlobal and then placed into Short Term Fund Term Deposits with maturity dates aligned to the August 2024 council meeting where council can fully assess the need and application of these funds.

Table 1 illustrates the capacity to withdraw the annual general funding contribution from the gains derived in the six months to December 2023:

Table 1: Gains & Interest Earned & Utilised from Managed Fund Portfolio - 2023-24				31 Dec 2023 YTD Actual	2023-24 Full Year Budget
Gains & Interest Earned on Managed Fund Portfolio				\$2,122,675	\$3,359,234
February 2024 - De-risking strategy					
Annual Gains to be withdrawn as general funding, Proposed to be de-risked into Term deposits until year end				-\$1,944,953	-\$1,944,953
June 2024 Year End withdrawals & transfers (to be considered by council in August 2024)					
Gains to be withdrawn at Year end to fund Investment Management Fees (forecasted)				TBC at year end	-\$102,803
Gains to be withdrawn at Year end to fund interest payable on unallocated debt (forecasted)				TBC at year end	-\$68,606
Gains to be withdrawn at year end to fund Predator Free activities (forecasted)				TBC at year end	-\$35,302
Gains Earned on IGR funds of STF transferred at year end (forecasted)				TBC at year end	-\$47,563
Gains Earned on Vessel funds in LTF transferred at year end (forecasted)				TBC at year end	-\$86,715
Gains to be recapitalised/reinvested/redirected at Year End (forecasted)				-\$177,722	-\$1,073,292
Gains & Interest Utilised from the Managed Fund Portfolio				-\$2,122,675	-\$3,359,234

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: **Proposed carry forward of budget for PF2050**

From: Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free

Authorised by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, on 20
Group Manager/s: February 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

Predator Free 2050 (PF2050) is an ambitious nationwide programme aimed at the elimination of possums, rats, and mustelids across 19 key nationwide locations and at a landscape scale. Significant progress has been achieved in the delivery of two major PF2050 projects in Northland worth a combined value of \$10M – these projects are located in Pēwhairangi Whānui (Bay of Islands) and Whangārei Heads. The Pēwhairangi project is tracking according to the contract timeline and will be complete by June 2026. However, the Whangārei project has been delayed and an extension to 2027 is required to complete the contract. A carry forward of \$445,000 into the 2025 year is now required for the Whangārei project to secure the contract variations.

This paper sets out what has been achieved to date, the reasons for the delay in delivery, and the need to carry forward funding in respect of the Whangārei PF2050 Project.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendations

1. That the report 'Proposed carry forward of budget for PF2050' by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity and Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free dated 9 February 2024, be received.
2. That council approve carry forward commitment of \$445,000 for the purposes of funding the PF2050 Whangārei project to the 2025 financial year.

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Status quo	Nil	Risk losing all current investment by pf2050 along with significant loss of reputation from community and associated hapū.
2	Carry forward funding of \$445,000 into 2024/25	Provides for the completion of the current contract with PF2050 Ltd which will bring additional funding to the region and provide a robust platform for further funding bids.	Commits carry forward funding prior to end of year.

The staff's recommended **option is 2.**

Considerations

1. Environmental Impact

Elimination of possums across Whangārei and Pēwhairangi projects will enable the enhancement of flora and fauna health across 21,000ha of Northland landscape. The \$10m of project funding will increase jobs and build capability within the biosecurity sector. Supporting a carry forward of Northland Regional Council (NRC) funds for the Whangārei project will ensure elimination of possums is achieved at Whangārei heads and position the project well for future funding consideration.

2. Community views

Community groups, whanau and hapū, private landowners and local agencies have shown overwhelming support for the Predator Free kaupapa and acknowledge the enhanced environmental benefits being achieved. The Predator free initiative builds on decades of previous work that has been undertaken in the North and has created a new wave of community enthusiasm with people who were not previously involved with biosecurity.

3. Māori impact statement

It is highly likely Māori would be supportive of the carry forward as hapū and kaitiaki are supportive of the Whangārei project objectives and aspects of delivery. A carry forward will potentially lead to an extended delivery period, which will provide greater opportunity for hapū and kaitiaki capability building and delivery.

4. Financial implications

The proposed carry forward will not impact on this year's delivery as PF2050 Ltd funds will be prioritised and has no long-term financial implications. The NRC funds have been factored into internal budgets and delayed spending will ensure NRC's contractual obligations with PF2050 are fulfilled.

5. Implementation issues

Implementation of the contract will be met given the carry forward of funding and additional funding from PF2050 Ltd beyond 2025. Hapū and community relationships are in place and staff are confident of achieving the operational targets by August 2027.

6. Significance and engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is of low significance when assessed against council's significance and engagement policy because it is part of council's day-to-day activities. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that council is able to make decisions relating to this matter without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

7. Policy, risk management, and legislative compliance

There are no known policy or legislative compliance issues associated with this decision. The main risks of this decision are outlined in the Background/Tuhinga narrative below.

Background/Tuhinga

Government, through Provincial Growth Fund and Jobs for Nature, funded 19 landscape scale PF2050 elimination projects around New Zealand. The Northland Regional Council (NRC) oversees two separate projects based at Whangārei Heads (10,000ha) and in Pēwhairangi Whānui (11,000ha over three individual peninsulas).

The projects

Northland has \$10m of pledged funding from PF2050 Limited across both projects. The Whangārei and Pēwhairangi Whānui Predator Free 2050 programmes are both fully operational and have effective governance in the form of a combination of NRC (Whangārei project,) community, and whānau/hapū.

Community/hapū

Community and hapū advocacy for both projects is strong, and programme videos and ongoing local events continue to raise awareness and support. Landowner involvement has been overwhelmingly positive as evidenced through the landowner access permission process.

Pēwhairangi Whānui (Bay of Islands)

Separate projects are being delivered across Rakaumangamanga (Cape Brett,) Russell and Purerua-Mataroa peninsula with implementation contracts in place with Te Rāwhiti 3B2 Ahu Whenua Trust, Russell Land Care Trust, Kiwi Coast Trust, and Ngati Rehia Runanga (Te Ahutai) respectively, totalling \$1.8m.

Elimination focussed baiting and trapping across Russell and Purerua-Mataroa over the last 12 months has already achieved very low possum and rat numbers, and both projects are expanding their area of focus. Knockdown set-up is underway on Rakaumangamanga from their team of eight kaimahi. Eight-hundred hectares of the Old Russell Peninsular has been treated to eliminate possums and rats, and 4,595ha of Purerua-Mataroa is under intensive control. This project is on track to deliver the current contract deliverables by end of June 2026.

Whangārei achievements

In relation to the Whangārei project, a knockdown of possums over 2,178 hectares has been completed at Whangārei Heads (Te Whara, Taurikura, Reotahi – 400 possums have been culled by trapping and shooting and an unknown number via possum baiting regimes. This project is now expanding into the McLeods Bay area and further expansion is planned into the northwestern buffer/barrier through Parua Bay is underway. Local Kiwi Link Landcare groups (private owners) are being engaged for delivery, and a local uri group have commenced elimination knockdown across 300ha of whenua Māori. In addition, strong community support at Whangārei Heads is demonstrated with 98% of landowners providing land access.

Social media is being used to promote the Kaupapa, with Facebook and website hits trending strongly upwards with near zero negative feedback. A video has also been created for each project that conveys the environmental and social benefits in a compelling way.

Pēwhairangi Whanui <https://youtu.be/HB0R2jfTyOA>

Whangārei Heads <https://youtu.be/KE3m5SRAwOQ>

Delays

The Whangārei project was impacted by Covid in the early phase of engagement, which removed the ability for face-to-face meetings. Contributing to this was the realisation that engagement across community and hapū groups would take longer than initially intended. This resulted in the operational set up and implementation being slower than budgeted and consequently grant funds from PF2050 have also accumulated over this period.

Funding

The Whangārei Project contract was signed in May 2020 and six million dollars of PF2050 Ltd funding is pledged for the duration of the project. NRC's contractual commitment is \$1.831m of cash funding until the end of June 2025. As at the end of November 2023, \$2.237M of PF2050 Ltd funding had been spent, \$2.574M is held as revenue in advance, and \$925,000 of NRC funding has been utilised. The Whangārei project is budgeted to spend \$1.5m this financial year with a similar spending forecast for 2024/25 and 2025/26. NRC funding of \$445,000 was budgeted in the current LTP for 2023/24 however due to the delays described above this resource is now needed in 2024/25.

Whilst contractually obligated to provide this cash contribution, agreement to carry forward funding also demonstrates NRC's ongoing commitment to the PF2050 kaupapa and the social and environmental milestones originally sought.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland

From: Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Authorised by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, on 20
Group Manager/s: February 2024

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Secretarial Note: This item was deferred from the December 2023 council meeting.

This paper presents the completed review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland (RPS) (Refer Attachment 1) in accordance with Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), which requires councils to undertake a 5 yearly efficiency and effectiveness review of their planning documents.

The review report was presented the Natural Resources Working Party at its 22 August 2023 meeting. At the meeting, the Working Party supported the finalisation of the draft report along with a recommendation to council that the Regional Policy Statement review report is approved for public release.

The review identifies compulsory changes required to the RPS to meet national legislation as follows:

- Freshwater provisions in the RPS and the Regional Plan will be updated by the freshwater plan change project.
- A schedule 1 plan change is required to incorporate maps of highly productive land for the region into the RPS and must be notified before October 2025.
- The National Policy Statement-Indigenous Biodiversity (NPSIB) sets out the timing for local authorities to implement the NPSIB. In broad terms councils are encouraged to give effect to the NPSIB as soon as practicable but changes to policy statements or plans (plan changes) must be notified no later than year 8 (August 2031). In practice, most of the changes will be to the regional plan rather than the RPS.
- Minor amendments relating the National Policy Statement-Urban Development (NPS-UD) will need to be included as soon as practicable without a schedule 1 process.

It also identifies improvements that could be made to the RPS particularly around climate change and tangata whenua provisions.

The Climate Change review undertaken by Tonkin and Taylor identified deficiencies in the current planning documents in the following key areas:

- Overall strategic direction
- Adaption
- Emissions reduction
- Carbon removal
-

The report prepared by Barker and Associates also identified the potential for a plan change to improve integration of tangata whenua provisions across the rest of the RPS in particular:

- Fresh and coastal water management

- Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity
- Economic potential and social wellbeing
- Natural hazard management

At present there is substantial uncertainty in respect of the future resource management regime. The Natural Build and Environment Act 2023 and Spatial Planning 2023 removed the need for councils to develop Regional Policy Statements. Both pieces of legislation were repealed late December 2023. The Resource Management 1991 accordingly remain in force, along with its requirements to prepare an RPS every 10 years. The Government signalled it intends to replace the the Resource Management 1991 within its current term. Given the uncertainty regarding ongoing planning reform, it is recommended that all changes to the RPS are put on hold for 12 months. Once there is more clarity around the future planning regime, staff will bring this matter back to council for consideration. Note that this recommendation does expose council to some risk that it may not meet the statutory timeframes for amending the RPS if the future reforms do not change these requirements. Staff will continue to review the situation with the future RMA reforms to manage that risk.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'Review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 14 December 2023, be received.
2. That council accept the Review of the Regional Policy Statement Report and approve it for public release.
3. That council confirm that no changes to the Regional Policy Statement including compulsory changes are progressed for the next 12 months to enable time for further direction to be received from central government.

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Accept the report and make it available for public information and confirm that work continue on all compulsory changes.	Meets the requirements of Section 35 of the Resource Management Act and ensures compulsory changes to the RPS are undertaken within required timeframes.	Potential for future RMA reforms to remove the need to undertake the work which could result in some wasted effort.
2	Not accept the report.	Nil	Would not fulfil legislation requirements to undertake a review and make the review available to the public.
3	Accept the report and make available for public information while confirming that no changes to the RPS will be progressed for the next 12 months to allow time	Potential for cost savings and efficiencies if changes are not progressed while there is legislative uncertainty and therefore avoiding the risk of	Exposes council to legislative and reputational risk of not meeting statutory deadlines for national policy requirements. There would be particular

	for central government direction.	having to revise work in progress.	risk of not meeting the October 2025 deadline for mapping highly productive land given the lead in work required in this area.
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The staff's recommended option is Option 3

Considerations

1. Climate Impact

The topic of climate change is covered extensively in the RPS review document and future areas where council could improve. However, the review itself will not result in any impacts regarding climate change.

2. Environmental Impact

Although the RPS review may result in changes to the planning documents in the future, the report itself will not have environmental impacts.

3. Community views

This report relates to a council administrative matter under Section 35 of the RMA which does not require public consultation. Section 35 does require that the completed report be made available to the public as recommended in this report.

4. Māori impact statement

The review methodology included engaging with the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) and commissioning an independent review primarily focussed on the tangata whenua perspective on the efficiency and effectiveness of the RPS. That review drew heavily on the outcomes of workshops with MTAG to capture their perspectives around the efficiency and effectiveness of the RPS. Any potential impacts of future decisions relating to the review will take these findings into account.

5. Financial implications

There are no known financial implications associated with this decision.

6. Implementation issues

There are no known implementation issues with the release of the review report.

7. Significance and engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is of low significance when assessed against council's significance and engagement policy because it is part of council's day to day activities. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that council is able to make decisions relating to this matter without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

8. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

The review of the RPS is a legislative requirement under section 35 of the RMA.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland [↓](#) 

Review of the Effectiveness and Efficiency of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland pursuant to Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Executive Summary

The purpose of the report is to fulfill NRC's obligation under Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991. This section requires council to undertake a 5 yearly review of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland (RPS) and make the findings publicly available. Effectiveness and efficiency have been assessed in the report by considering the five questions below:

1. Have we done what we said we'd do? - That is, have we implemented all the policies and methods in the RPS?
2. Have we achieved what we said we'd achieve? - That is, have the policies and methods implemented resulted in the RPS's objectives being met?
3. How do we know if our actions led to the outcomes observed? - Or, can we demonstrate that any achievement of the RPS's objectives is attributable to the methods in the RPS?
4. Have we achieved the outcomes at reasonable cost? - Or was the (relative) cost of implementing the RPS's methods the lowest for the (relative) benefit gained?
5. Are we focused on the right issues? - That is, are the RPS's policies still appropriate (5 years on) and, has anything changed in relation to the RPS's stated resource management issues?

These questions have then been applied to the Anticipated Environmental Outcomes listed in the RPS and assessed in consultation with the Department of Conservation, District Councils and NRC subject matter experts. Reports were also commissioned assessing the RPS from a tangata whenua perspective and reviewing the climate change provisions. Full versions of these reports are attached as appendices.

Overall, there are mixed results in achieving the anticipated outcomes of the Regional Policy Statement. Some things have worked well while others have not resulted in the anticipated outcomes.

There are a number of factors contributing to this. Five years is a relatively short timeframe for achieving measurable environmental outcomes. Some changes will be noticeable over this timeframe while others such as water quality changes may take decades to eventuate.

Plan development has been another factor. The Proposed Regional Plan for Northland was notified in September 2017 and is not yet fully operative which has limited its ability to give effect to the RPS. In addition, the Far North District Council and Kaipara District Council only released their Proposed and Draft District Plans respectively in July 2022. These are the first full review of the District Plans to be undertaken with the RPS in place as a guiding document. As these documents are so early in the statutory process, they have not had any impact on giving effect to the RPS in these districts. The Whangarei District Council has undertaken or has plan changes in progress to implement parts of the RPS - for example, plan changes relating outstanding natural features and landscapes, natural

character and the coastal environment and recently notified Plan Change 1 on natural hazards and so are more advanced in respect of giving effect to the RPS.

What is working well?

It has been identified that the comprehensive mapping of river and coastal flood hazards by NRC has given the district councils certainty when assessing development within flood prone areas. These maps and associated provisions have been included in WDC Plan Change 1 (natural hazards) and the proposed Far North District Plan. It is understood KDC intend to incorporate the hazard maps and provisions into the Proposed Kaipara District Plan.

Appendix 5 of the RPS includes significance criteria enabled significant ecological areas to be comprehensively mapped in the Proposed Regional Plan (in the coastal marine area). The criteria and mapping were rigorously tested through the environment court appeals process and all matters are now resolved. The SEA mapping was also instrumental in the establishment of marine protection in the regional plan.

Some large-scale economic development projects such as the water storage developments of the Te Taitokerau Water Trust have been achieved under the RPS regime. Economic growth and tourism have kept up with national averages and in some cases outperformed them, although it is unclear the extent to which this was influenced by the RPS.

Outstanding Natural Landscapes and Features, natural character and the coastal environment have been identified and given protection under the RPS and through subsequent district plan changes/reviews – WDC plan changes to implement RPS direction on these matters is now operative, while FNDC has notified a Proposed District Plan which includes associated maps and provisions. It is understood KDC will notify the Proposed District Plan this year and that it will address RPS requirements. These areas are also recognised through consent processes where relevant.

What areas have been challenging?

As identified in the report prepared by Barker and Associates, finding a path to appropriately recognise and consider issues of importance to tangata whenua is an on-going challenge. Their report recommends a number of actions that help to implement this including better integration of tangata whenua provisions throughout all the chapters of the RPS, greater participation for Māori in decision making, recognition of matauranga Māori and more importance placed on cultural impact assessments.

Water quality in Te Taitokerau is degraded, largely due to a legacy of land use change over time with issues of sedimentation and bacterial contamination of particular concern. Changes in water quality are recognised as having a significant lag time with the results of many interventions taking many years to materialise. Due to the short timeframe the RPS has been in place, it is unclear whether it has resulted in any improvements. The challenges of safeguarding freshwater have been recognised at a national level leading to the introduction of the National Policy Statement - Fresh Water Management 2020 and National Environmental Standards - Freshwater 2020. These documents largely supersede the RPS provisions by initiating the Freshwater Plan change due to be notified in late 2024.

Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity are under pressure from the direct impact of human activities but also the impacts of climate change. Discussions with Department of Conservation representatives has highlighted that more needs to be done to halt the loss and degradation of natural ecosystems. The National Policy Statement - Indigenous Biodiversity has been finalised and will require changes to the RPS that in particular will raise the bar for protection of terrestrial biodiversity.

Lack of resources has been identified by district councils as a barrier to giving effect to the provisions in the RPS. It is therefore recommended that where possible NRC contribute expertise and resources to assist implementation of the policy direction in the RPS. NRC could also encourage and facilitate co-design process where issues are worked through in a collaborative way with sharing of experiences and resources.

Since the initial drafting of the RPS there has been significant progression in the science around the potential impacts of climate change and how to address them. Recent storms have also been a stark indication of just how disruptive increasingly powerful adverse weather events will be for our communities. National guidance in the form of the first National Adaptation Plan and the Emissions Reduction Plan as well as our own regional and district strategies point the way to updating the provisions in the RPS to address these challenges.

While there has been progress on updating district plans to reflect RPS direction on natural hazards, the fact that natural hazard mapping is ongoing has presented challenges – the need to regularly update hazard maps in district plans is an issue given the process costs and time this can take.

Moving Forward

Council is required to review the provisions of the RPS 10 years after it became operative in May 2016. Council will also need to revise the RPS to recognise the requirements resulting from new and amended national policy instruments such as National Policy Statements on freshwater, highly productive land and biodiversity. Other matters that may be considered more urgent to address prior to 2026 such as strengthening of climate change provisions in line with the recommendations of the Tonkin and Taylor Climate Change review report.

Recommendations

A number of changes to the RPS will be required by the new pieces of the national planning framework.

Freshwater provisions in the RPS and the Regional Plan will be updated by the freshwater plan change project with a plan change to be notified late 2024.

A schedule 1 plan change is required to incorporate maps of highly productive land for the region into the RPS and must be notified before October 2025.

The NPSIB sets out the timing for local authorities to implement the NPSIB. In broad terms councils are encouraged to give effect to the NPSIB as soon as practicable but changes to policy statements or plans (plan changes) must be notified no later than year 8 (August 2031).

NRC may choose to amend the RPS for consistency with the NPS-IB by replacing the RPS biodiversity offsetting and compensation definitions with those used in the NPS-IB. Because this involves only changing wording or terminology, it can be treated as a correction of a minor error (and therefore,

under clause 20A of Schedule 1 of the Act, the amendment can be made without using a process in that Schedule).

There is a need for plan changes that incorporate provisions to manage effects on SNAs, and clause 3.24 (resource consent information requirements) to be notified no later than year 5, however this process may not involve the RPS, i.e. it's likely to only affect the regional plan.

Biodiversity Strategies must be starting within three years and complete by year 10 (August 2033), although there is information required to be in those strategies that must inform objectives, policies and methods associated with indigenous biodiversity restoration (clause 3.21), which are to be notified by year 8 (as above) and this may involve both the RPS and regional plan. It is likely that a number of the NPS-IB requirements will be incorporated into the new resource management system given the timing, with more emphasis on spatial planning and less of a role for the RPS given combined district/regional plans under the Natural and Built Environment Act (once enacted).

Minor amendments relating the NPS-UD will need to be included without a schedule 1 process.

The Climate Change review undertaken by Tonkin and Taylor identified deficiencies in the current planning documents in the following key areas:

- Overall strategic direction
- Adaption
- Emissions reduction
- Carbon removal

It is recommended that consideration is given to developing a range of amendments to the RPS based on the findings of this review.

The report prepared by Barker and Associates also identified an area for a potential plan change in order to improve integration of tangata whenua provisions across the rest of the RPS in particular:

- Fresh and coastal water management
- Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity
- Economic potential and social wellbeing
- Natural hazard management

This report also identified gaps in the climate change provisions in the RPS and recommended this be addressed with input from tangata whenua to ensure a te o Māori perspective is integrated.

Additionally, a stock take of existing CIA could be undertaken to gauge their impact on the consenting process and a road map be prepared guiding early engagement for resource consent applications.

Based on the assessment above, the following actions are recommended:

1. Update to the RPS to incorporate the compulsory requirements of the NPS-UD without the requirement to undertake a schedule 1 process.
2. Continue to develop maps of Highly Productive Land as required by the NPS-HPL and notify a plan change by October 2025 to add these to the RPS.

3. Make any consequential amendments to the RPS as a result of notifying the freshwater plan change.
4. Update the RPS to give effect to the requirements of the NPS-IB.
5. Revise and clarify the definition of regionally significant infrastructure in Appendix 3 of the RPS
6. Evaluate options for updating the RPS to respond to the recommendations of the Tonkin and Taylor Climate Change Review once we have clarity on the resource management reform process.

Given the current uncertainty over the direction of resource management reform, it is unclear if a 10-year revision of the policy statement will be required. Three key pieces of resource management legislation were proposed to replace the Resource Management Act, with the Natural and Built Environments Act and the Spatial Planning Act already enacted and Climate Change Adaptation Act due to follow in 2024. However, the recent change of government has thrown these reforms into question with the potential to repeal the NBEA and Spatial Planning Acts.

It is considered prudent to wait until we have more clarity on the direction of reforms before addressing potential changes to the RPS beyond those currently required. Once we have clear direction on the reform, any proposed changes to the RPS would be presented to council to seek support and endorsement to proceed.

Introduction

Purpose and Scope of the Report

The purpose of this report is to fulfil council's responsibilities under Section 35 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to undertake a 5-yearly review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland (RPS). The findings from the review will be used as a basis for determining if any amendments are recommended to the RPS.

Measuring efficiency and effectiveness

There are two key elements to the review – efficiency and effectiveness:

*Measuring **efficiency** involves the evaluation of whether the costs of the policies, rules and other methods are reasonable for the benefit gained. Costs and benefits are evaluated in non-monetary terms.*

*Measuring **effectiveness** involves the evaluation of whether the objectives and anticipated environmental results sought by a plan's policies have been achieved.*

(ECAN¹)

In order to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the RPS, the review is focused on the Anticipated Environmental Outcomes identified in Part 9 of the RPS. The assessment uses 5 questions based on the approach developed by Environment Canterbury:

1. Have we done what we said we'd do? - That is, have we implemented all the policies and methods in the RPS?
2. Have we achieved what we said we'd achieve? - That is, have the policies and methods implemented resulted in the RPS's objectives being met?
3. How do we know if our actions led to the outcomes observed? - Or, can we demonstrate that any achievement of the RPS's objectives is attributable to the methods in the RPS?
4. Have we achieved the outcomes at reasonable cost? - Or was the (relative) cost of implementing the RPS's methods the lowest for the (relative) benefit gained?
5. Are we focused on the right issues? - That is, are the RPS's policies still appropriate (5 years on) and, has anything changed in relation to the RPS's stated resource management issues?

Data Sources and Methodology

Definitively attributing change to the provisions in the RPS is very difficult. Data can in some cases show trends but does not necessarily distinguish between change that is driven by the RPS vs. change that would have occurred anyway in the absence of the RPS provisions. The relatively short period of time since the RPS became operative and incomplete adoption of the provisions throughout the region also limit the ability to attribute change to the RPS. The data sources and methodology outlined below are considered to reasonably capture our understanding of the impact of the RPS to date, bearing in mind these challenges.

¹ An Assessment of the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan 2018
Environment Canterbury

The review has been undertaken by council staff. Information has been obtained from various sources including:

1. Collaboration between council staff and a consultant representing tangata whenua perspectives on the RPS resulting in the following report “Effectiveness and Efficiency Review of the Northland Regional Policy Statement – Tangata Whenua Lens 21 November 2022 – Barker and Associates Ltd.” Refer to Appendix 1.
2. Direct consultation with DoC, Whangarei District Council, Far North District Council and Kaipara District Council
3. Review of the climate change provisions vs best practice prepared by Tonkin and Taylor “Review of Climate Change Provisions” Refer to Appendix 2 “
4. Internal input by subject matter experts

Have we done what we said we’d do?

Part 9 of the RPS outlines the environmental outcomes anticipated from implementing the policies and methods of the RPS. These outcomes can be used as a basis for considering if we have achieved these results.

Fresh and Coastal Water

4.1 Integrated catchment management

1. *Catchment-specific objectives and limits are met and where there is over-allocation progress is made towards achieving targets for improving water quality or quantity.*

4.2 Region-wide water quality management

2. *The overall trophic level index (TLI) status of Northland’s monitored lakes is maintained or improved.*
3. *The macroinvertebrate community index (MCI) at regionally representative sites show improving or maintained trends.*
4. *Mean annual sedimentation rates (or turbidity levels) at representative sites in the Bay of Islands, Whāngārei Harbour, and the Kaipara Harbour show improving or maintained trends.*
5. *Compliance rates for contact recreation at popular swimming sites are maintained or improved with respect to the relevant guidelines.*
6. *Levels of indicator bacteria in open coastal waters at 15 popular shellfish collection sites is maintained or improved.*

4.3 Region wide water quantity management

7. *Region-wide ecological flows and water levels are not exceeded*

There have been four iterations of the NPS Freshwater between 2011 and 2020. In 2013 council embarked on catchment-based planning for freshwater (5 five priority catchments) – this resulted in five catchment plans that informed freshwater provisions of the Proposed Regional Plan (PRP). The NPS-FM 2020 changed the direction for freshwater management and increased complexity of implementation significantly, meaning much of the RPS policy is superceded. Since the release of the NPS-FM in 2020, a project team has been dedicated to reviewing and updating the freshwater provisions in the PRP. The outcome of this work will be notification of the Fresh Water Plan Change in late 2024 following a wide range of data collection /scientific studies, consultation with tangata whenua, industry groups and the general public. Once this work has been completed the outcomes will largely supersede the existing provisions in the RPS. Most controls on fresh water will be located in the Regional Plan with only the long-term vision remaining in the RPS and the requirement under NPS-FW 3.2 (3) to have an objective in the RPS recognising Te Mana o te Wai. In effect, the provisions developed as part of the plan change will above and beyond the direction outlined in the RPS.

The Proposed Regional Plan has limits in place on minimum flows and water allocation – the way these limits are set means that while there are areas that are fully allocated (which restricts further allocation of water) there is no over-allocation.

The Barkers report notes that the objectives, policies, methods and anticipated outcomes for catchment management and water quality and quantity management were overly technical and lacking in Te Ao Māori values. These provisions were considered by the report authors to represent inaccessibility of planning and resource management by tangata whenua which has the effect of limiting the ability of tangata whenua to participate. There was a broad view that the management of fresh and coastal waters needed to be considered within a wider context of land use as these activities impact on water quality. It is anticipated that these concerns will be addressed to some extent by the implementation of NRC's Tiriti Strategy – Tāike ē and further through the actions the come about by way of the fresh water plan change.

Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity

4.4 Maintaining and enhancing indigenous ecosystems and species

- 8. A progressive increase in the area of indigenous ecosystems and habitats on private land, in water bodies, and in the coastal marine area under protection.*
- 9. No increase in the number of regionally threatened species in Northland as a result of subdivision, use and development.*

In relation to indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity, the RPS identifies key pressures/threats (Issue 2.2), an Objective to safeguard ecological integrity, and Policy and methods to protect biodiversity and support restoration (Policies 4.4.1 and 4.4.2 and methods 4.4.3 to 4.4.6). It also includes criteria to be used to identify significant biodiversity and habitats in Northland (Appendix 5). Antonio Guterres, the UN Secretary General has stated "Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented and alarming rate, and the pressures are intensifying". In discussions with Department of Conservation staff it was considered that more emphasis in the RPS could be placed on safeguarding biodiversity

across the region. For example, Policy 4.4.1 of the RPS reflects the direction in Policy 11 of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS) to provide a high level of protection for biodiversity in the coastal environment with a lower level of protection provided elsewhere. Consideration should be given to extending this level of protection beyond the coastal environment as the coastal environment is an arbitrary planning construct that does not reflect relative importance of biodiversity.

Council's recently drafted State of the Environment report for Biodiversity "Ngā taonga koiora o tō tātou rohe Our Biological Heritage 2022" concludes that many parts of the environment are under threat with the spread of animal and plant pests, and the reduction in health of our freshwater ecosystem due to declining water quality of particular concern. Dune lakes are in good health compared to many other parts of the country, but ongoing work will be required to maintain and improve them. The increasing scale and unpredictability of climate change effects was noted as being of particular concern.

The newly released National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB) effectively extends the level of protection in the coastal environment to terrestrial biodiversity and requires the RPS and plans to give effect to this by August 2028. Also, by the same date, district councils must assess and map significant natural areas and if requested, regional council must help in this process.

The NPS-IB significance criteria for Significant Natural Area (SNA) assessments are very similar to the RPS Appendix 5 and for terrestrial habitats replace Appendix 5. The NPS-IB also requires that by August 2026 NRC have commenced, in collaboration with tangata whenua, stakeholders and district councils, development of a regional biodiversity strategy. The purpose of the strategy is to promote the landscape-scale restoration of the region's indigenous biodiversity. This will require establishment of a vision, providing for resilience from climate change, connectivity, supporting achievement of any national priorities and records that show actions, milestones and progress in achieving the strategy's purpose.

The NPS-IB allows for local authorities to change operative policy statement or plan text without using the Resource management Act Schedule 1 process if merely changing wording or terminology for consistency with the NPS-IB. This may be the case with replacing RPS biodiversity offsetting and compensation definition with those from the NPS-IB.

Regional councils must lead work to develop an indigenous biodiversity monitoring plan to measure ecological integrity, habitat extent, taonga and establish methods such as action plans where monitoring indicates NPS-IB objectives will not be met.

The RPS allocates protection of indigenous biodiversity on land to district councils and in water bodies and the CMA to NRC (Clause 1.6). Areas of indigenous vegetation on private land can be protected through a range of measures including:

- District plan rules
- Conditions of resource consents
- Environmental Benefit subdivisions
- QEII and other covenants
- Reserves

Regional rules and conditions of regional consents manage the effects of activities on the biodiversity in freshwater (including wetlands) and the CMA. The NPS-IB requires regional and district plans and policy to manage adverse effects on terrestrial indigenous biodiversity. Where a

qualifying natural feature is formally protected on private land the developer can gain additional development rights. These provisions are in the subdivision rules of all three district plans and are intended to be carried over into the new FNDC and KDC plans. The area of land protected by Queen Elizabeth II Trust rose from 10,230ha in 2016 to 10,959.6 ha in 2021 according to the Trust's annual reports. It is noted that not all land protected will be by way of a QEII covenant with some landowners choosing a private land covenant. However, the areas protected are on an ad hoc basis related to favoured areas for development rather than an overarching protection strategy to protect high value areas or ecological corridors although they may achieve this in some areas. It is noted that "Environmental benefit" provisions have been a feature of District Plans for many years and cannot be attributed to the provisions in the RPS, however, the policy guidance in the RPS does support District Plans in seeking protection for areas of ecological value.

Council is currently undertaking a project to develop a wetland mapping tool – this will implement requirements in the NPS-FM to map natural inland wetlands and create a wetland inventory (Clause 3.23). The output from this mapping work will be added to a GIS layer so that it will be easy for staff and members of the public to identify wetlands. This will lead to improved outcomes for protecting wetlands on private land and help to address the "no nett loss" of wetlands as required by the NPS-FW.

Part of the Monitoring and information gathering requirement in the methods of the RPS? was for the council to work together with other partner agencies to prepare guidelines on areas that potentially meet Appendix 5 significance criteria. These are designed to identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna by assessing them against four key attributes:

1. Representativeness
2. Rarity / distinctiveness
3. Diversity and pattern
4. Ecological context

To date these guidelines have not been completed, however the three Northland District Councils have developed a regionwide method for SNA assessment and undertook a draft mapping process that will now need to be undertaken and completed by August 2028 following a prescribed NPS-IB process.

The Barkers report notes the RPS policy framework has a very narrow focus being primarily on western science with no recognition of te o Māori values or mātauranga Māori and only narrow provision for kaitiakitanga in monitoring processes.

Councils Te Tiriti Strategy, Tāiki ē, is designed to address some of these issues with actions included to develop culturally appropriate monitoring programmes that support tangata whenua freshwater monitoring aspirations, increase opportunities for participation in decision making processes and consideration of transfer of powers where appropriate.

While the NPS-IB significance criteria also take a western science approach and largely replicate the RPS Appendix 5 criteria, the NPS-IB also requires meaningful engagement with tangata whenua as partners in the identification and management of indigenous biodiversity, including provision for kaitiakitanga. The NPS-IB also requires territorial authorities to work in partnership with tangata whenua to acknowledge and identify taonga.

Economic potential and Social Wellbeing

6.1 Supporting economic development

- 33. *The impacts of resource management decisions are well understood.*
- 34. *An increasingly consistent approach to cross-boundary issues.*
- 35. *Reduced compliance costs.*
- 36. *Increased business and investment growth.*

Infometrics Regional Economic Profile identifies the following regional growth figures versus national growth since the RPS was released in 2016:

Year	Regional Growth (%)	National Growth (%)
2016	3	3.7
2017	3.9	3.6
2018	3.2	3.5
2019	3.6	3.5
2020	2.5	2.5
2021	1.1	-0.5
2022	4.7	5.3

(Source - <https://ecoprofile.infometrics.co.nz/Northland%2bRegion/Gdp>)

There is no clear trend of economic growth over the 7 years since the RPS was released. Any impact on growth related to the RPS is difficult to identify with figures largely consistent with the national average. We consider that the RPS is likely to have minimal impact on regional growth. Over the last 3 years from 2020, growth has been significantly impacted by the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic with a major reduction then a rebound in 2022. However, it is noted that Northland had a smaller reduction in growth during 2021 and was still positive at 1.1% while the national average dropped to -0.5%.

The Barkers report identifies a lack of recognition of Māori economic development and the contribution of the Māori workforce plus hapū and iwi shared assets and resources. It also notes there is a missed opportunity regarding development on Māori land and promoting papakāinga development to support the economic wellbeing of tangata whenua in Te Taitokerau. While there some recognition of this in the tangata whenua section it is not considered to be well-integrated or visible in this section.

It was also considered that with regard to large scale infrastructure projects such as roading, rail, ports, wastewater treatment plants economic benefits were favoured over the cultural and environmental costs they generate.

Regional form

5.1 Regional form

- 22. Urban growth and development is managed in an integrated manner.*
- 23. New use and development fits within the context of the surrounding environment and provides a range of lifestyle choices and in urban areas provides for a range of transport options.*
- 24. Mixed use development is provided for in appropriate locations.*
- 25. There is no increase in noise, odour or vibration complaints arising from incompatible activities. The ability to access regionally significant mineral resources is not compromised by inappropriate subdivision, use and development.*

The National Policy Statement – Urban Development identifies Whangarei District Council as a Tier 2 local authority. Therefore, it is required to determine a Housing Bottom Line (HBL) that calculates the anticipated development demand for the district. This HBL must be incorporated into the RPS without the need for a Schedule 1 process. The logical place to incorporate the HBL would be into the Regional Form Chapter. WDC has identified the HBL which now needs to be inserted into the RPS. As a Tier 2 authority, WDC is also required to prepare a Future Development Strategy in collaboration with NRC. Work is now underway to progress this strategy with input from NRC policy staff.

KDC and FNDC are Tier 3 local authorities and therefore it is not compulsory for them to prepare a FDS or HBL.

It was identified that the requirement to avoid compromising regionally significant minerals is difficult for district councils as they do not have this information. Identifying these resources is a regional council function and has not been undertaken yet.

Infrastructure provision for new development is a concern in some areas – particularly urban / residential development with no reticulated water supply or where town supply relies on waterbodies with limited reliability. This issue was very apparent during the 2020/21 drought where drinking water had to be trucked in to supply settlements in the mid-North.

FNDC staff have identified the challenges with efficiently providing infrastructure services for urban development due to constraints on funding. This is particularly difficult for the Far North where no development contributions are charged on development consents.

Urban development has the potential to impact on the productive capacity of the soil where highly valuable soils are encroached on by residential development in areas such as Kerikeri and Waipapa. Attempts to control this with minimum lot sizes and a new horticultural zone have been introduced in the Proposed Far North Plan. The introduction of the NPS-HPL will also result in much greater emphasis on the protection of elite soils with the requirement that maps of all highly productive land in the region are to be incorporated in the RPS by 2025.

5.2 Efficient and effective infrastructure

- 27. Northland's use of resources supplied by infrastructure becomes more efficient over time and waste is managed more efficiently.*
- 28. Northland's infrastructure becomes more efficient over time.*

5.3 Regionally significant infrastructure

29. The benefits of regionally significant infrastructure are given appropriate recognition in the consenting process.

30. Northland has a secure and available gas supply.

Regionally significant infrastructure is defined in the RPS. However, the definition has been challenged with regard to a proposed redevelopment of Northport as to whether aspects of the proposal qualify as regionally significant infrastructure. Debate centred on whether the list of infrastructure given in the RPS was complete or meant to be indicative of the types of infrastructure that could be considered. There would be potential to clarify this definition in any future amendments. The definition also became more important as the NES Freshwater controls on wetlands severely restrict activities that damage wetlands but made exceptions for RSI – it would also be of benefit to review the definition to ensure it is sufficiently broad and recognises water entities established under the Water Services Act.

Gas supplies are likely to be phased out over the coming years as fossil methane is recognised as a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Therefore, secure gas supplies to Northland are no longer considered relevant as an environmental outcome.

5.4 Renewable energy

31. Northland becomes self-sufficient for its electricity needs and a net exporter of electricity over time.

32. The benefits and practicable constraints associated with renewable electricity generation are given appropriate recognition in the consenting process.

The recently released Proposed FNDC District Plan and the KDC Draft Plan have both been drafted with enabling provisions for renewable energy generation. As these plans progress through to operative status there will be an increasing ability to rely on these provisions for the development of renewable energy generation projects.

Transpower has been assessing the viability of creating the first Renewable Energy Zone (REZ) Pilot project in Northland. These zones are intended link renewable energy generators with the infrastructure needed to deliver the electricity to where is needed. Transpower says that it is keen to work collaboratively to explore and potentially enable this kind of infrastructure investment. To test the concept, they have worked with Top Energy and Northpower on the initial pilot REZ in Northland. Submissions have closed on the proposal, but Transpower has not yet released a decision and has recently indicated that the form of any potential REZ will need to be reconsidered.

2.5 Issues of significance to tangata whenua – participation in resource management

2.6 Issues of significance to tangata whenua – natural and physical resources

8.1, 8.2 and 8.3 Tangata Whenua

41. Tangata whenua values and their kaitiaki role are considered in all resource management decisions.

42. Improved working relationships with iwi and hapū to achieve mutually acceptable environmental outcomes.

Section D.1 – Tangata Whenua in the Proposed Regional Plan sets out a range of policies designed to give effect to the direction in the RPS. These policies describe when an analysis of effects on tangata whenua is required, what this analysis should address and who should be considered to be affected persons. It also includes places of significance to tangata whenua and managing effects on these.

Discussions with the consents team noted that deciding who to consult with was often challenging and there is a conflict between RMA consent timeframes and the amount of time required to allow for adequate tangata whenua engagement once an application has been lodged. Consideration should be given to requiring the applicant to undertake appropriate consultation prior to accepting a consent application. Policy D.1.1 details that a cultural impact assessment is required where one or more impact may occur. However, without doing an assessment the consents team don't know if any of these matters are triggered. Clearer direction on this would be helpful.

Consideration of how this is working in practice for tangata whenua has been addressed in the report prepared by Barker and Associates. One of the key themes that emerged from this work is that while the words in the RPS are reasonable, there has been a lack of meaningful implementation of the provisions. Cultural impact assessments for consent applications are not always required for applications where tangata whenua thought they would be necessary or may be sought from the wrong people. It was also identified that there is a lack of recognition of the effects of subdivision and land use on the wider cultural and ecological surroundings.

There were concerns raised by MTAG in relation to earthworks and stormwater management as it was seen that there was a lack of integration between the regional and district functions controlling these activities resulting in poor outcomes for fresh and coastal water quality.

The Barkers report identifies the similar issues for tangata whenua with the consenting process as raised by the consents team noting that engagement with developers can be ad hoc and inconsistent and not always undertaken with the right mana whenua groups. There was concern around the production of CIA/Cultural value assessments as to whether they were being prepared by the right person. There have been instances of these being prepared by writers outside the rohe leading to conflict with mana whenua. To help address this, they recommend that a roadmap be created of how/who consultation is undertaken to assist with pre-lodgement engagement for resource consents.

They also suggest data on CIAs be recorded and a stocktake of CIA's be undertaken to understand when they were required, the quality and whether or not they influenced the decision making on the resource consent process.

Development of Iwi/Hapu Environmental Management Plans (IHEMPS) and Mana Whakahono-ā-Rohe (MWāR) has been hampered to date due to a lack of funding. However, it was acknowledged that NRCs *Tāiki ē* strategy contains actions to increase funding to support development of these tools which could then provide important guidance on who the relevant mana whenua groups are, highlight core values and detail any engagement expectations in RMA processes.

There was support for Policy 6.1.3 relating to transfer of powers and delegation of functions, however, they did not know of any instances where this has occurred. Accordingly, this is an area NRC could further consider in the future. Initiatives such as the formation of the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group to assist in preparing the Fresh Water Plan Change are an example of NRC proactively engaging with tangata whenua to improve decision making.

With regard to Papakāinga development, it was considered there needed to be some analysis around Taitokerau to understand how effective the RPS provisions had been. In particular whether district plans within the region have adequately given effect to the RPS direction with plan changes and whether this has had any impact on papakāinga development since the RPS came into effect.

A review of the planning documents showed that WDC has included provisions in the district plan to enable Papakāinga on ancestral land within the Whangarei District as defined in the Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993. A section of their website provides a Papakāinga toolkit including the processes of the council and the Māori Land Court. There is also the option of booking a discussion with a duty planner for assistance in understanding the process.

The current FNDC and KDC district plans predate the RPS, however, the Proposed Far North District Plan and the Draft Kaipara Plan seek to introduce provisions relating to Papakāinga developments.

The KDC draft plan includes a Māori purpose zone which has the following zone statement:

“The Māori purpose zone (MPZ) provides for a range of activities such as papakāinga housing, marae and associated activities on land owned by Tangata Whenua to assist Māori communities to provide for their unique social, cultural, environmental and economic needs within the District. This zone recognises and provides for the relationship of Māori with their ancestral land.”

The Proposed Far North Plan also includes a Māori Purpose zone with the following zone statement:

“The Māori Purpose zone provides for the use and development of Māori land which can support the social, cultural and economic aspirations of tangata whenua and enable a range of activities to be undertaken, such as marae, papakāinga, and economic activities which reflect Māori customs and values, while enabling tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga.”

As both the FNDC and KDC plans are at the early stage of statutory process it is too soon to tell how well these provisions will facilitate Papakāinga development. However, it is considered all three district plans are moving towards recognising and facilitating Papakāinga development as directed by the RPS.

Natural hazards

7.1 Development in natural hazard-prone areas

37. Where subdivision, use and development occur in areas subject to natural hazards, the potential adverse effects of those natural hazards are mitigated by appropriate design.

38. Communities are increasingly resilient to the effects of natural hazard events.

Region-wide mapping of river and coastal hazards has been completed. The availability of this data allows the district councils to clearly identify where river flood and coastal hazards are present and ensure the issues are appropriately addressed when considering development. The Proposed Far North District Plan and the Draft Kaipara Plan both adopt the coastal hazard and river flood maps along with an appropriate planning framework to address them. Whangarei District Council is undertaking a plan change to address natural hazards although the proposed provisions have not been finalised. With these provisions embedded in the updated district plans there will be a much stronger ability to control development in hazard prone areas. KDC staff have indicated that they appreciate the prescriptive nature of the hazard provisions and maps as it has helped explain the reasoning when presenting them to the ratepayers and council members. Even without incorporating the hazard maps in the district plans, decision makers have been able to refer to the RPS policy and maps as a guiding principle when assessing land use or subdivision applications. The understanding of natural hazards is an ongoing process – government guidance is also subject to change (e.g. updated sea level rise scenarios). This can cause issues for district councils as hazard maps are revisited – meaning district plans need to be updated at significant cost. Exploring options to enable district plans to reference maps in district plans without the need for a full Schedule 1 RMA process is likely to be of benefit.

7.2 General risk reduction policies

39. The adverse effects of natural hazard mitigation measures on the environment will be avoided or mitigated. Objective 3.13

40. Reduction in the need / demand for hard protection structures.

The RPS contains policy guidance on avoiding development in hazard prone areas, however, this is an area where stronger direction may be required due to the accelerating pace and scale of climate change related hazard events. Development in hazard prone areas will place significant costs on future generations as these areas may require managed retreat for residential activities with the associated loss of assets and cost of relocation. Damaging weather events leading to flooding and land subsidence are increasingly common and avoiding development in these areas is vital.

As part of the RPS review process and to fulfil NRC's actions required by the climate change strategies, Tonkin and Taylor was commissioned to undertake a review of the RPS and PRP against the National Adaptation Policy and the Emissions Reduction Plan. Tonkin and Taylor also considered NRCs own documents Nga Taumata o te Moana and Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy. The assessment methodology considered Climate Actions under the various strategies with the ability to address these actions within an RMA framework to determine a relevance score for the action. It then considered how well the current RPS and Regional Plan were achieving these actions to give a performance indicator. The outcome of the review identified the relevant key areas for action where the RPS was currently performing moderately to poorly as:

- Overall strategic direction
- Adaption
- Emissions reduction
- Carbon removal

The Barkers report identifies that climate change and associated hazard events are of concern to tangata whenua but consideration of this is largely absent from the RPS policy framework. They also felt the flood protection schemes were focused on protecting assets and infrastructure rather than communities and there was a general approach from district and regional council that “you can engineer your way out of it”.

Natural character, features / landscapes and historic heritage

4.5 Identifying the coastal environment and significant natural character, features / landscapes and historic heritage resources

10. The Regional Policy Statement – Maps of Outstanding natural landscapes and features, high and outstanding natural character areas and the coastal environment provide a consistent basis for appropriate management of these resources.

11. Policy 4.5.3 provides a consistent basis for assessing, recording and appropriate management of historic heritage.

Discussion with a Department of Conservation staff has indicated consideration should be given to reviewing the coastal environment boundary to ensure that it is accurate. It is notable that the coastal environment boundary was tested in the Environment Court on appeals to the RPS – the court considered it to be a robust implementation of Policy 1 of the NZCPS criteria.

Advice from the resource consent team indicates that the policy and rules framework process provides adequate protection to heritage features via the consenting process.

KDC staff raised concerns that Policy 4.5.3 is focused only on the areas that NRC has jurisdictional function over. However, on reviewing the policy it is not clear how the current wording of the Policy limits it to regional matters. Their heritage consultant had an issue applying the policy to the matters within the territorial authority in the context of preparing the draft plan. They commented that the RPS policy states that the definition of historic heritage is from the RMA but the assessment criteria are in fact based on the Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA). They consider this leads to problems in the hierarchy of documents from RMA to RPS to District Plan by involving the HNZPTA criteria which have a different focus from the RMA values. This is not seen as a significant issue or conflict as the RPS criteria usefully expand on the RMA definition to provide guidance on what heritage resources should be protected in plans (the RMA definition is very high level). It is also noted that the RPS heritage provisions were tested thoroughly through the Schedule 1 RMA process.

4.6 Managing effects on natural character, features / landscapes and heritage

12. The integrity of Outstanding natural landscapes, outstanding natural features and outstanding natural character are not subject to inappropriate degradation over the life of the Regional Policy Statement.

13. The coastal environment, landscape and natural character of Northland remains a primary attraction for visitors.

14. Heritage features that meet the criteria in Policy 4.5.3 are added regularly into plans and no significant reduction in the number of such features in plans occurs due to modification / destruction.

15. Cultural / heritage impact assessments are required in consent processes where heritage features are potentially affected and the information they provide is reflected in decisions and/or conditions of consent.

Infometrics figures for regional tourism growth between 2016 and 2022 show wide variation reflecting the significant impact on tourism related to the Covid 19 pandemic. This makes it difficult to determine any impact related specifically to the RPS.

The Barkers report identifies that there should be a greater emphasis for enabling access to the coast to improve access to kai moana and the coast generally.

Mapping of features other than historic heritage resources was not considered to provide for tangata whenua and Māori cultural values in the identification criteria. MTAG raised some opposition to the mapping of these resources because they did not result in purposeful protection of the resources and placed restrictions over Māori land. They also raised that there should be emphasis on identification and protection of Sites of Significance to Māori and Cultural Landscapes. To date this has been limited due to lack of resources.

4.7 Supporting management and improvement

16. Activities with only benign adverse effects or positive effects are not subject to the consent process.

17. Plans target incentives towards the areas identified in Method 4.7.4(1).

18. Community, iwi, hapū and landowner environmental improvement efforts are focussed in a manner or location that provides the most public benefit.

19. Council's support initiatives for restoration in areas targeted in Method 4.7.4(1).

20. The amenity, natural character and recreational value of areas targeted in Method 4.7.4(1). increases over the life of the Regional Policy Statement.

With regard to activities not requiring consents for benign or positive effects, staff consider that rules in the plan generally only require consents for activities with potential to create adverse effect on the environment. Benign or positive activities are generally not subject to consenting process, except where such activities present as risk to the environment, such as minor earthworks in a flood hazard. It is recognised that there are limitations to drafting a permitted activity rule that covers all situations. There is also recognition that individual activities may only have limited effect but that taken together there is the potential for cumulative effects.

Staff consider that the rules are working well and have struck a balance between capturing and assessing activities with potential adverse effects without overly restricting activities with benign or

positive effects. Conditions of consent are also commonly applied to either protect and / or improve natural resources (such as pest and weed management plans and restoration plantings) and NRC has a range of programmes that support outcomes in the RPS, particularly funding support offered through grant funding initiatives. Incentives used in district plans (such as environmental benefit lots) have also assisted in protecting / restoring biodiversity although not directly linked to the RPS.

4.8 Efficient use of coastal water space

21. All new structures and in the common marine and coastal area are an efficient use of the space.

The rules for new structures in the coastal environment have been developed in the Regional Plan and recognise the direction from Policy 4.8.1 of the RPS. All but the most minor of new structures require a resource consent. Resource consent assessment criteria allow for consideration of the efficient use of space and the need for the activity to be located within the coastal and marine environment.

Coastal occupation charging for private use of the coastal area has been considered by council as a means of encouraging efficient use of the coastal area. However, this has not been implemented due to the likelihood that the Natural and Built Environments Act will include a national standard for coastal occupation charging. Should this not make it to the final version of the Act, council is likely to revisit a local charging regime.

Have we achieved what we said we'd achieve?

The ability to achieve the outcomes identified in the RPS has been constrained by the short timeframe for the review and the limited implementation of the RPS within updated planning documents. Without the provisions being fully implemented at both the district and regional level, it is difficult to determine if the anticipated outcomes are likely to be achieved by the current provisions in the RPS. Staff do not consider any major changes are warranted because has not been sufficient time to make meaningful progress to implementing the current RPS document.

The Barkers report considers that the objectives of the PRS are partially being achieved. NRC has provided improved opportunities for tangata whenua participation in plan development e.g. Fresh water plan change, however, they do not consider there has been a measurable improvement in resource consenting and monitoring processes. It is acknowledged that progress has been limited by the delay in giving effect to the RPS. A number of these issues are recognised in the Tāiki ě strategy and there is a commitment from NRC to improve.

How do we know our action let to the outcomes observed?

The most concrete link to observable outcomes is in the formulation of the Proposed Regional Plan. In the hierarchy of documents, the RPS sets the direction, and the Regional Plan develops the

policies and rules framework for implementing this direction. The formulation of the Regional Plan is considered to have implemented the main themes of the RPS and as this document gets closer to being fully operative it will be clearer how this works in practice. There has also been progress by district councils with plan changes or Proposed Plans reflecting RPS direction, most notably on natural hazards, outstanding landscapes/features, natural character and the coastal environment.

Have we achieved the outcomes at a reasonable cost?

Feedback from district councils is that financial and staffing constraints are a barrier to achieving the RPS outcomes. It has been suggested that NRC could take a more proactive role in supporting and resourcing the district councils to achieve the policy outcomes. Work streams could be undertaken as co-design projects with information and outcomes shared between councils to reduce time and cost. However, NRC is not presently resourced to enable such an approach. Similar constraints are apparent in respect of NRC's capacity to partner with tangata whenua and resource the development of whakahono a rohe agreements. The NRC Te Tiriti Strategy, *Tāiki ē*, recognises this challenge.

A key example of resourcing needs is the requirement of the the NPS-IB for district plans to identify Significant Natural Areas (SNAs). Previously this has been an area of contention for the public. To undertake SNA mapping in a way that is accepted by the community will require a considerable investment of time and money and a shared approach may be beneficial.

An alternative way of looking at the costs was discussed by Māori Technical Advisory Group in that the RPS was considered to favour economic cost benefit analysis over social, cultural, and environmental costs. It was considered that costs such as degradation of mahinga kai and the resulting inability to practice traditional food gathering for example were not able to be captured when looking at purely economic costs of assessing consent proposals.

Are we focused on the right issues?

Changes to the National Planning Framework

- What impact has this had since the RPS became operative?

Since the RPS became operative, several significant national policy documents have been enacted. The most important of these are:

- NPS-FM (National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020)
- NES-F (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater)
- NPS-HPL (National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land)
- NPS-IB (National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity)
- National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change and Emissions Reduction Plan
- NPS-UD (National Policy Statement on Urban Development)

The majority of the changes required by NPS-FW and NES-F will be addressed by the Fresh Water Plan Change and this will largely relate to the Regional Plan rather than the RPS. Extensive consultation is underway including the establishment of the Primary Sector Liaison Group and the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group to assist in drafting the plan change in a way that gives effect to te Mana o te Wai. Long term visions will go into the RPS but the bulk of the outcomes for freshwater will become objectives in the Regional Plan.

The NPS-HPL is intended to ensure that adequate protection is provided for our most productive land. A key requirement is for regional councils to undertake the mapping of highly productive land within the parameters set out in the NPS-HPL and to notify a plan change incorporating these maps into the RPS by October 2025. The addition of the maps identifying highly productive land is all that is required at the regional level with the district councils being responsible for developing their own planning framework of policies and rules to ensure appropriate recognition of productive land.

As with the NPS-FW, the majority of the changes required by the NPS-IB are likely to be addressed by plan changes that will largely relate to the Regional Plan rather than the RPS. This will require extensive consultation including with Tangata Whenua, DOC, TA's and the primary sector, to assist in drafting the plan changes in a way that recognise community aspirations. Indigenous vegetation restoration targets and likely other long-term visions for biodiversity will go into the RPS but the bulk of the outcomes for biodiversity will become Regional Plan provisions – another key delivery mechanism will be the development and implementation of the Regional Biodiversity Strategy.

Significant issues that have arisen

- Greater focus on climate change adaption/resilience

Since the development of the RPS, the magnitude and potential consequences of climate change have become better understood. Issues such as natural hazards and sea level rise appear to be occurring more quickly than originally anticipated and addressing these matters appropriately requires a more comprehensive approach within the RPS. Tonkin and Taylor was commissioned to undertake a review of the RPS and PRP against the national climate change framework and regional documents Nga Taumata o te Moana and Te Tai Tokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy to consider our current position and relate it to best practice in terms of climate change resilience and adaptation.

This review process included workshopping with local government representatives and identified key areas where the RPS could be improved to address climate change more effectively. This review is attached as Appendix 2 with the key findings summarised below. Unlike the changes required by the NPS-HPL these changes are not compulsory and would need support from the councillors to progress. However, given the recent impacts from extreme weather events experienced in Tai Tokerau and around New Zealand there is urgency to consider an appropriate policy response.

The Tonkin and Taylor review report assessed the ability of the RPS to address climate change actions and the current performance of the RPS. In most areas the RPS was assessed to be moderate to poor in giving effect to the actions required. However, it was acknowledged that this is a reflection of the changing nature of climate change understanding and the forward looking nature of the two regional climate strategies, rather than a reflection on the inadequacies of the RPS at the time of preparation.

The key recommended areas for action are:

- Overall strategic direction
- Adaption
- Emissions reduction
- Carbon removal

Within these key areas the following actions were identified as having the highest relevance to the RPS:

Empowering Maori/Partnership with Maori
Climate resilient development in the right locations
Adaption options including managed retreat
Nature based adaption
Resilient infrastructure
Planning for lower emissions

Climate change was also identified in the Barker and Associates tangata whenua perspectives report as a key issue. Their conclusions state that *“climate change is now an issue of significance and needs to be integrated throughout the RPS.”* The report recommends that any updates to incorporate climate change issues into the RPS should have input from tangata whenua to ensure a te ao Māori perspective is considered.

Conclusions and Recommendations

There have been mixed results with regard to the anticipated environmental outcomes identified in the RPS. Some areas such as economic development, protection of Outstanding Natural Landscapes and hazard management are moving towards achieving these outcomes while in other areas such as issues of significance to tangata whenua, freshwater quality and biodiversity protection, little progress is apparent although the freshwater plan change will be the vehicle for addressing water issues in the future.

A number of factors contribute to lack of progress in some areas. Five years is a relatively short timeframe to achieve environmental outcomes with issues such as water quality potentially taking decades to show measurable improvements. Moreover, the lag from completing the RPS to giving effect to its provisions through planning instruments creates further challenges to fully understanding the effectiveness of the RPS at the five year mark. The Proposed Regional Plan for Northland was released in 2018 and is not yet fully operative. WDC has implemented a series of rolling plan changes which have moved towards implementing the direction of the RPS. FNDC released their Proposed District Plan and Kaipara District Council released their Draft Plan in July 2022. Prior to that, these plans predated the release of the RPS and therefore had limited ability to give effect to the policy direction in the RPS. The Proposed and Draft Plans will provide more direction on achieving the RPS outcomes as they move through the development process and progressively hold more weighting in assessing land use.

Funding and staff capacity has been identified as a constraint to achieving the anticipated outcomes with issues such as appropriate engagement and recognition of tangata whenua values being hampered by a lack of resources. This is particularly true taking into account councils commitment to give effect to its obligations under Te Tiriti. Construction and maintenance of infrastructure is also impacted, particularly in the Far North where development contributions are not collected from new development. The introduction of the Three Waters reform is likely to result in a change to infrastructure funding and development and the RPS may need to provide clarity / direction.

It is recommended that where possible NRC contribute expertise and resources to assist district councils to give effect to the policy direction in the RPS. NRC could also encourage and facilitate co-design process where issues are worked through in a collaborative way with sharing of experiences and resources.

A number of changes to the RPS will be required by the new pieces of the national planning framework.

Freshwater provisions in the RPS and the Regional Plan will be updated by the freshwater plan change project with a plan change to be notified late 2024.

A schedule 1 plan change is required to incorporate maps of highly productive land for the region into the RPS and must be notified before October 2025.

The NPSIB sets out the timing for local authorities to implement the NPSIB. In broad terms councils are encouraged to give effect to the NPSIB as soon as practicable, but changes to policy statements or plans (plan changes) must be notified no later than year 8 (August 2031).

NRC may choose to amend the RPS for consistency with the NPS-IB by replacing the RPS biodiversity offsetting and compensation definitions with those used in the NPS-IB. Because this involves only changing wording or terminology, it can be treated as a correction of a minor error (and therefore, under clause 20A of Schedule 1 of the Act, the amendment can be made without using a process in that Schedule).

There is a need for plan changes that incorporate provisions to manage effects on SNAs, and clause 3.24 (resource consent information requirements) to be notified no later than year 5, however this process may not involve the RPS, i.e. it's likely to only affect the regional plan.

Biodiversity Strategies must be starting within three years and complete by year 10 (August 2033), although there is information required to be in those strategies that must inform objectives, policies and methods associated with indigenous biodiversity restoration (clause 3.21), which are to be notified by year 8 (as above) and this may involve both the RPS and regional plan. It is likely that a number of the NPS-IB requirements will be incorporated into the new resource management system given the timing, with more emphasis on spatial planning and less of a role for the RPS given combined district/regional plans under the Natural and Built Environment Act (once enacted).

Minor amendments relating the NPS-UD will need to be included without a schedule 1 process.

The Climate Change review undertaken by Tonkin and Taylor identified deficiencies in the current planning documents in the following key areas:

- Overall strategic direction
- Adaption
- Emissions reduction
- Carbon removal

It is recommended that consideration is given to developing a range of amendments to the RPS based on the findings of this review.

The report prepared by Barker and Associates also identified an area for a potential plan change in order to improve integration of tangata whenua provisions across the rest of the RPS in particular:

- Fresh and coastal water management
- Indigenous ecosystems and biodiversity
- Economic potential and social wellbeing
- Natural hazard management

This report also identified gaps in the climate change provisions in the RPS and recommended this be addressed with input from tangata whenua to ensure a te o Māori perspective is integrated.

Additionally, a stock take of existing CIA could be undertaken to gauge their impact on the consenting process and a road map be prepared guiding early engagement for resource consent applications.

Based on the assessment above, the following actions are recommended:

1. Update to the RPS to incorporate the compulsory requirements of the NPS-UD without the requirement to undertake a schedule 1 process.
2. Continue to develop maps of Highly Productive Land as required by the NPS-HPL and notify a plan change by October 2025 to add these to the RPS.
3. Make any consequential amendments to the RPS as a result of notifying the freshwater plan change.
4. Update the RPS to give effect to the requirements of the NPS-IB.
5. Revise and clarify the definition of regionally significant infrastructure in Appendix 3 of the RPS
6. Evaluate options for updating the RPS to respond to the recommendations of the Tonkin and Taylor Climate Change Review once we have clarity on the resource management reform process.

TITLE: NRC Councillor appointment to the Northland Inanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project

From: Gavin Dawson, Governance Specialist

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 09 February 2024

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

This report asks the council to consider and decide on the request from the Northland Inanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project Governance Group (Committee), for Councillor Amy Macdonald (Cr Macdonald) to be appointed as the Northland Regional Council (NRC) representative (**Attachment 1**).

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'NRC Councillor appointment to the Northland Inanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project' by Gavin Dawson, Governance Specialist and dated 25 January 2024, be received.
2. That Councillor Amy Macdonald be appointed as the Northland Regional Council representative on the Northland Inanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project Governance Group.

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	That Councillor Amy Macdonald is appointed as the NRC representative on the Trust.	The appointment request is given effect and further opportunities created for NRC to improve environmental outcomes.	There are no known disadvantages.
2	That Councillor Amy Macdonald is not appointed as the NRC representative on the Trust.	There are no known advantages.	The appointment request is not given effect and further opportunities reduced for NRC to improve environmental outcomes.

The staff's recommended option is option 1, as this gives effect to the request of the Committee and meets their governance requirements. It also creates further opportunities for NRC to collaborate with the community on aligned environmental outcomes.

Considerations

1. Climate Impact

There are no climate impacts related to this matter.

2. Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impacts related to this matter.

3. Community views

Community consultation is not required for this matter.

4. Māori impact statement

Engagement with Māori is not required as this appointment request is being made by an independent external organisation at their discretion.

5. Financial implications

The Committee have noted that a meeting fee of \$500.00 will payable directly to Cr Macdonald from their operational budgets to cover attendance and any other expenses incurred. Any other additional expenses related to this appointment are covered by the NRC Elected Member Allowances and Expenses Policy.

6. Implementation issues

The Committee will be notified of the decision of council after a decision has been made.

7. Significance and engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is considered to be of low significance when assessed against council's significance and engagement policy because it is part of council's day to day activities. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to Tangata Whenua and/or individual communities, but that council is able to make decisions relating to this matter without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

1. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

The matter is compliant with policy and legislative requirements.

Background/Tuhinga

The Northland Īnanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project (Project) is part of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust established in 2002. Funding for the Project is provided through the Ministry's Freshwater Improvement Fund.

NRC has been involved in the Project since 2021. This includes providing monitoring and surveying services in six Northland catchments that is funded by the Ministry and having an NRC representative on the Committee.

The Committee contacted the Chair and the Chief Executive of NRC with a request to have Cr Macdonald appointed as the NRC representative (**Attachment 1**). The former NRC representative was Justin Blaikie.

This is a non-statutory appointment and made at the discretion of the Committee and council. The specification for an appointment is decided by the Committee and correspondence has expressed that Cr Macdonald meets those requirements.

If the appointment request is approved, the Committee will be advised of the decision, and Cr Macdonald formally become the NRC representative on the Committee.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Appointment request letter [!\[\]\(1f99bf65f43889da445ecc1fe8d9504f_img.jpg\)](#) 



31 January 2024

Dear Northland Regional Council,

I am writing to request the appointment of Councillor Amy MacDonald to the Northland Inanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project (NĪSHRP) Governance Group as a representative of the Northland Regional Council.

NĪSHRP is a collaborative three-year project running from early 2022 to June 2025, focused on locating, protecting, and enhancing inanga spawning habitats in the Northland region. The project aims to address knowledge gaps, engage communities, and build capacity to better manage freshwater systems and support this culturally and ecologically vital species that is in decline.

The project is primarily funded through the Ministry for the Environment's Freshwater Improvement Fund and aligns with the fund's goals. The Ministry has had significant involvement in developing NĪSHRP's work plans and continues to provide input on the program.

The governance group oversees NĪSHRP objectives and activities. As a sub-committee of the Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust, it includes stakeholders like the Trust itself, Department of Conservation, Fonterra, hapū representatives, and we hope, the Northland Regional Council through Councillor MacDonald. Her expertise with Northland waterways and communities would be invaluable in guiding the project and connecting its progress back to the council.

The group meets quarterly to review program direction. We believe Councillor MacDonald is uniquely qualified to represent regional interests and priorities at these meetings. Her participation would strengthen coordination between NĪSHRP and the council as we work to protect inanga habitat.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. We greatly appreciate the Regional Council's involvement and support, and look forward to Councillor MacDonald's appointment.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kim Jones', is shown within a rectangular box.

Kim Jones
Poutokomanawa/Co-Director - Freshwater Programme Lead and NĪSHRP Project Executive
Phone: 027 243 4818
Email: kim@mountaintosea.org.nz

TITLE: Council Submission - Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products

From: Dai Morgan, Biosecurity Manager - Partnerships

Authorised by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 13 February 2024
Group Manager/s:

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) is intending, under section 29 of the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Act 1997, to reassess the conditions of registration applied to all registered vertebrate toxic agents (VTAs). This will be performed sequentially according to the active ingredient, starting with the anti-coagulants and, most immediately, brodifacoum. In late 2023 MPI sought feedback on a Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and Use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products.

A submission on the proposal was lodged on 25 January 2024 under delegated authority by the Executive Leadership Team (refer Attachment 1). In accordance with the Delegation Manual, the content of the submission was circulated to councillors for discussion and comments were incorporated to the final version; however, timeframes did not allow for approval by council before being lodged. The Council Delegations Manual requires that submission authorised by the Executive Leadership Team that are deemed to be politically significant must be retrospectively approved by council. Retrospective approval is being sought by council for that reason. This report recommends council give retrospective approval for the submission attached as Attachment 1.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'Council Submission - Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products' by Dai Morgan, Biosecurity Manager - Partnerships and dated 13 February 2024, be received.
2. That council retrospectively approve the attached submission on the Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and Use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products.

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Council retrospectively approves the submission	The Ministry of Primary Industries receives constructive feedback on their proposed changes to the use of this VTA.	None
2	Council does not approve the submission	None	The submission points would need to be formally withdrawn and

			MPI would not be able to consider the matters raised.
3	Council seeks changes to the submission.	Uncertain	It is unlikely that changes would be accepted as submissions closed on 26 January 2024.

The staff's recommended option is Option 1.

Considerations

1. Climate Impact

The submission does not reference climate change and lodging the submission will not materially affect NRC's response to climate change.

2. Environmental Impact

Lodging the submission will not materially impact NRC's roles and functions.

3. Community views

Council's submissions are intended to advocate for the interests of the region. The proposed changes to the of brodifacoum-based bait have been the subject of public consultation and therefore individuals in the community have also had the opportunity of raise matters relating to their own interest.

4. Māori impact statement

Due to timeframes, Tangata Whenua were not consulted on our submission; however, the lodgement of this submissions will not materially affect Māori. Māori have also had the opportunity to lodge submissions raising their own matters of importance.

5. Financial implications

There are not considered to be any financial implications associated with the lodgement or retrospective approval of this submission.

6. Implementation issues

Should council decide not to provide retrospective approval then council will notify MPI that the submission is withdrawn.


7. Significance and engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is considered to be of low significance when assessed against council's significance and engagement policy because it is part of council's day to day activities. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to Tangata Whenua and/or individual communities, but that council is able to make decisions relating to this matter without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

8. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

There are no material policy or legislative compliance risks associated with council lodging a submission on the government proposals or relating to council's retrospective approval of the submission.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Submission on the Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the
Manufacture, Sale, Storage and Use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent
(VAT) Products [↓](#) 

Submission on the Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and Use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products

24 January 2024

Prepared by Biosecurity Partnerships
Northland Regional Council
36 Water Street, Whangarei 0110

Background on brodifacoum use in Northland

Brodifacoum-based products are one of the essential tools used to control pests in Northland. The Northland Regional Council (NRC) supports our community and iwi/hapū stakeholders to use this vertebrate toxic agent (VTA) to manage mammalian pests (especially possums) on their whenua.

The NRC has not had the opportunity to consult with Tangata Whenua on the proposed changes to the use of brodifacoum, but we are aware of some of the concerns that iwi/hapū have about the use of this VTA on their whenua. It is not, however, the NRC's position to advocate for the use of brodifacoum, or any other pest control tool, when supporting the development and delivery of pest control programmes with Tangata Whenua, or other landowners. Instead, we acknowledge our community's right to choose the method(s) they want to employ when controlling pest species and we work with them so that these methods can be used in a way that follows best practice so that risks to the environment are minimised.

While we recognise the need to ensure brodifacoum (and all VTAs) are used in a way that minimises adverse impacts, we consider some of the new or revised conditions for brodifacoum use are too onerous or not needed at all. We believe that if these new or revised conditions are all implemented, it will create a significant barrier to those users that are employing this VTA appropriately. If this happens, then many of the significant biodiversity gains made across Northland may be compromised.

Furthermore, there are few VTAs for possum control that do not require the operator to have a Controlled Substances Licence (CSL). Accordingly, we suspect that if there is a reduction in the use of brodifacoum-based toxins due to more onerous conditions, a heavier reliance on other non-controlled VTAs that target possums will occur, which will undoubtedly reduce their effectiveness through being excessively employed.

We agree, or mainly agree with many of the new or revised conditions relating to the manufacture, sale, storage and use of brodifacoum-biased VTA products, so have only commented on those that we disagree, or partially disagree with. Where we have disagreed with, or questioned a new or revised condition, pragmatic suggestions to achieve an outcome where risk is minimised have been made.

Summary of Proposed Amendments

2.1.1 Recognition of Persons

Disagree with the proposed condition.

There are two main reasons why we disagree with this condition which revolves around: (1) the setting of a 300g threshold before a user is required to become a Recognised User, and (2) the requirement of people purchasing quantities of >300g to complete an intensive and expensive

registration process and educational programme. The proposed controls do not focus on minimising the risk of brodifacoum but merely seek to impose controls to limit use overall.

Rationale:

We argue that 300g is not a sufficient amount of bait to control an infestation of pests (especially if the pest species are possums). For example, approximately 120g of Pest Off Possum Bait (0.02g/kg of brodifacoum) is required to kill a possum (<https://pestoff.co.nz/products/pestoff-brodifacoum-possum-bait/>). This means that 300g of a brodifacoum-based product would only kill a maximum of two possums, which is unlikely to manage an infestation at most rural properties. Continually purchasing small amounts of toxin would be cost prohibitive and likely to result in the cessation of management.

Introducing a process to become a Recognised Person if users want to purchase or have in their possession or store on their property any quantity greater than 300g of brodifacoum bait is potentially expensive (up to \$655.25 if Pathway 1 is taken). We believe this will result in fewer projects using brodifacoum-based toxins. Furthermore, while we support the introduction of an educational programme where best practice use of this VTA is described, we do not believe that users should have to undergo an expensive and intensive process to become a Recognised User to have access to it. It is also possible that negative outcomes through the misuse of this VTA can occur if deployed by non-Recognised Users who can only have in their possession <300g of bait.

Recommendation:

That there is no requirement for users to complete a process to become a Recognised User. This would also mean that there would be no distinction between users that have in their possession more or less than 300g of bait. We believe that users who become Recognised Persons under the proposed process could still potentially deploy the VTA inappropriately, despite having completed an educational programme on best practice use. This has been occasionally observed in the past by operators deploying controlled VTAs, such as 1080, which requires a CSL to be held.

In lieu of removing the requirement to become a Recognised User, we recommend that **all** people (regardless of the quantity being purchased) are made aware of, and have free access to, information relating to this VTA's best practice use under different scenarios: such as when it is deployed in rural locations, residential areas, or forested habitats. This resource would include information such as bait station density and positioning, safe deployment methods, storage and disposal information, signage requirements, and health and safety conditions.

In addition, the resource would also include information about how often this VTA should be deployed at a given site, as we believe one of the most significant risks with brodifacoum is that it is deployed too frequently in areas, which can lead to a build-up of residues in the environment and potentially result in negative outcomes. Emphasising the importance of pulsing applications of brodifacoum in an area instead of continuously deploying it will help to mitigate this risk.

Finally, we also recommend that a greater emphasis should be placed on the organisations / individuals selling or providing this VTA to users. Organisations or individuals selling or providing users with brodifacoum should be knowledgeable in its use (see below) and ensure that users receiving the VTA are made aware of the developed best practice resource so that baits can be deployed appropriately and safely.

2.1.2 Controls Around Sale

As mentioned above, we disagree with the requirement for a process to become a Recognised User. Accordingly, the proposed conditions of only selling or providing >300g of brodifacoum-based product to Recognised Persons is redundant.

We do agree that the trade name product can only be sold by persons who are currently approved by the ACVM Group. Furthermore, as noted above, we also suggest that persons selling or providing this VTA are knowledgeable of its best practice use and ensure that people buying or receiving the VTA are made aware of how to access the resource we suggest should be developed.

2.1.4 Controls on Use

Disagree with bait station monitoring elements of this proposed change.

Rationale:

We believe that it would be logistically impossible to police weekly monitoring of bait stations in instances where <300g (total) are deployed in an operation.

When each application of quantities is >300g, more clarity is needed around what 'regular' monitoring of bait stations is. Also, it is not clear which organisation would enforce this condition, but it would require a significant level of resourcing to implement. Furthermore, we suspect that compliance would be low, but those operators that do regularly check their stations would incur significant increases in expenses if they were operating over a large area.

Recommendation:

Remove the mandatory requirement to check bait stations regularly or weekly. Instead, in the best practice resource (described above), information is included about the appropriate frequency that bait stations should be checked when bait is deployed in different weather conditions and locations, under differing residual pest abundances, or when different amounts of the VTA are deployed per station.

2.1.6 Notifications, Signage, and Boundaries

Disagree with elements of this proposed change.

Rationale:

We believe the requirement that each bait station has warning signage is not needed if this information is available at all entry points. Bait stations should be installed in discreet locations, and the addition of warning signage may make the likelihood of interference greater as it may increase conspicuousness to the public. We also feel the requirement that landowners or business owners sight and sign a copy of the ACVM approved label for the trade name product prior to its application excessive.

Suggestion:

Remove the requirement that bait stations have warning signage **unless** it is not possible to have warning signage at all entry points to an area. In addition, landowners and business owners should only be required to sight and sign a copy of the ACVM label the first time brodifacoum is deployed in that area.

TITLE: **Resourcing the Implementation of the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations**

From: Penny Pirrit, Freshwater Farm Plan Contractor

Authorised by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 20 February 2024
Group Manager/s:

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Secretarial Note: This item was left to lie on the table at the November 2023 council meeting. There was no further information forthcoming in time to be readdressed in December so is now being presented for council's consideration.

Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations 2023 (the Regulations), require changes to existing Northland Regional Council (NRC) practices and functions. Full time equivalent (FTE) costs associated with implementing the regulations is estimated to be around 8FTE across the organisation. In addition, operational expenditure is needed to invest in system establishment and ongoing development. Costs of establishment and development are not fully known. Estimated costs of establishment and ongoing development are assumed to be up to \$750k over this and the next two financial years. It should be noted that financial planning for the farm plan system is still in development and staff will confirm with council the estimated costs for the system at a later date.

This report considers two options for resourcing the implementation of the Regulations and recommends the option of freeing up existing resource (staff and budget) and using the Land Management Reserve to support delivery of the Regulations. That option will enable the NRC to successfully stand up the freshwater farm plan system without requiring an increase in rates revenue. That option will also require reduction in the number of staff dedicated to delivering the environment fund to enable the team to focus on supporting the development and implementation of the farm plan system.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'Resourcing the Implementation of the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations' by Penny Pirrit, Freshwater Farm Plan Contractor and dated 11 December 2023, be received.
2. That up to \$250k from the Land Management Reserve is made available to be used from this financial year (2023/2024) to resource the effective and efficient delivery of Northland Regional Council's obligations under the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations 2023.
3. That council agree in principle that, subject to a future decision at council, \$500k from the land management reserve is made available between financial years 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 to resource the effective and efficient delivery of Northland Regional Council's obligations under the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations 2023.
4. That council agree in principle that, subject to the outcome of deliberations on the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, current grant funding administered by the land team be placed on hold for the 2024/2025 and 2025/2026 financial years with the exception of:
 - a. Tangata Whenua and Catchment Fund grants
 - b. Grants associated with the Hill Country Erosion Fund in accordance with the contractual agreement with the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Options

Before discussing the options, it is relevant to note that the change in Government has brought about a degree of uncertainty in respect of role out of the farm plan system. So far, this has manifested most notably in delays with the Order in Council (OIA) that was due to be issued in November 2023. The OIA would have confirmed the phasing regime for the implementation of the Regulations in Northland. Staff are meeting regularly with Ministry for the Environment on this topic and should the issuing date remain unclear over coming months, staff intend to seek a council resolution with revised role out programme that can then be issued to the Minister for the Environment for consideration. Doing so would in effect bring about an extension to the commencement date of farm plans in the region, and alleviate some of the challenges brought about by setting up a system with limited certainty as to the commencement date.

Despite the current levels of uncertainty in of the Regulations, staff note that, overall, the Government has signalled its support for Fresh Water Farm plans, and all indications are that the farm plan system will be retained.

In terms of the delivery of the system itself, although the setup phase will involve input from teams across NRC, it is not expected that there will need to be a substantial shift in business as usual provided there is sufficient funding for contracting professional services. The exception to this is the land team. The roll-out of the Regulations signals the need for some substantial shifts in the service delivery model of the land team. These shifts will include a stronger focus on working with landowner groups rather than individuals owing to the number of landowners that will be affected by the Regulations; and rethinking how council incentivises and supports landowners to achieve compliance with the Regulations. Even if there are substantial changes to the Regulations in the future, it should be noted that reviewing the land team's service delivery model and councils incentivisation approach are tasks that warrant resourcing despite the Regulations. On top of these changes, the land team will be required to support both the technical implementation of the Regulations and supporting landowners towards achieving compliance in the lead up to August 2024.

To free up key land team members to support the set-up phase, a shift in business as usual will be required. It is proposed that this shift is as follows:

- Significantly reduce the amount of funding delivered through the EFund over years 1 and 2 of the LTP (24/25-25/26), focusing only on funding that is contractually committed (e.g., MPI hill country erosion co-funding) or tagged for tangata whenua and community catchment projects. The land team usually commences discussions with landowners on EFund applications in the February prior to the financial year within which the grants are allocated. By placing on hold much of the EFund in the 2024/25 and 2025/2026 years, the land team will have a greater capacity to focus on the set-up phase between now and August.
- Retaining that part of the EFund allocated to tangata whenua and catchment environmental projects. While this aspect of the grant programme has taken time to get underway, external funding has been secured from both MPI and MfE to employ dedicated staff within the land team to support the administration of this fund. These staff are actively working with hapū and marae on potential grant projects and in doing so positive working relationships with tangata whenua that will ultimately contribute to a more successful role out of the farm plan system. In addition, the Tangata Whenua and Catchment fund supports projects that are associated with larger groups (e.g. landowner clusters, marae, hapū). This model of working with groups of people rather than individuals is aligned with the shifts that are needed within the land team's service delivery model to support the freshwater farm plan system. Retaining the funding therefore allows the team to learn how the general Efund might be better aligned to the shifts created by the implementation of the Regulations.

- For this financial year, as the EFund is now allocated, it will mean looking for efficiencies in how the team works with successful grant recipients as well as using current vacancies within the land team to either backfill land advisor roles (to release existing staff to work on the set-up phase) or to provide funding to fill resource gaps in the set-up phase.
- The unallocated EFund monies, resulting from the fund being on hold in 2024/2025 and 2025/ 2026, would be carried over to the Land Management Reserve.

The shift in business would not affect the delivery of the Hill Country Soil Erosion grants programme as NRC has a contractual relationship with MPI to deliver this fund until 2027.

A complementary piece of work is being undertaken to review the purpose of the EFund, bearing in mind changes brought about by the Regulations and within the context of the changes that will come about because of the freshwater plan change. Of note is that the EFund will play a key role in supporting the actions that have been developed in the draft Action Plan required by the National Policy Statement for Fresh Water Management 2020; and in particular the delivery of catchment planning and implementation. The outcome of this review will be brought to council via a separate workshop later in the year and will require subsequent council decisions.

In addition to staff resourcing, funding the setup phase will require operational expenditure to support professional services that will plug capacity and capability gaps and provide key deliverables, such as GIS tools, GIS, programme management, certifier and auditor training, regional contribution to the National Assurance Body, and iwi and hapū involvement in the set-up phase.

It is proposed that the funding source for this option is the Land Management Reserve plus the salaries of the vacant positions in the land team not required to backfill existing land advisors' involvement in the set-up phase. Provided council is in surplus, unallocated grant funding is carried over into the Land Management Reserve. The total quantum of uncommitted Land Management Reserve is approximately \$ 1,240,000.

Currently the Regulations implementation programme team is being established and has started to define the detail of the work needed to meet NRC's obligations, as well as the timing and any gaps in resources (staff and budget). This work will give a better understanding of budgets and associated phasing for implementation of the programme. Until this work is undertaken, there is some uncertainty in respect of the budgets required to fully implement the Regulations. This uncertainty is to be expected because implementing the regulation represents a new service delivery model for council.

It is proposed at this stage to allocate an initial \$250,000 from the land management reserve to be used from this financial year. This funding will be used for key projects including system design and development of the catchment context, challenges and values platform, developing the training local programme, supporting the co-design approach with tangata whenua and developing and implementing engagement and awareness projects. In addition, this funding will be used to bring in professional services where staff expertise is not available.

A further \$500,000 is proposed to be made available for the following two financial years (2024/2025 and 2025/2026) from the land management reserve. Staff propose that drawdown from for that option of the reserve will be subject to a future council decision, by which time staff will have developed a work programme setting out approximate budgets, milestones and outcomes. Staff propose this as an approach as it will give the programme some certainty as to its available budget, whilst still giving governance oversight of the outcomes and key deliverables.

Sustaining business as usual (i.e., continuing the EFund in its current form) and giving effect to the Regulations is estimated to require additional resourcing of approximately 4-8 FTE, depending on the extent to which business as usual can be reallocated. Very broadly, this option would require a

rating increase to sustain between 4-8 FTE plus opex estimated at \$250,000 per annum. This option is assumed to require a rate increase of around 1.5 and 2%.

If the Land Management Reserve is able to be used to address resourcing gaps (i.e. by engaging contractors) it is estimated that this would reduce to 4-6FTE in the short term (i.e. over the first three years of the LTP) and this can be achieved through relocation of existing staff. A breakdown of the staff resourcing requirements for the set up phase of the farm plan system is attached as Attachment 1.

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Free up existing resources (staff and budget)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Utilising the knowledge and experience of existing staff in the rollout of the Regulations avoids having to upskill new FTE's and will lead to better outcomes. Halting the EFund in the first two years of the LTP will enable scrutiny of its purpose and impact in light of the new approach to Freshwater management signalled in the NPS-FW, the draft RP plan changes and in the Regulations, including an opportunity to incentivise FWFPs. No need for a rate increase (approx. 1.5-2%) to cover costs of the implementation of the Regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of land advisors to respond to individual requests for advice will be restricted as some land advisors focus on the FWFP rollout. Some applicants in this current year, or in previous years may have been planning to lodge further applications to the EFund in the next two years. A substantial part of the Land Management Reserve would not be available for other environmental projects for the first two years of the LTP.
2	Continue with existing service delivery and implement Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enables current level of advice provided by the land team to continue. EFund is available for applicants in 2024/2025 and 2025/2026. Potentially allows for new skills to be 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires an approx. 1.5-2% rate increase to cover costs. The EFund's purpose and impact will not be aligned with the Freshwater Management direction signalled in NPS-FW, the draft RP plan

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
		included into land team.	<p>changes nor the Regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New FTE's may not have experience in or knowledge of land management in Te Taitokerau. • Recruitment of new land advisor staff is challenging in the current environment.

The recommended option is Option 1 as this option will not require increasing rates revenue, is considered an appropriate and effective use of the Land Management Reserve and utilises the skills and experience of existing NRC staff, particularly the land team who already work closely with the rural sector.

Considerations

1. Climate Impact

The decisions sought in this report do not impact on either corporate or regional greenhouse gas emissions. The implementation of the Regulations themselves do not directly impact on corporate or regional greenhouse gas emissions although some actions in Freshwater Farm Plans such as wetland enhancement/ restoration, and increased planting of steep hillside country and riparian margins will indirectly help to reduce those emissions across Te Taitokerau.

2. Environmental Impact

While the halting of the EFund (as indicated in Option 1) may temporarily impact on an individual farmer's intentions to undertake an freshwater protection/enhancement project, it is more important to ensure that the NRC effectively delivers its obligations required to implement the Regulations in Te Taitokerau over this and the next two financial years. This is because the Regulations are one of the tools for achieving the objective of the National Policy Statement- Freshwater Management (NPS-FW). The objective of the NPS is:

"to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises:

(a) first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems

(b) second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)

(c) third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural well-being, now and in the future"

Over time the implementation of the Regulations should lead to improvements in water quality and increased awareness amongst farm operators and communities of appropriate techniques to improve the quality of freshwater bodies, this is expected to include supporting the implementation of the action plan developed as part of the national Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.

3. Community views

As part of the pre-draft work on the development of the draft Freshwater Plan Change, to meet the obligations of the NPS-FW, community discussions on the state of freshwater bodies occurred. The results of a survey used during the engagement process indicated that people wanted to see less pollution and better conditions for aquatic plants and animals in freshwater bodies across the region. The implementation of the Regulations will contribute to that outcome by putting in place on-farm actions that will support the reduction of sediment and other pollutants entering water bodies.

4. Māori impact statement

This report deals with options for resourcing (staff and budget) NRC's functions and responsibilities under the Regulations. If option 1 is approved as recommended, then there may be some impact on Māori who had planned to apply to the general EFund for a grant in 2024/2025 or 2025/2026. However, that impact is no greater than on any other landowner wishing to access an EFund grant during that period.

5. Financial implications

If the recommendations of this report are adopted there will be a change in how monies in the Land Management Reserve and the EFund are used but not in the overall financial position of the council. It will also mean that there is no current rating impact on ratepayers for council to implement its functions under the Regulations (but rather a redirection of existing funds).

6. Implementation issues

The recommended Option 1 will see staff from various teams across the NRC inputting their time and knowledge into the Regulation's implementation programme. Where this leaves a gap in capacity the cost of backfilling will be met by using the Land Management Reserve.

7. Significance and engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is of low significance when assessed against council's significance and engagement policy because it is part of council's day to day activities. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that council is able to make decisions relating to this matter without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

8. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

The decisions sought in this report will enable the NRC to deliver its functions and responsibilities effectively and efficiently under the Regulations without requiring an increase in rates revenue.

Some key risks to the set-up phase of the implementation of the Regulations are;

1. **Insufficient resources within NRC to deliver its obligations under the Regulations** – the decisions in this report will provide budget to address capacity and capability gaps and provide key deliverables, such as GIS tools, GIS, programme management, certifier and auditor training, regional contribution to the National Assurance Body, and any iwi and hapū involvement in the set-up phase.
2. **Impact on staff if the Efund programme continues while the critical focus is on the Regulations set-up phase** – the Land Management team is already working with minimal staff due to recruitment and retention issues, and there is no capacity to maintain both business-as-usual (i.e., the Efund programme) and put the required expertise and

knowledge into the set-up phase of the Regulations without additional funding to secure more staff.

3. **Timeframe within which to deliver the set-up phase obligations will mean gaps in information** – to manage the development of the information required by farm operators to develop their Freshwater Farm Plans, and the NRC resources required to respond to requests for information and advice, a phased approach to implementing the Regulations in Te Taitokerau has been adopted. The Regulations will apply first to two FMUs from the 1 August 2024 with the remaining 11 FMUs being phased in over the rest of 2024 and 2025. The 1 August 2024 date will require a dedicated effort by NRC staff, and an acceptance that while obligations will be met, improvements in information and data available will need to occur for the next iteration of Freshwater farm plans in 2029/2030.

4. **Potential changes to the regulations**

Staff note that the change in Government has brought major uncertainty in respect of the delivery of the essential freshwater programmes across the country. The Government has signalled that it will be considering changes to the freshwater farm planning system that are intended to streamline farm planning for farmers and growers. It is not clear when these changes would occur or to what extent they will require changes to the current system design. Moreover, the timing for when farm plans will be required to be rolled out in Northland remains uncertain. The process for activating the regulations in the region by Order in Council. The previous Government set out that it intended to issue an Order in Council in November 2023 which would see the regulations activated in the Northland Region August 2024. The Order in Council was not given, and with a change of Government there is uncertainty as to when it will be issued and how that will affect the timeframe of the farm plan roll out.


The advice for Te Uru Kahika is that regional councils should continue with system development but hold off on widespread engagement campaigns until there is greater certainty as to when Regulations will take effect in each region. Staff agree with that advice. Even should changes eventually be made to the Regulations, or Part 9A of the RMA, the work being undertaken under the current regime will not be wasted effort because much of it represents much needed shift in the way council can support landowners to achieve better water quality outcomes.

Background/Tuhinga

The Regulations gazetted on 6 June 2023 are part of the toolbox provided by central government to help achieve the outcomes set out in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management. The Regulations require all farms over 20ha (single use or mixed) and horticulture activities over 5 ha to have a farm plan in place by 2027. There will be a phased implementation rollout of the Regulations region by region with the Waikato and Southland regions commencing the rollout on 1 August 2023.

Council has endorsed a phased rollout in Northland commencing 1 August 2024. Substantial work is required to ensure council's obligations in implementing the Regulations is fit for purpose. Attachment A sets out the role of regional councils in the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations. Although there is the possibility of changes being made by the Government in respect of the roll-out date and even the farm plan system itself, continuing with the project to meet the current legislative requirement is considered to be the most prudent course of action.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Indicative Resource Requirements to Implement NRC's responsibilities under
Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations [!\[\]\(dfbd6b3763a6d1d9afaa974f64e2e4b5_img.jpg\)](#) 

Indicative Resource Requirements to Implement NRC's responsibilities under Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations

Note: This table identifies key roles required to implement the actions. The indicative resource requirements have not been costed. Resource could either come from within the NRC existing staff, be recruited or contracted.

Position	Role	Timeframe	Comment
1 FTE Programme manager	Lead and/co-ordinate delivery of 'Must Do' actions. Reporting to senior leadership on progress, issues and learnings. Identifying and organising NRC staff input. Managing any contractors e.g., training. Reporting to Council on progress. Working with iwi/hapū on inputs into 'Must Do' actions.	Initial phase: May 2023- December 2025 Decision needed in 2025 on whether need a permanent role to oversee ongoing auditing/recertification/monitoring/enforcement functions.	Position could start off at .5FTE but would need to transfer to full time FTE by fourth quarter of 2023.
1 FTE FWFP advisor	To write reports, liaise with Comms over content of portal, media releases, collateral. Provide technical support at workshops, hui and meetings. Provide technical oversight of information collation work.	Once Programme manager has commenced work.	Position could start off at .5FTE but would need to transfer to full time FTE by fourth quarter of 2023.
1-2 FTE context, challenges and values collators	To focus on collection of all existing material for FWFP spatial areas – focusing on spatial areas in first and second tranches. Work with GIS and IM on how to manage and display information.	July 2023 onwards until all spatial areas have information collated and published on website FW portal	Could start with 1 FTE and see whether second is required (will depend on how easy it is to find and collate info). Senior administration type role as FWFP advisor would provide technical oversight.

1 FTE – Iwi/hapū engagement advisor	To bring to life TTMACs recommendations on how to work with iwi/hapū on required input into process	July 2023 onwards once TTMAC have given their advice.	Depending on the advice and what it means for resources may need additional FTE(s). Note iwi/hapū input needed early on in programme.
.5 FTE GIS expert	To develop a spatial approach for information collected on context, challenges and values. To progressively provide that spatial approach for each tranche of FWFP spatial areas – prior to that tranche commencing.	From August 2023 onwards.	GIS advice on spatial approach at beginning of collection process would ensure no unnecessary/unusable collection work.
.25 FTE Communications expert	To develop media release, collateral for website. To update FWFP portal after FWFP's gazetted To ensure information on FWFP portal is easily understood by farm operators, certifiers and auditors.	From May 2023 onwards	Input from this FTE will be intermittent e.g., at times when key information is prepared and made publicly available.
.5 CME advisor	To work with programme manager on development of monitoring and enforcement programme for FWFPs.	From July 2024	
1-2 FTE CME FWFP specific staff	To monitor FWFP implementation and take enforcement action as required.	From October 2024 or when first tranche of FWFP implementation commences.	Start with 1 FTE and aim to increase as more FWFP are certified. An initial proactive CME response will emphasise NRC commitment to the FW outcomes being sought, and to making the system work well.
1-2 Practical Certification Observers	To assess candidates for certifier appointments on their ability to	NRC will need to decide on whether existing staff will take on this role or	May only need one initially but suggest 2 to ensure certifiers are

	successfully conduct on the ground assessments of FWFPs	whether contractors will be used by October-December 2023 so that a consistent approach can be developed for the practical assessment. This approach and the observers must be in place by second quarter of 2024.	appointed in time for first tranche. Certifier candidates need to successfully complete two practical assessments before they can be appointed by NRC as certifiers.
Trainer(s) for any Northland specific training for certifiers and auditors	To develop and deliver training on any Northland specific matter that NRC considers certifiers and auditors working in Northland must have knowledge of.	Start work on developing training in last quarter of 2023.	A decision on whether NRC wants certifiers and auditors to be trained on Northland specific matters must be made by October 2023. At that time NRC must decide if in-house trainer(s) or contracted.
Appointment of Certifiers	To undertake certification of FWFP	NRC must appoint at least 1 certifier within one month of date when implementation of first tranche of FWFP occurs.	Quantity needed unknown. Suggest seek advice from Waikato and Southland RCs in last quarter of 2023.
Appointment of Auditors	To audit FWFP actions	NRC must appoint at least 1 auditor within two months of date when implementation of first tranche of FWFP occurs.	Quantity needed unknown. Suggest seek advice from Waikato and Southland RCs in last quarter of 2023.
Steering Group – membership made up of GM-ES, Land Programme Manager, Communications rep, FW Planning/Policy rep, IT(GIS and IM)rep, and CME senior rep	To provide NRC guidance and support to PM particularly on decisions about NRC staff input – what and when;	May/June 2023 onwards – monthly meetings	Could have a core steering group and have additional people attend when issue requires it eg procurement, Māori relationships.
Occasional staff input into workshops/meetings – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy advice re FW Plan Change progress, 	To provide specialist advice in a timely manner.	As required by programme manager.	At commencement of programme, the PM should indicate when such input might be required and discuss with manager of relevant staff availability etc.

<div>information gained from submissions.</div> <div><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Procurement process re appointment of any trainers, certifiers and auditors.• Finance advice on budget bids• Information management advice on setting up correct records.• HR advice on appointment process and performance management process</div>			
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TITLE: **Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Amendments**

From: Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 13 February 2024

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

This report seeks council's formal approval to amend the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy to:

- Increase meal and drinks allowances and expenses in line with inflation;
- Include a provision for accommodation costs for councillors travelling to attend local authority business for a single day commitment (provided certain criteria are met); and
- Include minor amendments to improve clarity as recommended by the Remuneration Authority.

Recommendations

1. That the report 'Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Amendments' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 13 February 2024, be received.
2. That council approve the amendments to the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy as detailed in **Attachment 1** pertaining to the report.

Options – Meal and drinks allowances

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Do not increase the value of the allowance in accordance with the marked-up changes in section 5.4 of Attachment 1 .	Less cost to council.	Elected members meal choices will be more limited due to inflation pressure.
2	Increase the value of the allowance in accordance with the marked-up changes in section 5.4 of Attachment 1 .	Keeping up with inflation pressure and supporting elected members to carry out their roles.	Increased cost to council.
3	Change the value of the allowance by a different rate to those changes marked-up in section 5.4 of Attachment 1 .	Dependent on the value of the change.	Dependent on the value of the change.

The staff's recommended option is 2.

Options – Accommodation Costs

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Do not include the provision of accommodation costs for councillors travelling to attend local authority business for a single day commitment in accordance with the marked-up changes in section 5.1 of Attachment 1 .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less cost to council. • Keeps the Policy simple without trying to cater for exceptions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential health and safety risk for elected members travelling long distances in a single day. • Places an administrative responsibility on the Chair and Chief Executive to approve exceptions to the Policy for accommodation.
2	Include the provision of accommodation costs for councillors travelling to attend local authority business for a single day commitment in accordance with the marked-up changes in section 5.1 of Attachment 1 .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures elected members health and safety by preventing long distances of travel in a single day. • Greater flexibility to provide accommodation for elected members. • Removes the administrative responsibility on the Chair and Chief Executive to approve exceptions to the Policy for accommodation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased cost to council. • Potentially complicates the policy by adding detail for exceptions.

The staff's recommended option is 2.

Considerations

1. Climate Impact

This matter is not deemed to have any climate impact. The provision of accommodation cost for councillors attending local authority business for a single day does not reduce travel, merely spreads it over multiple days.

2. Environmental Impact

Being an administrative matter, environmental impact is not applicable.

3. Community views

Community views on this issue are unknown.

4. Māori impact statement

Being an administrative matter Māori have not been engaged and their views on this issue are unknown.

5. Financial implications

Meal and drinks allowances and expenses

The estimated additional annual cost of these changes is \$191 for elected members and \$6,360 for staff, if discounted for inflation¹ (*hence \$6,551 in total*), or \$504 for elected members and \$16,800 for staff if inflationary adjusted (*hence \$17,304 in total*). These calculations are based on four full meal allowances per elected member and staff member per year.

The current meals allowance for councillors is consistent with that for staff. Should councillors increase the amounts for meals it is proposed that the same adjustments be made to the staff policy.

Accommodation costs

Based on the 2023 meeting schedule it is estimated that modifying the Policy to allow for council to cover 100% accommodation costs for an elected member to attend a single day of local authority business, when they are required to commit in excess of five hours to travel to and from their point of residence using their own vehicle by the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances, would equate to an additional annual cost of approximately \$4,300. If the same methodology is extended to staff, it is estimated that this would equate to an additional annual cost of approximately \$34,400 for staff commitments; and hence \$38,700 in total.

These calculations are based on an assessment of councillors meeting schedule for 2023, estimating approximately 30 meetings that may meet these criteria and that this provision is taken up 50% of the time by those councillors. For staff, it is based on an estimate of 10 occurrences per month meeting these criteria. These calculations include accommodation and associated meal allowances.

If the recommendations, as included in the report, are approved by council then the cumulative cost for both meal and drinks allowances and expenses and accommodation costs is estimated \$56,004.

6. Implementation issues

The above costs are estimates and, should these be approved, it is proposed to trial the new policy for 12 months to assess the actual increase in costs and consider how these can be covered within existing budgets.

7. Significance and engagement

¹ BERL inflation of 4.2% was applied to the current year's budget and BERL inflation of 2.9% is proposed for Year 1 of the Long Term Plan.

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is considered to be of low significance when accessed against council's significance and engagement policy as it is an administrative matter and part of council's day to day activities. This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that council is able to make decisions relating to this matter without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

8. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

This report complies with Clause 6 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 and the role of the Remuneration Authority to set allowances and hearing fees for local authorities.

The Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy, with the proposed amendments, was forwarded to the Remuneration Authority for review. This was essentially an audit to ensure that NRC's Policy remained in accordance with the current Determination. The Remuneration Authority did not raise any concerns of substance with the Policy but did propose minor amendments to Section 7.1 Provision of ICT devices to be clear where allowances were up to a maximum figure (ICT consumables, personal internet connection service and personal mobile phone connection service).

These amendments have been included as track changes in **Attachment 1** to the report.

To note there is an element of risk in council approving changes to the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy without an associated budget/funding stream.

Background/Tuhinga

The Remuneration Authority (the Authority) is responsible for setting allowances and hearing fees for members of local authorities as set out in Clause 6 of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Current allowances and fees include:

- Vehicle kilometre allowance
- Travel time allowance
- ICT allowances
- Childcare allowance
- Hearing fees

The current allowances and hearing fees are specified in the Authority's Local Government Members (2023/24) Determination 2023 (the Determination). This can be accessed using the following:

https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2023/0142/latest/LMS859909.html?search=ts_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_local+government+members_resel_25_a&p=1

The allowances and hearing fees limits are reviewed annually by the Authority.

Allowances are entirely at the discretion of individual councils within the limits set by the Authority in its Determination.

NRC's Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy (the Policy) provides the detail of the expenses and allowances that NRC's elected members may be eligible to claim, in accordance with the current Determination.

Feedback has been received from a number of elected members that the current Policy should be reviewed to increase the current meals and drinks allowances and expenses and provide greater flexibility to provide accommodation for elected members.

Background: Meal and Drinks allowances

The Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy provides a standard overnight allowance to cover meals and drinks of \$123. It is recommended to increase the value of this allowance to \$137, reflecting the increased cost of these expenses. This would be an increase of 11.4%. It is noted that the Reserve Bank of NZ inflation calculation for food, based on the Q4 2022 to Q4 2023 year, was 8.8% (**Figure 1**). Hence the proposed increase is proportional to recent inflation and provides some future proofing for additional inflation, noting that the current baseline allowances amounts are considered reasonably generous.

The specific changes that are recommended to Section 5.4 of the Policy are shown in tracked changes as follows (and in **Attachment 1**):

5.4 Meals and drinks allowances and expenses

1. Standard overnight allowance to cover meals and drinks is ~~\$123~~ \$137, as follows:
 - Breakfast ~~\$27~~ \$31 or at the value charged by the accommodation booking, if this is charged back to the booking.
 - Lunch ~~\$21~~ \$25
 - Dinner ~~\$59~~ \$65
 - Alcoholic drink (one with dinner \$16). ⁴

These allowances are intended to cover elected members' expenses for their 'nourishment' while on local authority business and the value of this allowance is commensurate with provisions in the staff policy.

2. Meals purchased by an elected member while away from home on council business may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable costs, on production of receipts.
3. Meal expenses may not be claimed if a meal is provided as part of another package paid for by the entity.

⁴ Meals and drink allowances to be inflation adjusted annually.

The proposed inflation adjustment in footnote 4 will be based on the BERL inflation rate that is applied to the Long Term Plan and/or Annual Plan, with the first adjustment proposes to occur in 2025/26.

Figure 1. Reserve Bank of NZ inflation calculation for food based on the Q4 2022 to Q4 2023 year.

What would that cost

in cost in


CALCULATE →


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Food that cost **\$123.00** in **2022 Q3** would cost...


\$133.85

in **2023 Q3**


8.8%
Total percentage change


1 years
Difference


8.8%
Compound average annual rate


-8.1%
Change in purchasing power

Index value for **2022 Q3** is **1190**

Index value for **2023 Q3** is **1295**

Background: Accommodation expenses

The Policy currently states:

5.1 Accommodation costs

1. Council will meet 100% of any accommodation required by an elected member, subject to Section 2.7.
2. When local authority business spans multiple days, council will meet 100% of any accommodation required by an elected member, during that period, when the cost of the accommodation and meals (refer to Section 5.4) is more cost-effective than the equivalent claims for vehicle kilometre and travel time allowances if the elected member was to travel to and from their point of residence using their own vehicle (refer to Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the policy).
3. Reimbursements for personal expenses such as movies, additional alcohol, mini bar charges, massages, and additional hotel facilities will not be reimbursed.

It has been suggested that the current Policy (above) should be amended to remove the current restrictions and reflect that elected members have sought accommodation prior or following a single day of local authority business.

Some scenarios and points considered when proposing changes to accommodation costs included:

- The Policy currently does not specifically address accommodation for elected member to attend a single day of local authority business. However, there is the ability for an elected member to seek prior approval for an expense not covered by the Policy as an exception. If this is to become common practise it should be covered explicitly in the Policy rather than relying on discretionary approval.
- A trip from Kaitiāia to Whangārei one way is 2.5 hours. Careful consideration would need to be given to the threshold for claiming accommodation for a one day commitment. For example, would travel from Okaihau to Whangārei (1 hour ten minutes one way) be eligible? Would travel from Whangārei central to Auckland central, estimated at 2 hours ten minutes, meet the criteria?
- Moving council meetings around the region will result in multiple councillors travelling 2.5 hours one way. For example, the September 2023 council meeting was held in Kaitiāia. Travel time from Dargaville and Waipū are estimated at 3 and 3.5 hours respectively.
- Currently every second month TTMAC hui are held around the region and are quite often significant distances for travel. Other meetings such as the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee and the Kaipara Moana Joint Remediation Committee are of a similar nature. The assumption would be then all councillors travelling in excess of 2.5 hours would be eligible for accommodation.
- Workshop days are typically limited to 6.5 hours (9am – 3.30pm) including a half hour lunch so are designed not to be onerous and confined to two days a week. One option is to reduce the time for workshopping even further.
- Councillors have the ability to join meetings/workshops remotely.
- If the same reasoning is applied to staff then officers are regularly travelling to Kaitiāia for meetings such as Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Beach Board or from the Kaitiāia to Whangārei office so would potentially be eligible for council to cover accommodation.
- Councillors are paid \$70+k as well as allowances with many of their commitments confined to two days a week.

The specific changes that are proposed to Section 5.1 of the Policy are shown in tracked changes as follows (and in **Attachment 1**):

5.1 Accommodation costs

1. Council will meet 100% of any accommodation required by an elected member, subject to Section 2.7, as follows:
 - a. When local authority business spans multiple days, ~~council will meet 100% of any accommodation required by an elected member, during that period, when~~ and the cost of the accommodation and meals (refer to Section 5.4) is more cost-effective than the equivalent claims for vehicle kilometre and travel time allowances if the elected member was to travel to and from their point of residence using their own vehicle (refer to Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the policy); and/or
 2. ~~b. When local authority business is on a single day and an elected member would be required to travel in excess of five hours to travel to and from their point of residence using their own vehicle by the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances.~~
- 3.2. Reimbursements for personal expenses such as movies, additional alcohol, mini bar charges, massages, and additional hotel facilities will not be reimbursed.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy with marked up amendments [↓](#) 



Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy

Date: February 2023

Author: Governance

ID:[DMHUB-979727956-121](#)

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DOCUMENT REVIEW APPROVAL		
Date	Change	Actioned by
18 January 2023	Overall review and refresh of the policy.	Governance Specialist
28 February 2023	Formally adopted by council.	Council
1 July 2023	Updated for 2023/24 Local Government Members Determination	Governance Specialist
<u>9 February 2024</u>	<u>Track changes in preparation for adoption at 27 February council meeting.</u>	<u>GM – Corporate Services and Governance Specialist</u>

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1. Preface

This manual has been established as a reference and to reinforce our Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances policies and procedures. It should be read in conjunction with the 'Local Government Members (2023/24) Determination 2023'. This can be accessed using the following link:

https://www.legislation.govt.nz/all/results.aspx?search=ts_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_local+government+members+resel+25+a&p=1

2. Principles of the policy

2.1 General purpose

In addition to remuneration, elected members of the Northland Regional Council are entitled as set out in this policy to claim:

- Actual and reasonable expenses, in full or in part;
- Vehicle kilometre and travel time allowance;
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) allowance;
- Hearing fees (with exception of the Chair); and
- Childcare allowance

Elected members may choose not to claim these allowances or expenses.

2.2 Reimbursement

In general, terms the payment of expenses is governed by evaluating a claim against the principle that elected members should not incur personal expense in the performance of their representational or governance functions and that fair and reasonable expenses incurred in the course of their representational or governance functions should be reimbursed by the council.

2.3 Claims for expenses not covered by policy

Claims for expenses other than those listed in this policy will generally not be considered except in special circumstances. In the event that an elected member wishes to seek reimbursement for an expense not detailed in this policy, approval must be sought prior to the expense being incurred and shall be guided by the Auditor-General's 2007 good practice guide on "Controlling Sensitive Expenditure: Guidelines for Public Entities".

2.4 Evidence of expenses

With the exception of vehicle kilometre, travel time and annual ICT allowances, all other expense claims require supporting receipts. For vehicle kilometre expenses, please refer to Section 6 of the policy.

All expense claims must:

- Clearly state the business purpose of the expenditure;
- Be accompanied by adequate original supporting documentation;
- Document the date, amount, description and purpose of minor expenditure when receipts are unavailable; and
- Be submitted promptly (within one month) after the expenditure is incurred.

2.5 Maximum amounts payable for vehicle kilometre, travel and ICT allowances

Despite the inclusion of specific allowance values for vehicle kilometre, travel and ICT in this policy, maximum amounts payable will be automatically adjusted to match maximums fixed by the Remuneration Authority from time to time during the triennium.

2.6 Definition of local authority business

1. A local authority's business is defined as:
 - a) Council, committee/sub-committee, working party/working group meetings and workshops as noted in the formal meeting calendar. Claims will only be paid for travel to such public meetings at which an elected member has been elected or appointed to the forum concerned to represent the council, unless policy statement 2.6.1(b) below applies.
 - b) Attendance at other meetings, workshops, conferences, site visits and civic functions relating to an appointed portfolio. Claims outside of these areas will only be approved if there is evidence of prior approval.

2.7 Approval of expenses and business activities for which expenses can be claimed

All expenses, and business activities¹ for which expenses can be claimed, must be necessary for the fulfillment of the member's role and must be approved by:

- a. The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer; or
- b. The Deputy Chair and the Chief Executive Officer (or their delegate as the Acting Chief Executive Officer) in the absence of the Chair and for the Chair's expense claims; or
- c. By formal resolution of council at a meeting open to the public.

¹ For the avoidance of doubt business activities refers to air travel (Section 3.4), other travel (Section 3.6) and conference and training costs (Section 4.0).

3. Travel expenses

3.1 Chair's car

1. Council will provide a vehicle with full private use²permitted. In accordance with Remuneration Authority methodology, a reduction in gross salary based [{actual purchase price of vehicle} x 41%} x {20%}] will be made;
2. The maximum purchase price that may be paid for a motor vehicle purchased for provision to a regional chairperson is:
 - a) In the case of a petrol or diesel vehicle, \$55,000; and
 - b) In the case of an electric or hybrid vehicle, \$68,500

To note purchase price means the amount paid for the vehicle:

 - a) including goods and services tax and any on road costs; and
 - b) after deducting the amount of any rebate that applies under the clean car discount scheme in respect of the purchase of the vehicle.
3. In the case where the Chair decides that they will use their own private vehicle, instead of being provided one by council, they are eligible to claim vehicle-kilometre allowances in the same manner as any member of the local authority (refer to Section 6).³

3.2 Pool cars

1. Elected members are entitled to make use of Northland Regional Council pool cars for use on official council business, in which case the NRC 'Vehicle Policy' shall apply.

3.3 Rental vehicles

1. If a rental car is required by an elected member when travelling away from home on local authority business and a council pool car is not available, arrangement and payment for the vehicle shall be booked and arranged directly between the Northland Regional Council and the rental car company, with fuel expenses reimbursed to the elected member on production of receipts. Furthermore, there should not be unreasonable or extensive private use of the vehicle. In these cases, "away from home" means outside of the region; within the region it is expected that a pool car would be used in the first instance.

² For the avoidance of doubt the definition of 'full private use' is in accordance with the Local Government Members Determination 2021 as follows:

- a) The vehicle is usually driven home and securely parked by the regional chairperson; and
- b) The vehicle is available for the regional chairperson's unrestricted personal use; and
- c) The vehicle is used by the regional chairperson for a mix of local authority business and private use; and
- d) The vehicle may also be used by other local authority members or staff on local authority business, with the permission of the regional chairperson

³ Note the Chair is not eligible to claim travel time allowances because the role of Chair is considered to be full time and is remunerated accordingly.

3.4 Air travel

1. If required, council will meet 100% of any air travel costs (or the equivalent airfare or mileage, whichever is the lower) required by an elected member (subject to section 2.7). Travel is to be booked and arranged by the Northland Regional Council.

3.5 Subscriptions and loyalty reward schemes

1. Subscriptions to airline clubs (such as the Koru Club), shall be at each member's discretion and own expense, with the exception of the Chair whose subscription shall be arranged by the Northland Regional Council.
2. Loyalty reward schemes such as airpoints or airdollars provide a benefit to the customer for continuing to use a particular supplier of goods and services. Where air travel is paid for by the council under this policy the loyalty reward will be treated as the property of council. Council will as far as practicable apply those rewards for the benefit of the council according to its documented procedures.

3.6 Other travel

1. If required, council will reimburse or meet the actual and reasonable costs of any 'other travel' (e.g. ferry fares, bus fares, car parking fees etc.) required by an elected member to undertake local authority business..
2. 'Other travel' expenses may be claimed for meetings, workshops, and conferences provided there is evidence of prior approval (subject to Section 2.7).

4. Conference and training costs

1. If required, council will meet 100% of any conference fees or training costs required or incurred by an elected member, and arranged by Northland Regional Council (subject to Section 2.7). In the case of the Chair, any conferences, training or meetings attended will be reported to council monthly.

5. Costs whilst away on council business

5.1 Accommodation costs

1. Council will meet 100% of any accommodation required by an elected member, subject to Section 2.7, as follows:
a. When local authority business spans multiple days, council will meet 100% of any accommodation required by an elected member, during that period, when and the cost of the accommodation and meals (refer to Section 5.4) is more cost-effective than the equivalent claims for vehicle kilometre and travel time allowances if the elected member was to travel to and from their point of residence using their own vehicle (refer to Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the policy); and/or
b. When local authority business is on a single day and an elected member would be required to travel in excess of five hours to travel to and from their point of residence using their own vehicle by the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances.
~~3.2.~~ Reimbursements for personal expenses such as movies, additional alcohol, mini bar charges, massages, and additional hotel facilities will not be reimbursed.

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5.2 Private accommodation paid for by local authority

1. No private accommodation (e.g. apartments) will be provided to any member.

5.3 Private accommodation provided by friends/relatives

1. An allowance of \$70 per night may be paid to an elected member for accommodation provided by friends/relatives of the elected member when travelling away from home on local authority business. The value of this allowance is commensurate with provisions in the staff policy.
2. If an elected member stays in accommodation provided by friends/relatives they are still eligible to claim meal allowances.

5.4 Meals and drinks allowances and expenses

1. Standard overnight allowance to cover meals and drinks is ~~\$423~~ \$137, as follows:
 - Breakfast ~~\$27~~ \$31 or at the value charged by the accommodation booking, if this is charged back to the booking.
 - Lunch ~~\$24~~ \$25
 - Dinner ~~\$59~~ \$65
 - Alcoholic drink (one with dinner \$16). ⁴

These allowances are intended to cover elected members' expenses for their 'nourishment' while on local authority business and the value of this allowance is commensurate with provisions in the staff policy.

2. Meals purchased by an elected member while away from home on council business may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable costs, on production of receipts.
3. Meal expenses may not be claimed if a meal is provided as part of another package paid for by the entity.

5.5 Hospitality and entertainment allowances and expenses

1. Allowances or expenses reimbursement for hospitality and/or entertainment will only be considered where these are:
 - a) Associated with local authority business and cost-effective and appropriate for the occasion; and
 - b) Prior approval is sought; and
 - c) Substantiated by appropriate documentation that includes receipts, names of parties entertained, and the reasons for the entertainment and hospitality.

5.6 Subscriptions to clubs or associations

1. Expenses will not be reimbursed, nor allowances paid, in respect of membership of subscriptions to clubs or associations, except where there is a clear relationship between the elected member's role within the local authority and the club or association (e.g. Taituarā).

⁴ Meals and drink allowances to be inflation adjusted annually.

6. Vehicle kilometre and travel time allowance

6.1 Vehicle kilometre allowance

1. A vehicle kilometre allowance may be claimed in accordance with the Local Government Elected Members Determination for an elected member's use of their own vehicle, including travel to and from the member's residence, if the travel is:
 - a) At a time when the member is not provided with a motor vehicle by the local authority;
 - b) In a private vehicle;
 - c) On local authority business; and
 - d) By the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances; and
2. The vehicle kilometre allowance is payable to elected members at the following rates:
 - a) for a petrol or diesel vehicle, -
 - (i) 95 cents per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
 - (ii) 34 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term;
 - b) for a petrol hybrid vehicle, -
 - (i) 95 cents per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
 - (ii) 20 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term;
 - c) for an electric vehicle, -
 - (i) 95 cents per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
 - (ii) 11 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term.
3. However, if a member of a local authority travels from a place where the member permanently or temporarily resides that is outside the local authority area, to the local authority area on local authority business, the member is only eligible for a vehicle kilometre allowance for eligible travel after the member crosses the boundary of the local authority area.
4. Mileage claims must be made monthly.

6.2 Travel time allowance

1. Council will pay a travel time allowance to its members (other than the regional council Chair) for travel by a member, including travel to and from the member's residence, if the travel is:
 - a) Within New Zealand;
 - b) On the local authority's business;
 - c) By the quickest form of transport reasonable in the circumstances; and

- |
- d) By the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances
 - 2. The allowance payable for each day under clause 1 is:
 - a) \$40 per hour; but
 - b) only for the travel for that day that exceeds 1 hour.
 - 3. However, if a member of a local authority permanently or temporarily resides outside the local authority area and travels to the local authority area on local authority business, the member is only eligible for a travel time allowance in respect of eligible travel time:
 - a) After the member crosses the boundary of the local authority area; and
 - b) After the first hour of eligible travel within the local authority area.
 - 4. The maximum amount of travel time allowance that a member may be paid for eligible travel in a 24 hour period is eight hours.
 - 5. Travel time allowance claims must be made monthly.

7. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) allowance

7.1 Provision of ICT devices

1. The council will provide required ICT devices (e.g. mobile phone, computer /or tablet, scanner, printer, and any ancillary consumables or services, including standard internet connection) to elected members for the purpose of fulfilling their responsibilities. The cost of devices and service provision will be met by the council. Devices remain the property of the council and must be returned to the council at the Chief Executive's request. Devices may be replaced or updated triennially. Reimbursement of elected members' costs for any services or consumables in addition to those provided under this clause requires proof of expenditure and will be at the Chief Executive's discretion.
2. An elected member who uses their own ICT devices, services and ancillary consumables may claim annual allowances as set out in the following table. Reimbursement of costs for other ancillary consumables shall be on a cost recovery basis supported by proof of expenditure.

Item/Service	Maximum Allowance (for the determination term)
Personal Computer or tablet or laptop hardware (including any related docking station)	\$400 one device only
Printer (hardware)	\$50
Mobile telephone (hardware)	\$200
ICT consumables	Up to \$200
Personal internet connection service	Up to \$800
Personal mobile phone connection service, including calls, text and data	Up to \$500 (or reimbursement of actual costs of calls made on local authority business upon production of relevant telephone records and receipts)

3. All costs reasonably attributable to the personal use of a mobile phone and related mobile services supplied by council must be paid by the elected member.

8. Childcare allowance

1. A childcare allowance may be claimed in accordance with the Local Government Elected Members Determination for childcare provided while the member is engaged in local authority business (as defined in section 6.1(4)).
2. A member is eligible to be paid childcare allowance in respect of childcare provided for a child only if:
 - a) the member is a parent or guardian of the child, or is a person who usually has the responsibility for the day-to-day care of the child (other than on a temporary basis); and
 - b) the child is aged under 14 years of age; and
 - c) the childcare is provided by a person who –
 - (i) is not a parent of the child or a spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner of the member; and
 - (ii) does not ordinarily reside with the member; and
 - d) the member provides evidence satisfactory to the local authority of the amount paid for childcare.
3. The amount payable for childcare allowances to a member must not total more than \$6,000 per annum, per child.

9. Credit Cards

1. The Chair will be entitled to be issued with a council credit card. The credit card may only be used for council related expenditure and all expenditure must be supported by appropriate supporting documentation.
2. The Deputy Chair will be responsible for authorising the Chair's credit card expenditure on a monthly basis. In the event that the Deputy Chair benefits from the expenditure, another councillor not involved in the transaction shall approve the expenditure.

10. Hearing fees

1. A member who acts as the chairperson of a hearing is entitled to be paid a fee of \$116 per hour of **hearing time**.
2. A member who is not the chairperson of a hearing is entitled to be paid a fee of \$93 per hour of **hearing time**.
3. For any period of hearing time that is less than 1 hour, the fee must be apportioned accordingly.
4. The Chair of the Northland Regional Council or a member who acts as Chair of the regional council and is paid the Chair's remuneration is not entitled to hearing fees.
5. The definition of a hearing and hearing time is provided in the currently effective Local Government Elected Members Determination fixed by the Remuneration Authority.

11. Tax treatment

Withholding Tax

1. Council is only required to deduct withholding tax from payments that it makes to members for any *work or services* that they perform.
2. Reimbursements that council pays to members for expenditure incurred as an elected member while on council-related business or any allowances that a member may receive from council are *not* subject to withholding tax.

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Proposed Changes to Section 5.4

Northland Regional Council

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TITLE: **Health and Safety Report for October to December 2023 quarter**

From: Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 19 February 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report is to inform council of the activity in Health and Safety for the period October - December 2023.

An overview/summary of the report includes:

- A summary of the events, investigations and outcomes that have occurred in this period.
- Overall numbers of incidents/hazards (excluding speeding) are trending up, however this is likely due to improved reporting.
- Health and safety training has continued to be a priority in this period.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Health and Safety Report for October to December 2023 quarter' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and dated 12 February 2024, be received.

1. Health and safety performance

A summary of the health and safety performance for the period October to December 2023 is shown in Table 1 below.

- An additional fixed term H&S Advisor role was filled in October. The additional staffing resource has allowed a more proactive approach to work in health and safety.
- A review of health and safety risk register had been contracted out, however, this contract did not progress as planned. The work is now in progress by the new H&S Advisor, and aims to be completed by the end of February. Workshops held across the council Groups have been very useful.
- An ongoing programme of policy review and updating has been implemented and is ongoing.
- Whilst the number of completed health and safety inductions for new staff remains below the target of 100% within 2 working days, the gaps correspond to staff who do not work in the office/do not work consecutive days. Health and safety is included in the 'induction day' training for staff, offered within the first fortnight for new starts.
- A health and safety manual has been created which summarises the critical risks for NRC. Members of the Executive Leadership Team have adopted critical risks for detailed investigation in 2024.
- Training undertaken for the period included dog safety, contractor management, trailer safety, working in flood water, first aid for field staff and 4WD training.

- A new reporting system has been launched to improve the ease of incident and near miss reporting.
- The number of incidents reported has increased, however, underreporting of near misses remains a concern. This is evident in the increased number of vehicle incidents in November and December. Staff have been reporting near miss vehicle incidents where they have needed to take evasive action – previously these would not have been reported.

2023-2024 Financial Year							FY Total
	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	
Audit/investigation corrective actions identified	3	5	2	5	9	2	26
Workplace inspections completed	0	0	1	0	4	1	6
Number of speed events	14	4	15	9	11	11	64
Number of vehicle events	2	2	6	2	8	10	30
Number of contractor events	1	1	0	0	1	1	4
H&S trainings completed (external)	16	29	40	46	46	33	210
New workers H&S inducted within first two days of starting	100%	100%	80%	83%	88%	100%	92%
Health monitoring vaccine programmes completed							2
Health monitoring programmes completed							2
Incident investigations	28	28	19	34	45	25	179
				Outstanding from previous FY	Current/ under way	Completed in last 3 months	FY Total
				0	43	61	179

Table 1: Health and safety performance lead and lag indicators October 2023 to December 2023

2. Risk management

The risk register review is a significant piece of work to improve understanding of hazard and risk. The existing risk register had several duplicate entries and information on risks held under several relevant entries. The revised register has been reformatted to remove any repetition and groups risks into fewer categories to make it simpler to use and reduces any inconsistencies in the way risk scoring has been applied. The timeline for this review is for a draft to be available at the end of February.

Risk Updates

Critical risks have been identified for prioritised management. A critical risk is defined as “A risk likely to result in serious personal injury, illness or a fatality. Often less frequent exposure, but very severe consequences.”

The critical risks for NRC are namely:

- Lone working
- Working around water
- Driving
- Fatigue
- Working with contractors
- Working in the road corridor
- Hazardous substances
- Use of firearms
- Use of helicopters
- Aggressive people
- Machinery and plant
- Working with volunteers

3. Injuries, incidents, and hazards

104 events were reported by staff for the quarter October 2023 – December 2023.

The top cause for reported incidents for the October to December quarter remains speeding incidents (31 incidents), plus two speeding tickets. Other vehicle incidents were the second most frequent incidents (15 incidents). Staff have been encouraged to report incidents where they have to take evasive action so that NRC has a better picture of the frequency of these incidents. NRC vehicles travel an average of 125000kms per month, the number of incidents recorded represents an average of 1 speeding event per 11,860 kms driven this quarter. Speeding remains an area of concern for us, and our approach is being reviewed especially for those who drive in excess of 20km over the speed limit.

In this quarter, six incidents of aggressive customers were reported, these included phone messages and physical confrontations during field work. A new policy to clarify guidelines for staff and councillors on expectations around dealing with aggressive/accusatory conversations has been drafted, the 'Harmful Communications Policy'. The intent is to clarify that staff and councillors are not expected to continue with abusive conversations. It recognises that abusive communications can impact an individual's wellbeing and it provides a procedure for responding to such incidents and support for those affect.

Top 5 H&S incidents by category in past quarter

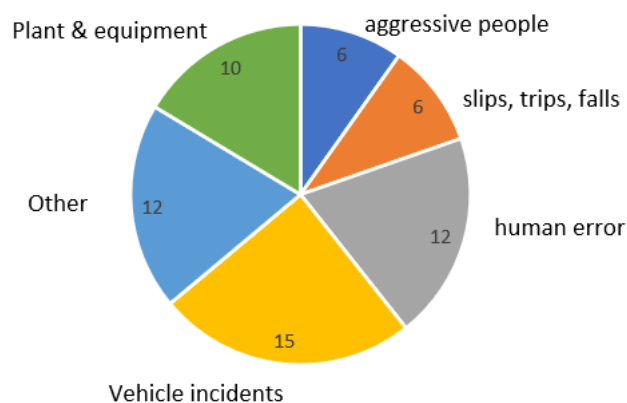


Figure 1: Top 5 causes of H&S incidents in October to December 2023 quarter – note two equal frequency events resulted in 6 types of incidents being shown here.

Figure 2 below shows injury/incident related events, as compared to hazard related events, for the previous 12 months.

The new reporting system was rolled out part way through October 2023. It was pleasing to see that the new system resulted in an instant increase in reporting as is evident in November.

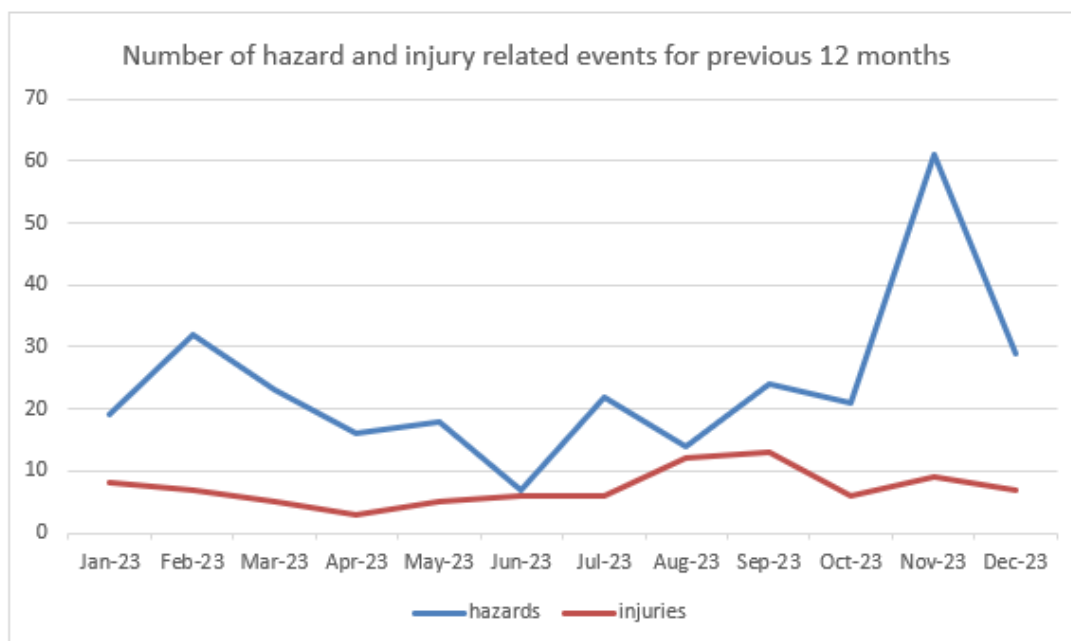


Figure 2: Number of hazard and injury/incident related events for the previous 12 months

	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23
— Hazards	19	32	23	16	18	7	22	14	24	21	61	29
— Injuries	8	7	5	3	5	6	6	12	13	6	9	7
% event rate by headcount	7.3%	10.9%	12.3%	8.9%	13.2%	9.5%	6.4%	7.7%	4.3%	9.5%	8.7%	12.3%

Table 2: Health and safety incident reports percentage by head- count for October to December 2023 quarter

Events of interest

Note: the events of interest only detail high risk events, or events which affect large groups of people.

The following events are events of interest from the quarter October 2023 – December 2023.

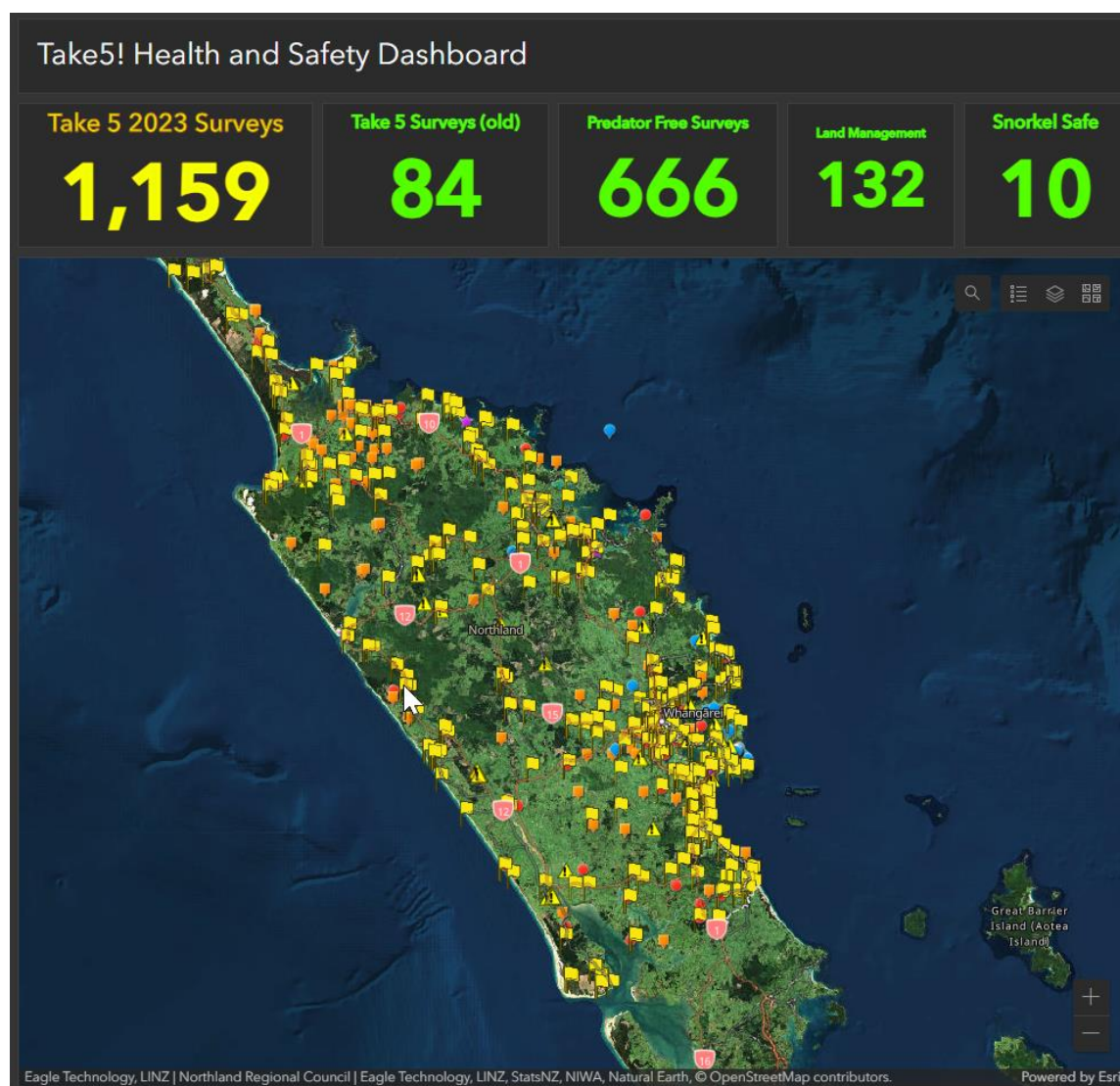
- 3 incidents of aggressive people causing stress through abusive and persistent phone calls. Staff are being encouraged to report these incidents rather than consider them a normal part of work, if staff need more than peer support, they are directed to use the Employee Assistance Programme.
- Injury to a lone worker using heavy plant, was able to summon help through neighbour. The incident was investigated, and the main issue was not following standard operating procedure. The Health and Safety team are also working with the worker to see if any improvements can be made to the operating procedures.
- There has been a significant increase in aggressive behaviour incidents in the public spaces around the Water Street office, (related to the behaviours that recently led to a number of individuals being trespassed from the CBD by WDC). At the same time, a lack of security at the rear of the building was identified. The rear gate to the carpark is now closed and a pedestrian gate provided. Note - the WDC trespass notice in January appears to have removed a lot of the antisocial behaviour from the Water Street area.

- The front entrance at the Water Street office caught the walking stick of a person causing a fall. A review of the front door mechanism (very heavy) and alternative entrance layout is underway to improve accessibility to the building.

4. Health and safety strategy work programme

The Health and Safety strategy review has been completed by the Capability Group, and a draft strategy produced. The work included a workshop to involve staff from across the organisation. The strategy provides a 3-year programme to clarify the priorities for health and safety at NRC.

A major piece of work that has been progressed through 2023 was improving the way staff carry out field based risk assessments on a daily basis – a “Take 5” to check they are safe to continue planned work. A new digital format for this has been created and trialled, it is now to be rolled out in February 2024. This will provide more useable information for the H&S team and managers. The dashboards for these are still in progress, but will allow us to quantify how much time staff spend working on specific high risk tasks, for example working in the road corridor, lone working, working with firearms, working around water.



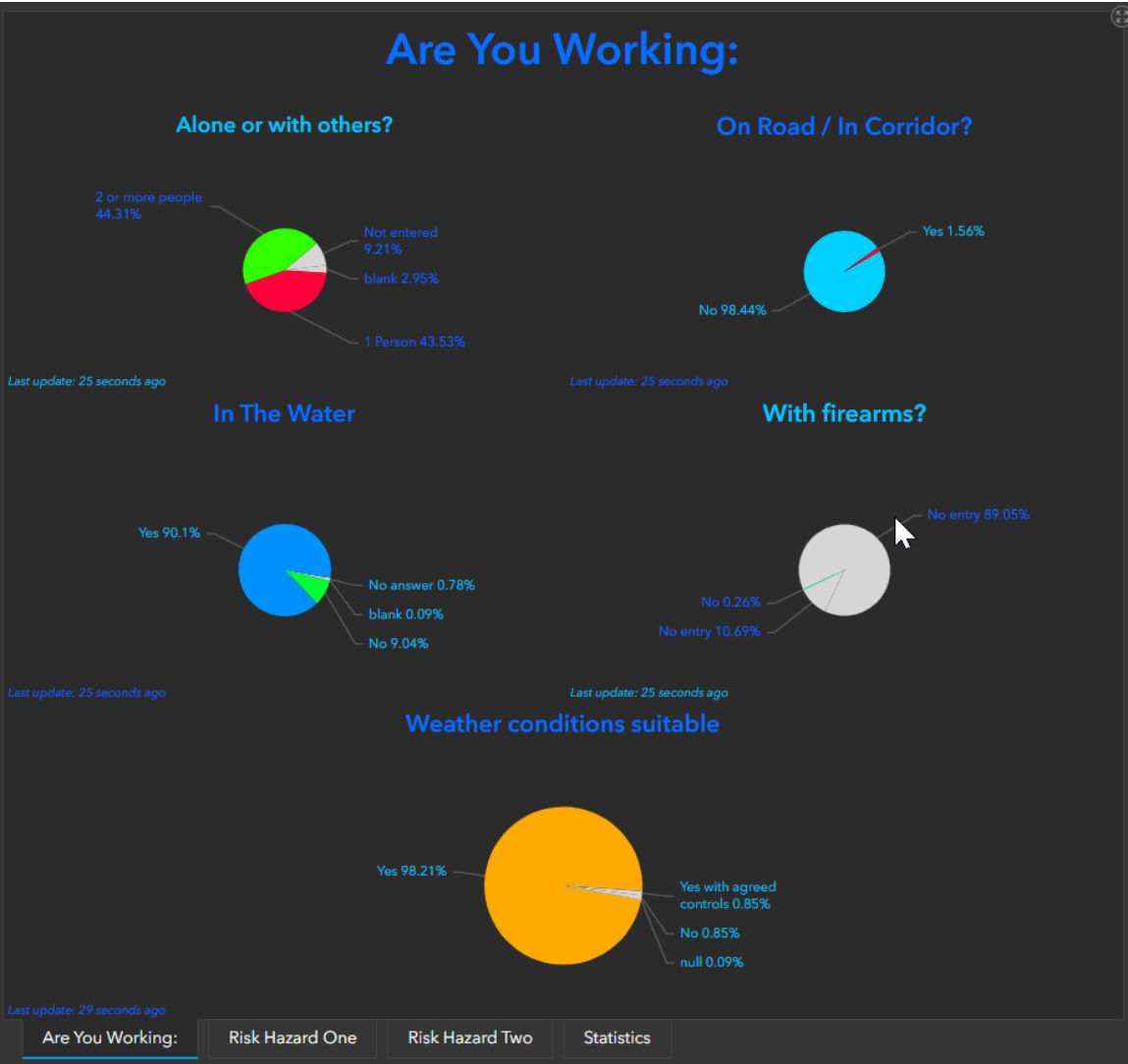


Figure 3: Draft example of the dashboard output from the Take 5 digital surveys which will visually represent the number and types of visits carried out by staff

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Chair's Report to Council

From: Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 20 February 2024

Purpose of Report

This report is to receive information from the Chair on meetings/events attended, and correspondence received through December 2023 and correspondence sent December 2023 and January 2024.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 5 February 2024, be received.

Meetings/events attended

During this period, I attended the following meetings/events/functions:

- 18 Dec – Accompanied by Deputy Chair Tui Shortland and Cr Joe Carr met with Pita Tipene to promote the Taumarere Catchment proposed plan at the Pae Tata Farm at Maromaku. It was a great meeting with Iwi leaders who are keen to proceed with a plan
- 19 Dec – Met with Mayor Vince Cocurullo and Mayor Craig Jepson at the Whangarei District Council with Mayor Moko Tepania on zoom. Discussions covered rate increases, roading and team vision for 2024. The two top discussions were the road link from Warkworth to Te Hana and the Brynderwyn. Rates - Far North 30% maybe plus; WDC 17% and KDC 12%??
- 21 December – Signed an agreement with the Trustees regarding Lake Omāpere. Also attending was CE Jonathan Gibbard, Deputy Chair Tui Shortland, Cr Joe Carr and Ruben Wylie with Deputy Chair Tui Shortland leading the discussion on planning around this project
- 8 January – Accompanied by Deputy Chair Tui Shortland met with Ben Dalton from The Waitangi National Trust Board to discuss planning around Waitangi Day
- 12 Jan – Attended a hui at Te Rāwhiti re Caulerpa
- 15 Jan – Met with MP Grant McCallum covering aspirations that the Northland Regional Council have for the next 12 months and promoted Grant to Minister of Caulerpa
- 21 Jan – Attended another hui at Te Rāwhiti regarding Blair Tuke filming Caulerpa for the Sunday programme
- 24 Jan – Accompanied by Cr John Blackwell met with MP Mark Cameron in Ruawai on NRC aspirations and discussed programmes needing support for the Rice Grass programme; Deer programme etc – this was a 3hr meeting with lots of robust discussion
- 31 Jan – Accompanied by CE Jonathan Gibbard travelled to Wellington to meet with Hon Andrew Hoggard, Minister Biosecurity, on Caulerpa, Clean Hull Plan, Deer programme, Predator 2050 etc. Met with Hon Simeon Brown, Minister for Local Government & Transport, on roading and the rail spur short fall of maintenance spend highways. Spoke with Hon David Seymour, ACT Party Leader and Minister for Regulation, and Hon Chris Bishop, Minister for Infrastructure & RMA Reform, for 10 minutes. Attended MP Grant McCallum's speech in Parliament Chambers. Caught up with Mayor Vince Cocurullo and had

a great visit networking with Ministers and politicians. CE Jonathan Gibbard to write up a brief report

- Feb 2 – Accompanied by CE Jonathan Gibbard had a breakfast meeting with Hon Penny Simmonds, Minister for the Environment, promoting the new up scaled Bay of Islands catchment plan which was well received and CE Jonathan Gibbard advocated extremely well on how to make it work. Meeting with Hon Penny Simmonds again on 24 February with iwi to obtain agreement to proceed. Discussed freshwater changes and CE Jonathan Gibbard will provide a report on the new direction for NRC
- 5 Feb – Met with Hon Andrew Hoggard, Minister for Biosecurity, MP Grant McCallum and MP Mark Cameron at Paihia Wharf to welcome them on to the boat to visit our dredging operation at Omakiwi
- Accompanied by CE Jonathan Gibbard, Deputy Chair Tui Shortland and Cr Joe Carr met with Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Regional Development, to promote our aspirations. There was lots of discussion and feedback – CE Jonathan Gibbard will provide a debrief on this meeting. That evening we had dinner at the Ngā Huihuinga ngā Mahi Functions and Event Centre.

During December 2023 I received the following correspondence:

Date	Addressed From	Subject
13 Dec 2023	Ministry of Social Development – Graham MacPherson	Extended congratulations on new role as Chair of NRC and welcomed the opportunity to talk about the work of MSD and the Regional Public Service
13 Dec 2023	Hon Chris Bishop	Intention to repeal the Natural and Built Environment Act 2023 and the Spatial Planning Act 2023 and replace the National Policy Statement for Freshwater 2020

During December 2023 and January 2024 I sent out the following correspondence:

Date	Addressed To	Subject
18 Dec 2023	Northland Fish & Game Council – Craig Deal	Impact of Black Swans on the Northland Environment
23 Jan 2024	Hon Simeon Brown	Audit Fees
25 Jan 2024	Hon Andrew Hoggard	Concern regarding operational funding cuts to the Manchurian Wild Rice Control programme

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Chief Executive's Report to Council

From: Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Authorised by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, on 20
Group Manager/s: February 2024

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 24 January 2024, be received.

8.3.1 HIGHLIGHTS

INCURSIONS

Freshwater Gold Clam Response

A dedicated team including staff from Te Roroa, the Kaipara District Council, Johnson Contracting, and Northland Regional Council conducted biosecurity checks on watercraft visitors to Lake Taharoa during the holiday period from 23 December to 6 February.

The checks involved stopping and inspecting all types of watercraft, including jet skis, boats, and kayaks, along with their trailers. Rigorous vessel washing procedures were implemented to mitigate potential spread of aquatic pests. Additionally, a comprehensive survey was conducted to gather insights into visitors' origins, their activities at the lake, other potential destinations, and their awareness of the current biosecurity threat posed by the Freshwater Gold Clam. This information will help support the ongoing response activities.

Early survey results revealed that over 40% of Lake Taharoa's visitors came from Auckland, with another 40% from the Northland region. The remainder hailed from various locations across the country. Of concern were 11 visitors from the Waikato, a region where the clam has already established itself.

As the summer season concludes, the comprehensive approach to the response will shift to end-of-season eDNA surveillance, complemented by visual checks across the region.

The long-term nature of managing the Freshwater Gold Clam will mean Council will need to consider its ongoing contributions as there is no long-term programme resourcing. In this regard the current response has emphasised that collaborative efforts are needed from various partners and stakeholders for effective containment.



BEACH BUSES

The beach buses campaign was extended this year and included the Rose Street to Ocean Beach and Ruakākā Beach service and the new Far North Link Saturday beach bus service.

The campaign for both services was run both online and offline, including location-specific radio ads run through Mediaworks and NZME, posters on bus services and locally, and an increased social media campaign utilising NRC and CityLink channels, shared with other agencies as appropriate (WDC, FNDC, etc). The campaign collateral included increased use of Te Reo; “Get the bus to the beach! Ka eke ki runga I te pahi ki te takutai!”



Successful campaign engagement was demonstrated by the Ocean Beach service on Thurs 11 January being full, for the first time since the service started in 2021. Ritchies the operator were able to step in and offer a bigger vehicle (free of charge) for the remaining beach bus services in January. Feedback on social posts has been overwhelmingly positive, passenger stats are awaited.

WAIKARE II UPDATE

The new vessel Waikare II was rolled out of Circa's shed on 14 January after a one-year build and successfully floated on 17 January. Commissioning is ongoing and the sign off by the surveyor is due on 8 February. The \$3.5M build has been both on time and on budget, a significant success for all parties involved given the difficult financial times. A blessing had been scheduled for 21 February but had to be postponed. New date to be confirmed.



8.3.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

Fraud Corruption and Dishonesty statement

A recent investigation has highlighted no evidence of fraudulent behaviour but has identified some areas of improvement relating to procurement and inventory management.

Finance Report

1. The CEO has approved unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$16.5k to fund overlap of the Corporate Services PA role and associated administrative support for the People & Capability (P&C) Team, funded from the organisation's favourable salary variance.
2. The CEO approved the recruitment of an additional fixed term Business Analyst position of \$42,500 to be funded from the organisation's favourable salary variance.
3. The CEO has approved unbudgeted expenditure of \$56,058 (excl GST) from the organisation's favourable salary variance to fund NRC's Riskpool call.

NRC was a Riskpool Member, obtaining insurance cover via Riskpool – refer to <https://www.riskpool.org.nz/> for details.

Riskpool has been working through a complex pathway to understand what the future liability will be for Members following the Supreme Court's dismissal of Riskpool's appeal in the Napier Waterfront Apartments claim.

Since then, Riskpool has been able to quantify its liability in relation to that claim and has a better understanding of its potential liability in relation to other similar mixed defect claims. Some of those claims involve late notification issues which have yet to be resolved. Riskpool are still waiting on confirmation from reinsurers that they will provide reinsurance cover for any of these claims.

In the meantime, Riskpool has carried out a review of its current and future liabilities, which has involved considering the deficits for previous Fund years.

In aggregate, over all Fund years, Riskpool has incurred more in claims and expenses (before allowing for claims provisions) than has been received as contributions and calls from Members. This has been funded by a loan from Civic Financial Services. In addition, there is more to be paid in respect of currently open claims (including the Napier Waterfront Apartments claim) spread across a few different Fund Years.

The Board has resolved to make a call on Members to pay a contribution to fund the deficits for Fund years 7, 10, 11 and 12, being:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| • Fund Year 7 | - \$6.166 million |
| • Fund Year 10 | - \$3.051 million |
| • Fund Year 11 | - \$1.126 million |
| • Fund Year 12 | - \$2.541 million |
| Total | - \$12.884 million |

Riskpool's actuaries, have calculated the required contribution from each Member for those Fund years.

The amount of the call for Northland Regional Council is \$56,058.00 (excl GST).

Once Riskpool has met the short-term needs noted above there will be a process of finalising each Fund Year. This will entail:

- Continuing to operate Riskpool until all claims are settled.
- Issuing further calls upon members for Fund Years still in deficit. The quantum of future calls will depend on the outcome of the late notification issues in respect of outstanding mixed defect claims and reinsurers' position.
- For Fund Years in surplus either:
 - Returning funds to members, or

- Offsetting against later Fund Years in deficit. The CEO has approved unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$16.5k to fund overlap of the Corporate Services PA role and associated administrative support for the P&C Team, funded from the organisation's favourable salary variance.

Any potential future calls will be reported through to the Audit, Risk & Finance Subcommittee when council is advised by Riskpool.

Property Report

- The NIWA Kingish RAS project is now complete with lease execution, financial wash-up and final inspections having all been undertaken to the satisfaction of NIWA and council's property team.
- The property team are seeking tenant interest through the public marketing of a Whangārei CBD redevelopment project. A number of potential tenants are discussing terms.
- The demolition of buildings on a large leasehold property is currently in train and is under council consultant observation.
- The value of a Carbon Unit was \$73.00 on 8th February 2024.

8.3.3 REGULATORY SERVICES

Current Legal Proceedings

A review is currently underway to consider options for greater governance oversight of the Regulatory Services Group. This includes reviewing the current governance role in approving policies that guide decisions on appointment of hearing commissioners, compliance monitoring and enforcement, and reporting and monitoring of regulatory services consent processing and compliance activities. It's anticipated that a proposal will be brought to council in March that will enhance governance oversight of this part of council business.

Department	Description	Status
Consent decision appeal	Irrigation of avocado orchards and horticulture crops	The Environment Court reconvened hearing held on 11 and 12 December 2023 to hear outstanding matters. Awaiting Court decision.

Consents in Process

During December 2023 and January 2024, a total of 122 Decisions were issued. These decisions comprised:

December 2023 (97)		January 2024 (25)	
Moorings	5	Coastal Permits	5
Coastal Permits	30	Air Discharge Permits	3
Land Discharge Permits	13	Land Use Consents	14
Land Use Consents	12	Bore Consents	3
Water Takes	10		
Bore Consents	27		

Of the 120 applications in progress at the end of January 2024:

- 36 were received more than 12 months ago;

Applications more than 12 months old – 31 January 2024

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
APP.006928	Mr J D Palffy	J D Palffy: Log extraction from bed of Northern Wairoa River	04/07/2008	S92 hold for cultural effects assessment. Applicant has been advised that this application needs to be resolved or withdrawn.
APP.004835	Far North District Council	Kerikeri urban area stormwater discharges	04/10/2011	S92 hold for information on flooding effects. FNDC awaiting results of new flood model for stormwater system before application can continue to be processed.
APP.037501	Hare Patau Hohepa Tepania	Marine farm at Southern end of 90 Mile Beach (Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē)	03/03/2015	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with Te Hiku about activities on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē .
APP.038180	Whangarei District Council	Comprehensive stormwater network consent for Upper Whangarei Harbour catchments	25/02/2016	S37 extension by applicant. WDC have engaged a consultant to update the application in response to new PRP and legislation before proceeding further. Unlikely to be ready until early 2024.
APP.038601	North Western Mussels Limited	Mussel spat catching farm off the West Coast of 90 Mile Beach (Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē)	15/07/2016	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with Te Hiku about activities on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē.
APP.037958	Oranga Kai Limited Partnership	Groundwater take for an avocado orchard at 6258 Mangakāhia Road, Kaikohe	28/07/2017	Applicant has requested that hearing being organised. Council awaiting final details of consultation with submitters prior to organising a hearing date, which should occur mid-2024.
APP.005059	Golden Bay Cement	Golden Bay Cement: Stormwater discharges to CMA from a cement manufacturing site, Portland	09/11/2018	Section 128 review. Review of conditions complete and staff report being finalised.

APP.042595	Glenview Estate Limited	Activities associated with a proposed hydroelectric power station at Knight Road, Kokopu	02/03/2021	Applicant has requested that hearing is placed on hold to allow him to secure concession and fish passage approval from DoC.
APP.007161	Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society Incorporated	Replacement consents for dredging and associated activities in Mangawhai Harbour	10/03/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant. Council in discussions with applicant and DoC regarding consent conditions.
APP.004204	Fonterra Limited	Replacement consent to discharge process wastewater from the Maungaturoto dairy factory into the Ōtamatea River estuary	16/03/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with Te Uri o Hau. CIA has been completed and applicant working through issues with Te Uri o Hau.
APP.000932	Far North District Council	Replacement consents for the Kaitiāia wastewater treatment plant at Bonnetts Road, Kaitiāia	24/08/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant. Applicant has advised council that draft conditions have been agreed to with tangata whenua and have requested that council proceed to publicly notify application.
APP.030602	Far North District Council	Replacement consent for sludge storage facility at Kaitiāia - jointly processed with WWTP application	24/08/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua on conditions of consent.
APP.002417	Far North District Council	Renewal of consents for the Kaikohe WWTP	27/08/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow for discussions with tangata whenua on land disposal options and preparation of a CIA.
APP.043079	Teal Shores Limited	Earthworks to construct ponds and bunds at Webb Road, Teal Bay	07/09/2021	S92 hold regarding natural wetlands in the CMA.
APP.037987	Tranquility Retreats Limited	Take water from a bore for the purposes of horticultural irrigation at McManus Road, Houhora	17/09/2021	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting Court decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.043277	R Campbell	Ground water take for a avocado orchard at 3190 Far North Road, Motutangi	19/11/2021	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting Court decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.

APP.043278	Far North Packers Limited	Ground water take for avocado processing plant at Waiharara, Awanui	19/11/2021	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting Court decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.043305	Onoke Heights Ltd	Site development works for a subdivision at Dip Road, Kamo.	29/11/2021	Joint Hearing with WDC as lead agency. Awaiting Hearing Commissioners decision.
APP.038410	Sandstone Orchards Limited Partnership	Groundwater take at Srhoj Road, Waiharara for irrigation of avocado orchard development.	30/11/2021	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting Court decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.043352	Kauri Mountain Farms Limited	Historic refuse disposal at 469 Kauri Mountain Road, Onerahi	09/12/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow planting plan to be provided to council.
APP.004352	WDC	To discharge treated wastewater to the CMA (Limeburners Creek) at Kioreroa Road, Whangarei	17/12/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to resolve issues with proposed consent conditions. Applicant has advised amended conditions should be with council early 2024.
APP.043384	GS Jacobsen	Retrospective consent for a retaining wall and mooring, and proposed new boardwalk, 118 Waterfront Road, Pukenui	20/01/2022	S92 hold for further information. Council to follow up on when it will be provided.
APP.043505	Robert Campbell Trust	Short term groundwater take for irrigation at 134 Big Flat Road, Waiharara	25/02/2022	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.009495	Taipa Water Supply Limited	Replacement consent to take for irrigation and public water supply, Ōruru River	03/05/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with hapu.
APP.043888	Carrington Estate Jade LP	Earthworks for residential subdivision at Matai Bay Road and Whatuwhiwhi Road	30/05/2022	S92 hold for assessment of NPS-FW and "natural inland wetlands".
APP.007205	Far North District Council	Replacement consents for discharges associated with operation of the Kāeo WWTP	27/07/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua.
APP.003796	Doubtless Bay Water Supply Company Limited	Replacement consent to take groundwater for public supply at Taipa	28/07/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua.

APP.001116	Kaipara District Council	Replacement consents for discharges associated with the wastewater treatment plant at State Highway 1, Kaiwaka	29/07/2022	Council finalising decision report and decision should be issued by end of March 2024.
APP.007399	Far North District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to Hihi Stream, Hihi Beach WWTP	31/08/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua.
APP.044441	Shoresite Properties Limited	Bulk earthworks for subdivision at Sun Valley Drive, Morningside, Whangarei	05/10/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow for discussions with tangata whenua
APP.005055	Northport Limited	Proposed port expansion project to include reclamation and port activities	06/10/2022	Hearing being held which has been adjourned till at least March 2024.
APP.044499	C & R Maria	Earthworks for a proposed 11 lot subdivision at Oruru Road, Taipa	20/10/2022	S92 hold for additional information.
APP.007294	MacBrand Water Co Limited	Renew consent to take water for irrigation at Kerikeri	27/10/2022	S37 extension agreed to by applicant. Council decision on this renewal application by end of first quarter 2024.
APP.044610	K Archer	MM4 Swing mooring in Windsor Landing, Kerikeri	17/11/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow reconsideration of proposal.
APP.044619	Kiripaka Holdings Limited	Earthworks for an 84-lot development at Kiripaka Road, Whangarei	24/11/2022	S37 extension agreed to by applicant to allow discussion and finalisation of consent conditions
APP.044727	Quail Ridge Country Club Limited	Proposed pedestrian bridge across Kerikeri River	24/01/2023	S92 hold for information on flooding effects. Joint application with FNDC. Applicant has requested public notification and FNDC will be lead agency.

- 15 were received between 6 and 12 months ago (most awaiting further information from the applicant);
- 68 less than 6 months old

Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

- No commissioners were appointed in December 2023 and January 2024.

Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals

The current level of notified application processing activities at the end of January 2024 is (by number):



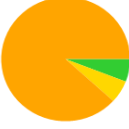

Applications Publicly/Limited Notified During Previous Month	1
Progress on Applications Previously Notified	3
Hearings and Decisions	4
Appeals/Objections	1













COMPLIANCE MONITORING













The results of compliance monitoring for the period 1 December 2023 to 31 January 2024 (and year-to-date figures) are summarised in the following table and discussed below.







Classification	Total	Full compliance	Low risk non-compliance	Moderate non-compliance	Significant non-compliance	Not exercised during period
Air Discharge	38	36	0	1	0	1
Bore Consent	11	11	0	0	0	0
Coastal Discharge	24	16	4	4	0	0
Coastal Permit	70	58	10	1	0	1
Land Discharge	149	93	15	11	0	30
Land Use Consent	120	86	3	1	0	30
NES-F	1	0	1	0	0	0
Water Discharge	103	48	20	25	2	8
Water Permit	87	62	0	1	0	24
Water Take	209	127	49	7	0	26
Total	812	537	102	51	2	120
Percentage		66.1%	12.6%	6.3%	0.2%	14.8%
Year to date	3896	2795	417	339	60	285
Percentage		71.7%	10.7%	8.7%	1.5%	7.3%

Municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance/enforcement

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Enforcement Action/Response
Ahipara Expires 2033		<u>Under ANs</u> (reissued in September 2022). New SCUUV unit to improve the discharge has arrived in NZ and FNDC is currently tendering for its installation.
Russell Expires 30 April 2024		<u>Under AN.</u> Significant non-compliance currently being addressed.
Whatuwhiwhi Expires 2025		None currently.
Taipā Expires 2029		None currently.

Kawakawa Expires 2036		None currently.
Rāwene Expired 2023 (replacement consent application received)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Kaitiāia Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed)		<u>Under AN</u> (for reticulation overflows). Ongoing works on reticulation system. Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Kaikohe Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Rangiputa Expires 2032		None currently.
Opononi & Omāpere Expired 2019 (replacement consents granted but late appeal may be accepted)		<u>Under AN.</u> Issues addressed in replacement consent.
Paihia Expires 2034		None currently.
Hikurangi Expires 2025		Improvements to plant performance currently underway.
Glinks Gully Expires 31 July 2024 (replacement consent application received)		None currently.
Maungaturoto Expires 2032		<u>Under AN.</u> Improvements made to management of the WWTP.
Kaiwaka Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Kaeo Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)		None currently.

Hihi Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)		None currently.
Mangawhai Expires 2042		<u>Under AN.</u> Wastewater being dosed with odour control chemicals. Irrigation storage dam requires repairs – works underway to address.
Kohukohu Expired 2016 (replacement consents granted but late appeal may be accepted)		None currently. Issues addressed in replacement consent.
Ruakaka Expires 2046		None currently.
Te Kopuru Expires 2044		KDC investigating options for improvement.
Dargaville Expires 2043		<u>Under AN.</u> Issues addressed in replacement consent.
Whāngārei City Expired 2022 (replacement consent conditions being finalised)		<u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant. Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Tutukaka Expires 31 May 2024 (replacement consent application expected by end of February)		None currently.
Oakura Expires 2025		None currently.
Waiōtira Expires 2030		None currently.
Waipū Expires 2030		None currently.
Kerikeri Expires 2036		None currently.

Portland Expires 31 May 2024 (replacement consent application expected by end of February)		None currently.
Ngunguru Expires 2035		None currently.
Compliance Status	Colour	
Full compliance		
Low risk non-compliance		
Moderate non-compliance		
Significant non-compliance		

Farm dairy effluent (FDE) monitoring

FDE inspections commenced on 31 July 2023. NRC staff and the FDE contractor visited 714 farms this monitoring season (3 less than last year). All farms have now been visited and reported on. Comparisons of this season's results so far with those for last season are given in the tables below. The permitted activity farms have done better this season, with a decrease from 11% to 8% in significant non-compliance and an increase in full compliance from 72% up to 80%.

The overall rate of significant non-compliance for all farms was 7%, which is similar to, but slightly less than, last year (7.5%).

Consented farms (547 to do in total this year)

Full Compliance		Moderate Non-Compliance		Significant Non-Compliance	
This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
353	379	157	127	33	34
65%	70%	29%	24%	6%	6%

Non-consented farms (176 to do in total this year)

Full Compliance		Moderate Non-Compliance		Significant Non-Compliance	
This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
136	127	21	30	14	20
80%	72%	12%	17%	8%	11%

ENFORCEMENT

Abatement Notices, Infringement Notices and Formal Warnings

The following table gives the total numbers of abatement and infringement notices issued in December 2023 and January 2024:

Nature of offence	Abatement notices	Infringement notices
Burning and smoke nuisance	11	5
Earthworks/land use	3	2
Farm dairy effluent	3	9
Illegal activity in coastal marine area	1	
Other air discharge	1	
Other water discharge	1	2

Illegal take, dam or diversion		3
Sediment discharge	3	
Total	23	21

Court Cases Update

Appellant/Defendant	Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
Craig Maisey	Prosecution District Court Contravention of enforcement orders requiring remedial work.	Final step is for Mr Maisey within two months of completion of remedial works to provide to NRC a Site Validation Report. When the Site Validation Report has been certified, the prosecution will be ready for sentencing. Court has adjourned for call on 20 February 2024. Joint memorandum with report on progress to be filed by 16 February 2024.
Craig Davis, Teal Shores Ltd, Davis Coastal Consultants Ltd and Mason Contractors Ltd	Prosecution District Court Earthworks and vegetation clearance in and near natural wetland; and discharge of sediment.	Adjourned to a further call over on 26 February 2024 to enable discussions between prosecution and defence on trial issues classification of the wetland and causal link for Davis Coastal Consultants Ltd). Meeting arranged for 19 February 2024 to discuss the issues that are agreed and disputed.
AML Limited T/A Allied Concrete	Prosecution District Court Discharge of concrete contaminated water to stormwater drain from concrete production and batching plant.	Agreed summary of facts and annexures filed on 16 October 2023. Sentencing date is 20 February 2024. Submissions for NRC were filed on 30 January 2024. There is one main point of difference - whether the effect of the Covid lockdown was the only or predominant reason for the offences or whether there were underlying systemic issues. This issue has been addressed in submissions.
Philip Bayly Family Trust, Philip Bayly, Daniel Adams and Lawrence Takimoana	Prosecution District Court Discharge of raw farm dairy effluent to a stream; wastewater washed into stream; and overflow from pond.	All defendants entered not guilty pleas and elected jury trial. Crown Team formally took over the file at the first jury trial call over. The first jury trial call over was on 21 November 2023. Case adjourned for a further call over on 12 February 2024 to enable amicus to be appointed for the two unrepresented defendants, Adams and Takimoana; and for pretrial hearing to be arranged. Amicus for Mr Takimoana has asked for Crown view on start point if guilty plea is entered.
Stephen Johnson	Prosecution and emergency action District Court	Mr Johnson has changed lawyers. We are negotiating wording of summary of facts with new lawyer for sentence indication

	Earthworks including: construction of tracks, earthworks and vegetation removal in and near wetland; stream crossings; discharge of sediment; and damming and diversions of tributaries.	hearing. Next call over on 20 February 24 to allow time for negotiation.
Graeme Bowkett	Appeal against abatement notice and application for stay Environment Court Coastal works.	Abatement notices issued by NRC and later by WDC. Mr Bowkett filed appeal and application for stay. Following discussions between the parties. In early December 2023, WDC filed an application for enforcement orders against Mr Bowkett requiring removal of the boat ramp and the hard protection structure, with NRC joining as section 274 party later in December in support of the WDC application in relation to the hard protection structure. Two-day hearing allocated for 21 and 22 March 2024 in Whangarei.

8.3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

LAND MANAGEMENT

Grant funding programmes

Northland Hill Country Erosion Programme has progressed well and all targets for this milestone of the project have been exceeded. This has resulted in a total of funding being 28,527m/206.12 ha of retirement fencing and the supply of 62ha of soil conservation material (2630 poles & 17,976 wands).

Staff training KPI has been exceeded. Two days required; seven days completed. This was achievable because the cost of the Poplar & Willow Bio-Remediation workshop was subsidised by NZAMR so cost to council was significantly reduced.

Engagement KPI of six events was met. However, the associated catering and koha budgets weren't spent as the events were either field days or hosted by industry bodies. These budgets will be rolled over to milestone 2 (second half of the FY). A plan is being developed to support targeted Māori engagement events.

Staff have made good progress with delivering the Tangata Whenua and Catchment fund, and have been proactive working with Tangata and Kaitiakitanga rūpū around the rohe. Key projects include funding support for catchment planning in the Waimamaku and Otaua catchments, GIS training for kaitiaki, and support for a mobile water testing system in conjunction with the Me He Wai project. The general environment fund was fully allocated late in 2023 and project signoffs are trickling in. Land team staff are following up with landowners to remind them of timeframes for completion.

Whangarei Urban Awa project

This project is now finished and the closed-out report is being finalised with MFE. Both the planting target and fencing targets were achieved within budget. The project resulted in 20km of fencing, 20,890 plants planted covering 2.3ha and 9300 jobs for nature hours (including contractors).

Implementation of the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations

In December 2023 the Ministry for the Environment confirmed that while the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations (FWFP) are not impacted by the Government's 100-day plan there has been a delay in the publication of the Order in Council for those regional councils (including Northland) which are implementing the regulations in the second half of 2024 and in 2025. The delay is attributed to the very busy agenda the new government has had since the elections and an indication of the Order in Council date is expected in the first quarter of this year.

Work is progressing on ensuring that the Council is prepared to implement the regulations in August this year should that schedule be maintained. Two key focus areas are the development of catchment context, challenges and values information that will provide existing environmental data and contextual information to support farmers in the development of their freshwater farm plans; and development of the regional training required for FWFP certifiers and auditors. The core group of council staff working on the implementation is liaising with those other regional councils already implementing the regulations (Southland, Waikato, Otago, West Coast) and with primary sector groups (e.g., Fonterra, Beef and Lamb, Horticulture NZ). Staff will continue to liaise with MfE staff to seek a clearer picture of central government direction and to ensure that council investment is not wasted.

BIODIVERSITY

CoastCare

In December we were visited by Dr Teresa Konlechner, Geography lecturer at Otago University who has been involved in many dune research studies. She met with relevant NRC staff and visited a number of sites to get a better understanding of the beach and dune monitoring we are currently undertaking and to investigate possible sites for more intensive monitoring.

As part of the Ripiro Beach Working Group, a field trip was organised to view and discuss issues with vehicles on the beach and dunes. The trip started at Baylys Beach and went down to Pouto Point and was attended by Kaipara District Council (KDC), NRC, Department of Conservation (DOC) and Police staff and representatives from 4wd clubs and local community groups. Iwi representatives were also invited but not able to attend on the day due to other commitments.

We undertake annual monitoring of dunes across the region over the summer. In December we monitored vegetation transects and undertaken drone surveys at Pātaua North, Puheke, Ahipara and Waipapakauri. Five-minute bird counts were also completed at most sites. Student interns have continued this monitoring over the summer and most sites are now completed.

CoastCare groups, hapū and staff have been collecting pīngao and spinifex seed over the summer which is sent to nurseries to be propagated. Plants will be ready for planting next year.



Photo above: Kauri Mountain Beach



Photo above: Ripiro Beach Field Trip



Photo above: Vegetation monitoring and drone surveys at Puheke beach



Photo above: Measuring a dune vegetation transect at Ahipara

Freshwater

A fish learning day was held with BestStart Pīpīwai Road where tamariki aged 2-4 discovered what fish live in the Waitaua Stream that runs directly behind their daycare. This was the second fish day held with BestStart where Biodiversity staff connected with them on their growing Enviroschools journey.

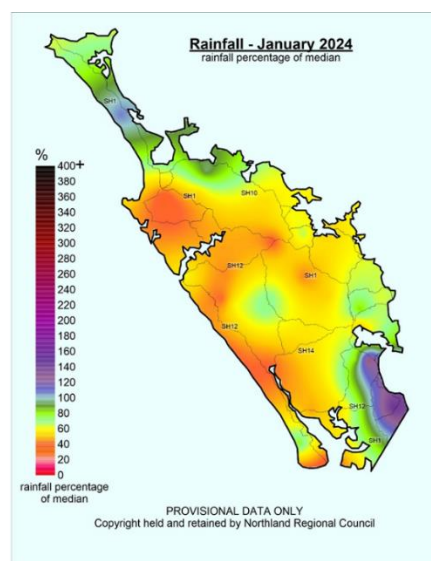
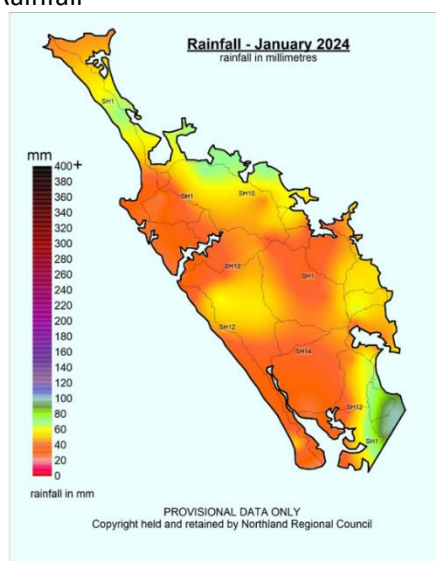
FIF Dune Lakes Project

Water quality and vegetation monitoring was completed for five dune lakes under the FIF dune lakes hornwort control programme. No hornwort was found in Lake Egg, so biodiversity staff and contract divers will survey this lake for five years to see if the weed is eradicated. Very low levels of hornwort were found in Lake Tutaki and Lake Karaka which were treated last autumn. Although hornwort has been reduced significantly it is still common in Lake Mt Camel North.

NATURAL RESOURCES

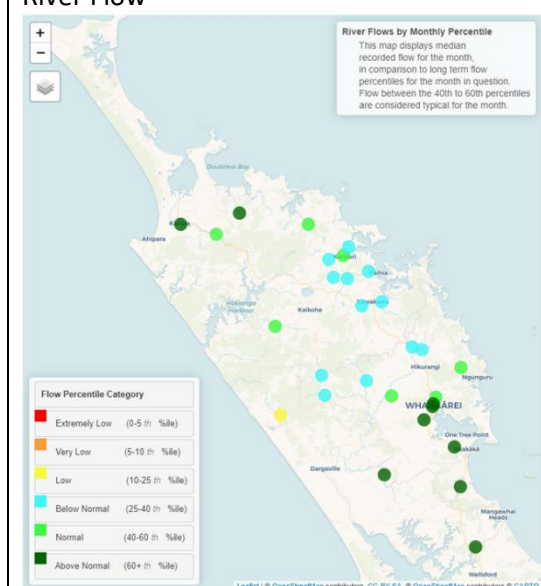
Hydrology

Rainfall



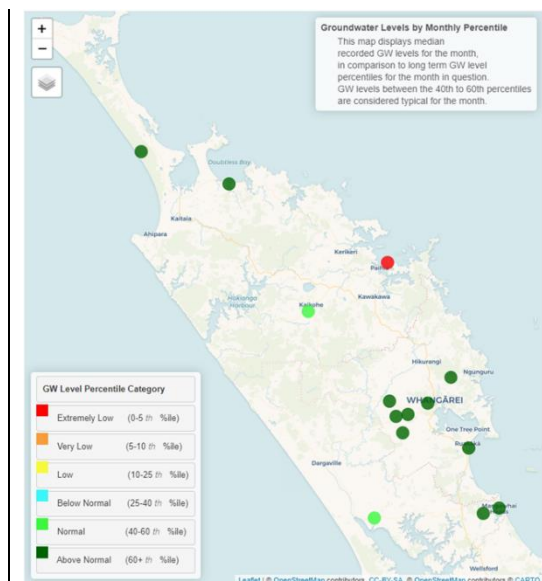
- The Northland region averaged 61% of normal expected rainfall for January 2024.
- The Haku at Tara station recorded the highest rainfall for the month with 98mm, 147% of normal expected. The Waiwarawara at Wilsons Dam station recorded 66mm (132%) and the Waihopo at Kimberly Road station recorded 70mm (108%).
- The lowest rainfall total was recorded at Pouto Point station with 22.5mm, 35% of normal expected. The Awaroa at Wallace Road in Ruawai station recorded 25.5mm (47%), Tarawhataroa at Larmer Road in Kaitia station recorded 26mm (37%), the Hokianga Harbour at Ōmāpere/Opononi station recorded 27mm (59%), and the Waitangi at Ōhaeawai station recorded 35.5mm (38%).

River Flow



- River flows for January 2024 were normal to above normal in the south and north of the region.
- River flows were below normal in most central and eastern catchments.

Groundwater



- Groundwater levels in most of Northland's primary monitored aquifers were above normal for January 2024.
- Groundwater levels at monitored aquifers in Kaikohe and Ruawai were normal, and low in Russell.

Water Quality Field Operations

The annual (summer) freshwater ecological monitoring has been undertaken by staff since late November 2023, ending in March 2024. This monitoring includes freshwater fish, macroinvertebrates, periphyton, and habitat assessment at sites across Northland. Collaboration with Tangata Whenua with sampling has been incorporated as much as possible.

Staff met with representatives of the Ahipara Takiwa to discuss how council can support their ecological monitoring and restoration initiatives. This builds upon a previous water quality investigation of the Wairoa Stream, Ahipara.

Groundwater Investigations:

- **Bland Bay Nitrate Investigation**
Elevated nitrate levels were recorded through the State of the Environment (SOE) monitoring. An investigation project was formulated to identify the extent and causes of nitrate contamination/implement mitigatory measures. Six sites were sampled in November. Out of six sites, three sites show elevated nitrate levels. Sampling was conducted again in January at four sites including the three previous sites which show elevated nitrate levels and a new site.
- **Kerikeri Nitrate Investigation**
A project has been formulated to gain a better understanding of nitrate levels in groundwater around Kerikeri. Use of nitrogen fertilisers with the horticulture industry is common and has been identified as one of the potential sources for elevated nitrate levels in groundwater. In Kerikeri, there is no specific information on nitrate concentrations in groundwater where horticulture is dominant. At the initial stage about 40 to 50 sites have been identified for a preliminary round of nitrate sampling to establish baseline nitrate levels. Sampling has commenced, continuing for a number of months with a report to follow later this year.

POLICY AND PLANNING

The government has recently made changes to the Resource Management Act and repealed the Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Acts and extended the deadline for notification of the proposed Freshwater Plan Change from 31 December 2024 to 31 December 2027.

The government has also signalled that it plans to commence revising the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS FM) and develop new fast-track consenting legislation for locally, regionally, and nationally significant infrastructure and development this year.

A third phase of reform is then proposed to replace the RMA with a new resource management law based on enjoyment of property rights.

The implications of the changes are still to be fully understood. However, with the Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Acts being repealed, the review of the Regional Policy Statement may not be a priority and the council will now have choices as to when and how it proceeds with the on-going development of the Freshwater Plan Change given the extension in time and proposed further changes to the policy framework.

DISTRICT PLANNING

Whangarei District Council has scheduled hearings for Plan Change 1 (Natural Hazards), which start on 19 February 2024. NRC staff will attend the hearing on 20 February to provide evidence in support of the council submissions.

8.3.5 BIOSECURITY

PEST PLANTS

Sea spurge

At the end of last year, biosecurity staff found a site of the highly invasive sea spurge, *Euphorbia Paralias*, on the west coast of the Pouto peninsula. This is an exclusion species for our region, and this is the only known site in Northland.

Approximately 25 plants were found and removed in five different locations within a 165m stretch of coast.

Sea spurge is a long-lived herbaceous plant native to Europe, Northern Africa, and Western Asia. It has become a major weed on the Australian coast. It can displace native plants, changing the natural patterns of sand movement and modifying the habitat for other species. The plant reaches maturity quickly and can produce seeds within a year. These seeds are designed to float and can survive ocean crossings.

Sea spurge was first detected in New Zealand in 2012 and subsequently found at several sites along the west coast of the North Island and one site at the top of the South Island. Ministry for Primary Industries is the lead agency and has been working with local councils and the Department of Conservation to eradicate these infestations. The likely source is seed carried on ocean currents from the Australian populations and there is always a risk of reinvasion via this pathway, particularly for the west coast of New Zealand.

Biosecurity staff will continue to undertake control and surveillance of the new site, and are coordinating with the Ministry for Primary Industries, local iwi and hapū and the Department of Conservation to undertake a wider survey in the vicinity of the recent finds.



Flowering sea spurge plants found on the west coast of the Pouto peninsula.

Staff have also been re-prioritising the Manchurian wild rice programme and contacting all affected landowners, following the announcement by the Ministry for Primary Industries that funding for the Northland part of the National Interest Pest Response programme was to be reduced to approximately half for at least the 2023-24 financial year. It is hoped this reduction is only temporary so that impact on the programme is limited, and the previous gains of the programme are not lost.

MARINE BIOSECURITY

Caulerpa update

This month, significant advancements have been made in the Omākawa Cove dredging project led by Johnson Bros Limited. A pre-trial run was conducted successfully to evaluate the dredge head's performance, resulting in promising footage and necessary modifications for improved efficiency. Adjustments included the installation of adjustable skid plates for precise cutting height and a hydraulic bypass for the excavator, enhancing its ability to closely follow the seafloor.

A major project milestone was achieved with the securement of a disposal site on private land near the dredging area, thanks to the approval and support from both landowners and hapū. This development not only offers considerable cost savings but also mitigates biosecurity risks associated with transporting Caulerpa. The disposal site construction adheres to GD05 erosion and sediment control standards, maintaining stringent biosecurity measures and further reducing project costs.

NRC divers continue their essential role in the project, completing an additional 2.5km of underwater transects this month for comprehensive surveillance and monitoring of Caulerpa spread. In parallel, background environmental conditions are closely monitored, including total suspended solids, diverse water quality parameters, and plankton tows for Caulerpa fragmentation data, complemented by a full bay survey and visual clarity assessments.

Treatment efforts focus on two large areas with varying Caulerpa density, delineated by science divers so we can assess the dredging. Monitoring efforts in these areas include detailed surveys of Caulerpa abundance, habitat types, and the presence of epifauna and seaweed, supported by photographic evidence and video recordings for future analysis.

The hapū play a critical role in surveillance and compliance within the Controlled Area Notice (CAN) area, having engaged over 100 vessels in December and January to ensure adherence to the CAN rules. Furthermore hapū have initiated extensive education and advocacy including an ambassador program aimed at raising public awareness about Caulerpa's spread and impact at local boat ramps.



Caulerpa: Hapū and MPI staff visit to the dredge.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Staff have been working with mandated representatives of hapū on implementation of the new marine protection fishing rules.

Signage has been installed at boat ramps proximate to the marine protected areas and with the busy summer period upon us the rules are also being communicated via local kaitiaki, the Department of Conservation and New Zealand Fisheries, marinas, dive and snorkel charters, campgrounds, staff presence at local events, and radio messaging.



The boundary coordinates are now available on MarineMate, Navionics, and NZ Fishing Rules boating applications, and have been notified by Land Information New Zealand for inclusion on the charts. Northland Regional Council has engaged an environmental monitoring officer to establish enforcement processes, and on-water surveillance has commenced at Rakaumangamanga and Mimiwhangata Rāhui Tapu to monitor compliance with the rules and educate the boating public on the new fishing restrictions. Wider planning discussions have commenced with hapū representatives, and ecological monitoring initiatives are under consideration.

8.3.6 GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Economic Development

- **Joint Regional Economic Development Committee** – Sent letter of expectations for Statement of Intent 2024-2027 to Northland Inc
- **Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust** – Signed variation to loan agreement for Kaipara Water Scheme
- **Northland Economic Quarterly** – distributed 40th issue of the NEQ newsletter, available online at: <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/online-services/enewsletters/>

Maori Engagement and Relationships



Deputy Chair, Tui Shortland alongside FNDC Mayor Moko Te Pania, Te Maruata Chair Bonita Bigham and LGNZ president Sam Broughton speaking at the Waitangi Forum Tent on Waitangi Day.

The event was the first time LGNZ had been formally represented at Waitangi and helped symbolise the importance of the relationships between councils and mana whenua. About 100 people attended and this showed the amount of interest given the number of competing events that were being held on the day.

National Iwi Chairs Forum (NICF)

GM-Governance and Engagement was invited and attended the NIC forum for three days during the lead up to Waitangi Commemorations. 77 iwi are represented and are acknowledged for the mana they hold in their respective iwi areas. There were a number of priorities related to economic development and partnerships with the government. A statement of engagement has been proposed to work together and provide opportunities for government and iwi to engage where national level policy and practices align.

Presentations by Te Roroa were well received and NRC was acknowledged by Te Roroa in the work being done to protect Kauri and over the summer campaign to educate boat owners at Kai iwi lakes in regards to the gold clam.

Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē Board

A report was submitted after the Future Search Conference held on September 2023. The report noted:

Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe, a place that holds deep cultural significance, is in dire need of rejuvenation. Years of human activities have taken a toll on its mauri, affecting the delicate balance of its ecosystem, and causing the Toheroa (shellfish), a taonga and indicator of beach health, to face severe challenges. The time for change is now, as our collective efforts have fallen short, and we cannot afford to continue with "business as usual" approaches. Toheroa (shellfish) is one indicator of the wellbeing of the ecosystem on our beach. The Toheroa are becoming scarce and as kaitiaki of Toheroa and Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe it is our responsibility to rectify the imbalance. The greatest challenge has been laid down by previous generation, and that is for us to restore the mauri (life principle, life force) of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe. This is a now opportunity to work together, to be bold, to meet that challenge and face the uncertainties that lie ahead. With our tūpuna (ancestors) guiding us, we can return the mauri of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe and contribute to the return of the Toheroa. By doing this we can change the current narrative and have kaitiakitanga as the collective custom within mainstream society. The Toheroa have been overexploited to a few beds and what few Toheroa beds are left, have not been able to establish themselves of that of the past, even with a 40-year ban of 'no take", Toheroa has not returned to its sustainable numbers.

As a result and with NRC staff support a summer safety campaign was launched with the erection of signage, media release and educational information supplied for visitors by local kaitiaki utilising the TOATB website and promoting the speed limits as per the beach management plan.

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/northern-advocate/news/new-speed-limits-for-te-oneroa-a-tohe-ninety-mile-beach/RSAPBCSOLFGRHCZH3SZEY5FT4/>

Media liaison

Twelve Northland Regional Council media releases were created and distributed to media throughout Northland during December and January. Topics included:

- Applications open for Tū i te ora Scholarships
- Report rooks, council urges
- Lake Ōmāpere Relationship Agreement signed
- Plea for information after Northland wallaby discovery

- Warmer, drier, windier summer for Northland
- Online hub launched to help summer water users be 'Good to Go'
- Bid to keep invasive clam out of Kai Iwi Lakes
- Rubbish barge back for boaties in Bay of Islands
- Regional council staff scoop national awards.

A number of media enquiries were also received and responded to. Combined, this activity helped generate 204 items mentioning Northland Regional Council as reported by media monitoring agency Fuseworks.

Top five sources of Northland coverage were:

- Northern Advocate (53)
- Radio New Zealand (17)
- New Zealand Herald (16)
- Northland Age (13)
- Newstalk ZB (11)

Content types were split as follows: Online (89); Newspaper (65); Radio (21); Media Release (28). NRC articles ran in Huaki, a monthly Advocate supplement: the life jacket library (Dec) and scholarships (Jan).

Community Engagement

Tū i te ora Scholarships

Applications for the fifth round of scholarships opened Friday 26 January. Six scholarships are available – each include \$4000 plus paid work experience at council next summer. Promotions have included social media, posters, email newsletter, radio advertisements and uploading information to national scholarship websites. Applications close Sunday 25 February.



Nobody's Stronger than Tangaroa

The Digital and Design and Marketing and Engagement teams are working alongside the Maritime team to deliver the 'Nobody's stronger than Tangaroa' boating safety campaign. Following a successful collaboration in 2022/23, we have once again contracted popular Far North-based fishing influencer William Lomas (@williamthefisherman123) to produce content to promote the campaign's key messages. To date, two videos have been produced and posted to William's Instagram and Facebook pages, receiving a combined 57,789 views so far. This supports the on-the-ground mahi of Maritime's contracted safety ambassadors.

Kaikohe A&P Show

Staff from the Planning and Policy, Land Management, and Biosecurity team (pest plants) were present at the Kaikohe A&P Show on Saturday 20 January. With an estimated 3,500 people in attendance, our stand had a consistent flow of individuals coming through with members of the

public particularly interested in the Draft Freshwater Plan and the maintenance and management of invasive species of plants on private property.

Draft freshwater plan change

Public consultation on the draft Freshwater Plan Change continues until 31 March. The promotional campaign has ramped up again following a planned reduction in activity over the Christmas/New Year holiday period, with promotional activity in print, radio, digital display advertising, social media and Google search words. The policy team are busy attending summer community events, and the NRC drop-in sessions are getting good uptake. This consultation continues to get a high level of public engagement, as well as continued media interest.

Digital engagement

Most popular organic content was a Biosecurity post on the [discovery of Wallaby](#) (Impressions: 31,120 | Engagement: 7,424 | Engagement rate: 23.9%) and calls for public to [report sightings of the rook bird](#) (Impressions: 23,937 | Engagement: 4,265 | Engagement rate: 17.8%).

**Engagement – number of people who ‘reacted’, clicked, viewed, commented or shared the post.*

**Engagement rate – how engaged people are with NRC content. Industry benchmark = 1% - 5%*

Key Performance Indicators	Dec-23	Jan-24
WEB		
# Visits to the NRC website	44,649	49,900
E-payments made	14	10
# subscribed web alerts (cumulative)	1,342	1,340
# subscribed to eNewsletters (cumulative)	5,463	5,492
SOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)		
# NRC Facebook followers	13,040	13,088
# NRC Overall Facebook Reach	173,198	118,908
# NRC Engaged Daily Users	13,803	8,312
# CDEM Facebook fans	37,747	37,820
# CDEM Overall Facebook Reach	34,346	24,144
# CDEM Engaged Daily Users	**N/A	**N/A
# Instagram followers	1,728	1,743
# LinkedIn followers	2,694	2,694

** Data no longer available for this reporting period.

eNewsletters distributed during this period:

- [Looking forward to summer in Northland?](#)
(Number of subscribers = 3,923, Open rate = 1,948, 50.9%)
- [CoastCare Te Taitokerau | Issue 33](#)
(Number of subscribers = 327, Open rate = 166, 51.7%)
- [Hills to Harbour | Ki uta, ki tai](#)
(Number of subscribers = 588, Open rate = 275, 47.7%)
- [Economic Quarterly | Issue 40](#)
(Number of subscribers = 92, Open rate = 94, 33.9%)
- [Taumata Taiohi | Platform for youth](#)
(Number of subscribers = 214, Open rate = 95, 45.2%)

Education

Enviroschools Bronze and Silver celebrations

Council celebrated progress in enviroschools' sustainability journeys as follows: Aranga School, Dargaville Kindergarten and Open Spaces preschool (Bronze); Selwyn Park Kindergarten and Tinopai School (Silver).



Tinopai School's on-farm awa project – they are working with KMR.



Selwyn Park Kindergarten (Dargaville) celebrate becoming a Silver enviroschool.



Aranga School students collected evidence to show that they are a Bronze enviroschool.



Dargaville Kindergarten's wall display of the Enviroschools kaupapa in action.

Oruaiti Bike Park opening

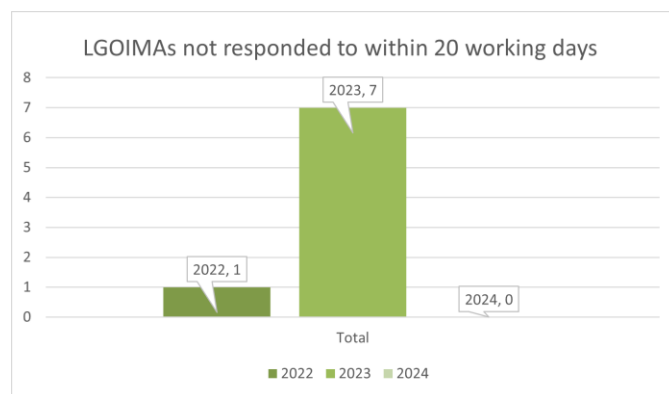
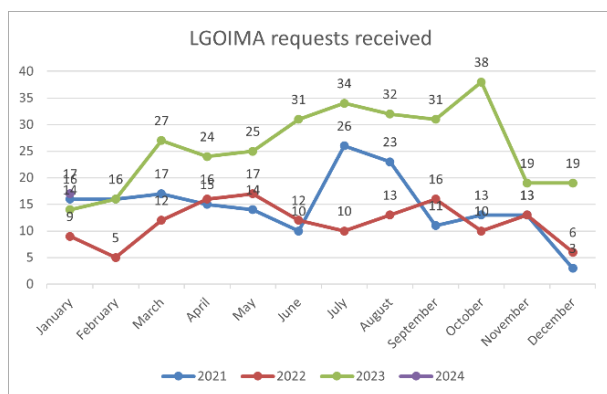
On 26 January, Council took part in the blessing of Oruaiti School's Bike Park. Tamariki worked with mana whenua to design and name the trails as follows: He ao, he ao, Pukewhau, Marakai and Te Akeake. Each has a pou denoting local purakau.

Facilitating Enviroschools communities

During December and January, Enviroschools Facilitators visited or held specific online interactions with over 60 enviroschools communities.

Local government official information (LGOIMA) requests

We received seventeen LGOIMA requests in January 2024, one more than January 2023. This reflects the overall upward trend for requests each year. All LGOIMAs were responded to with the statutory timeframe in January 2024.



8.3.7 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Emergency Management

Over the Christmas and New Year period there have been no emergency Management activations, warnings or watches. This is the first year for a number of years that CDEM personnel have not been required to respond to an emergency situation, either fire, drought, flooding or COVID.

The Minister of Emergency Management, Hon Mark Mitchell met online with representatives from the Northland, CDEM Group, Mayors and Chief Executives from the respective councils, and the Group Recovery Manager. The meeting focussed on recovery in Northland and the priorities in the Government's 100-day plan.

In December, 51 applications were received, and funds dispersed to Community Response Groups from funding received from MPI totalling \$100k. The funding is specifically for groups to improve their community resilience. Items applied for included containers for storage of community response equipment, tables, chairs, lighting, first aid items and UHF radios.

Transport

Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport

Following the national elections in October 2024, the new government indicated the release of a revised Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS). This document shows where the government is wanting available funding to be directed in order of importance. At the time of compiling this report, no draft GPS has been released. The Ministry of Transport (MoT) have indicated that this may be in late February 2024 or early March 2024.

NZTA have advised all road controlling authorities and regional councils that the amended submission date for completed Regional Land Transport Plans would remain unchanged at 14 June 2024. To ensure that this date is met, all councils are to continue compiling and consulting on their RLTP's.

Dates for submissions process is 15 February – 15 March 2024

Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/27 – Three Year Review

Work on the compilation on the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan - Three Year Review (RLTP) was undertaken in December and January with a view to release the document for public consultation in mid-February to mid-March 2024.

The implementation and completion of this phase of the project is critical for the completion of the review and meet the statutory deadline of 14 June 2023 for submission of the completed RLTP to Waka Kotahi. The draft RLTP will be presented at the May 2024 council meeting for approval.

Of note, whilst the GPS has yet to be released, the RLTP is Northland's application for national funding assistance to those categories it feels is most needed so whilst the government's methods to fund transport may change it is unlikely that the RLTP priorities proposed by the RTC will change.

Total Mobility

It was announced in December 2023 by the Ministry of Transport that Total Mobility (TM) fares will continue to be subsidised by government at 75% with the customer paying the remaining 25%. This has resulted in continued growth of the scheme. Staff have advised Waka Kotahi on numerous occasions that whilst the additional subsidy is beneficial, it has led to a scenario of local councils not being able to afford the additional local share required.

Link Services

New Live Tracking System for CityLink Bus Service.

A new Just in Time Live Tracking system has been implemented for the CityLink buses in December 2023 which provides the passenger with faster feedback on timetables and bus localities. The new system also provides staff with more information required to monitor the CityLink operator's performance. Further details on this system can be found at the link: <https://citylink.dynamis.live/>.

Whangarei A&P show

Saturday 2 December 2023 free travel was offered on the CityLink Maunu service to persons visiting the Whangarei A&P Show. This initiative was designed to encourage people to experience the service and to assist in reducing car travel and congestion. Passengers were also given free access to the show. This resulted in 1078 passengers catching the bus to the show along with positive feedback including "some families said they could not have afforded to take their family to the show, if it wasn't free."

Summer Whangarei Heads and Ruakaka Beach Buses

Beach buses from Whangarei to Ocean beach and Ruakaka showed higher passenger numbers this year compared to 2022/23 largely attributed to the better weather. On one occasion, additional buses had to be sourced due to demand. A trial beach bus service was also operated in Kaitia from 16 December 2023 – 10 February 2024. This service, which operated on a Saturday had steady passenger numbers with stops at Ahipara and a stop at the Saturday markets in Kaitia central.

Northland Road Safety Promotion

It has been a busy Summer so far with having completed four Driver Reviver Fatigue Stops before the long weekends, with over 600 people stopping to have a break, and something to eat and drink. These stops provide a great opportunity to not only discuss driving behaviours but to promote Northland.

RIVERS

Otiria Moerewa spillway

Ngapipito Road Box Culverts have been constructed with the settlement slabs poured last week. Once cure time has passed (7 days) we can continue to raise up the road to meet with the stop bank crest height and remove the temporary road to open one more section of the spillway. We are placing geotech cloth and large rock spalls under the new Pokapu Road Bridge in the transition of the spillway where we will have high velocities during a flood event. Surveyors are coming to site in the next few weeks to finalise the construction plans for submission to LINZ and the MLC.



Photo 2. Barfoote steel fixing for settlement slab.



Photo 3. Excavation under bridge and downstream with lime rock placed.



Photo 4. Geotextile being laid.

Kaeo Catchment Works

Construction of the rock wall downstream of the Kaeo Fire Station is complete. The rebuilding of the footpath is 80% complete after the under scour during a high flow event last year. This area is on the outside bend of the Kaeo River and scour was impacting the State Highway, utilities lines and main walkway into Kaeo Township from the north used by multiple wheelchair users. This work is paid for through the FNDC Better Off Fund construction managed by NRC Rivers Team.



Awanui Scheme

Work on the State highway bridge at Waikuruki SH-1 is not completed. This was a very tricky section; the team have created a bench and increased the flood capacity of SH-1 Bridge, where 2 spans were blocked with sediment. This work was important to get the flow balance between the Spillway and Awanui River 2/3 to 1/3. The team worked closely with BECA and NZTA to get this work across the line.

CLIMATE ACTION AND NATURAL HAZARDS

Natural Hazards

The Request for Proposal (RFP) has been out on Government Electronic Tender Service (GETS) since late December for a new Risk Portal. The RFP will identify potential partners to expand our capability to undertake risk assessments, incorporating natural hazards information for specific locations and for a range of factors, not just direct exposure like our current Natural Hazards Portal. This is an evolving field of research and technology that will greatly support adaptation planning across regional and district councils. The Risk Portal will directly assist community adaptation planning being undertaken in Far North and Whangarei districts, as well as identifying opportunities to support and enable korero with tangata whenua around climate impacts and adaptation.

Climate Adaptation

Climate Adaptation te Tai Tokerau (CATT) recently held training in NIWA's climate change games for staff across the four councils. The games allow participants to consider some of the challenges of climate change decision-making in a way that is fun and informative. The games simulate key natural hazards (sea level rise, flooding and drought), allow facilitators to engage people in conversations about what climate change might mean for them and what adaptation responses might look and feel like. The first run took place at Waitangi Day when FNDC hosted the sea level rise scenario game on their stall, with support from NRC staff. At Northland Field Days at the end of the month, NRC will look to run these simulation games alongside other outreach activities.

Meanwhile, the wider adaptation programme continues preparation to support district council Community Adaptation Planning projects from Whangārei and Far North. WDC announced in December their first Adaptation Planning project would be for Oakura-Whangaruru catchment.

Climate Resilience Funding

Funding has been allocated from the Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Fund to support hapū led climate adaptation in Te Taitokerau. 26 applications were received from across the rohe with a combined funding request of \$623,000 from a total annual fund of \$100,000. This included 4 applications from within Whāngareī District, 13 applications from Far North District and 9 from Kaipara District. It is evident from the strong demand for funding support that hapū are "ready, willing and able" to commence their own hapū led climate adaptation initiatives.

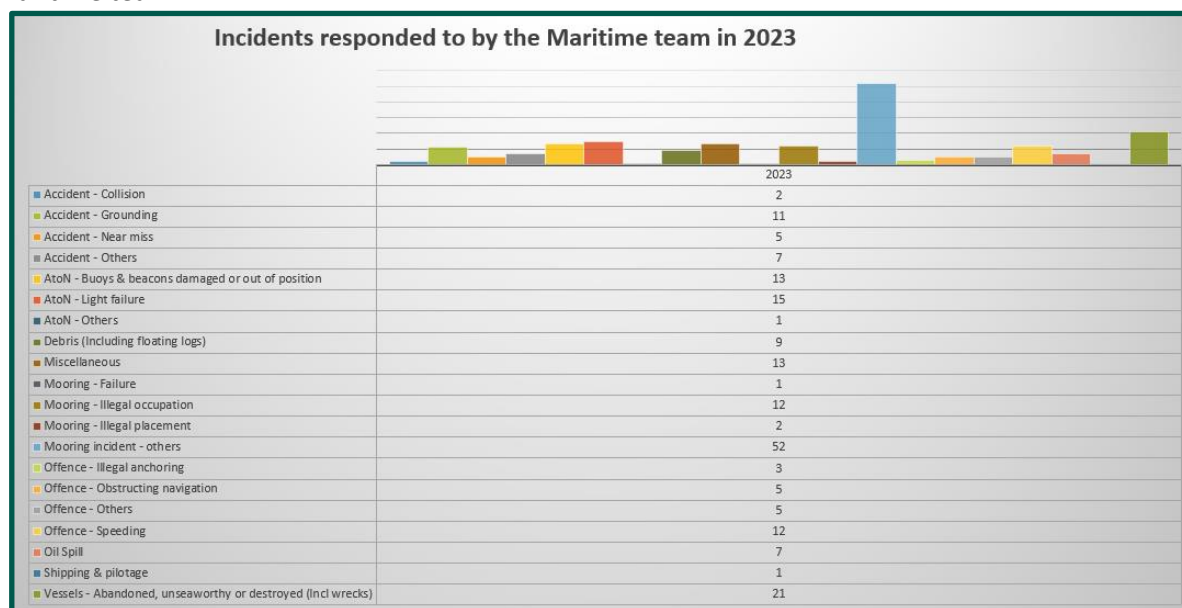
A collaborative funding approach with other relevant Northland Regional Council funds and funding partnerships with Whangārei and Far North District Councils was negotiated to enable the support of

the majority of these applications. This is a huge boost to adaptation planning in Te Taitokerau and climate action momentum.

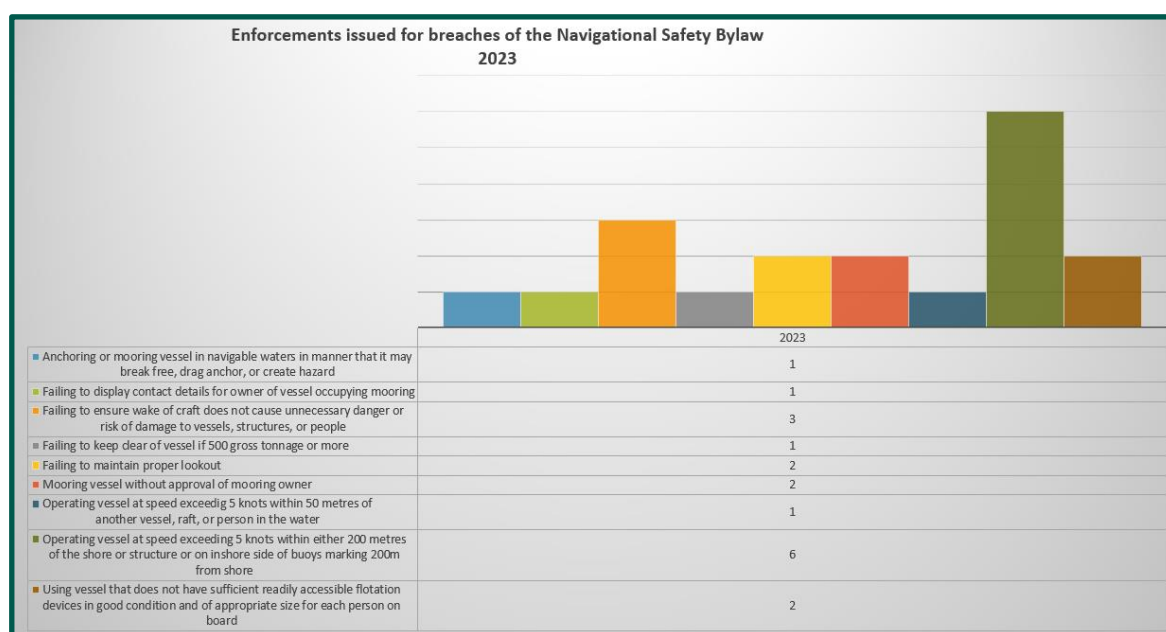
The NRC Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Fund supported applications from Te Waiariki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari Hapu-Iwi Trust, Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia, Parirau Marae, Naumai Marae and Te Kōwhai Marae, and Ngāti Whakaeke, Ngā hapū o Kaikohe, Kairākau Ārahi Ltd.

Maritime

The following charts provide a summary annual overview for 2023 of activities undertaken by the Maritime team.

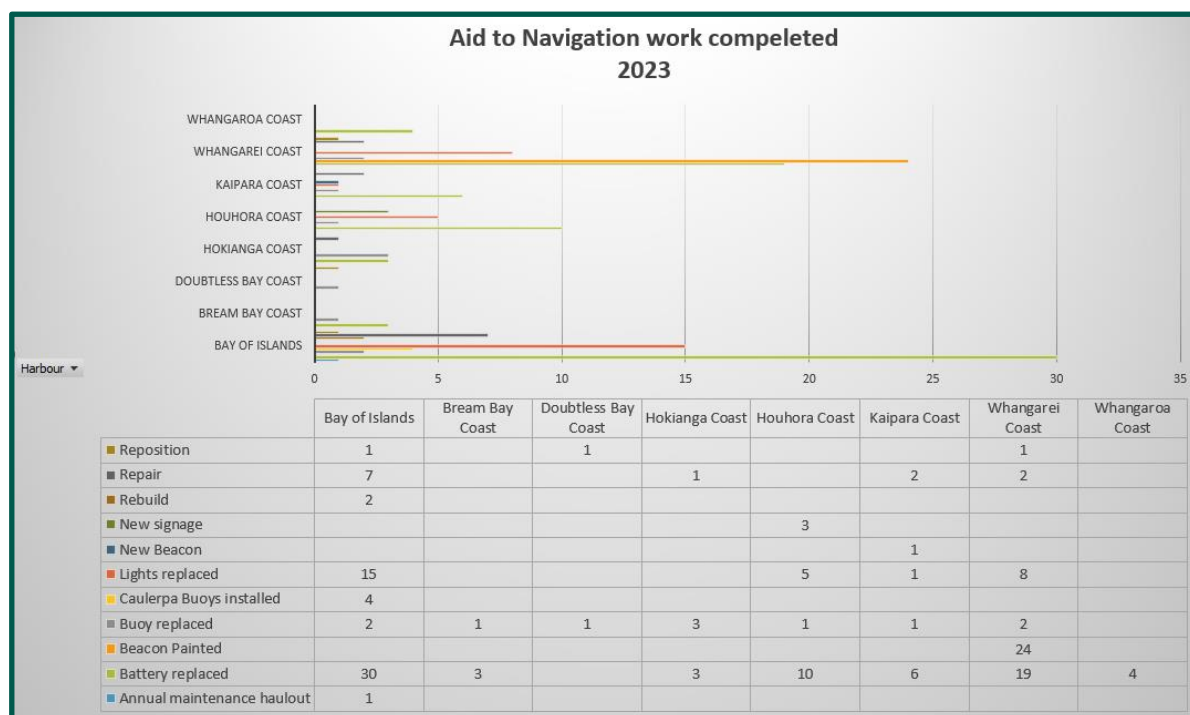


KEY: AtoN – Aid to Navigation



Moorings processing

19 new moorings, 8 increases to mooring size, 10 directions to resolve issues, 83 transfers of licenses.



Summer

Over December and January, 31 cruise ships visited Bay of Islands, 5 days had two ships in, with 3 ships in on 31 January. Mid-January saw some challenging swell conditions but otherwise conditions were almost perfect. 49 out of 97 for the season have now visited, with February going to be a record-breaking month for cruise visits. Recreational boating is as busy as ever, and for the first time the maritime team had assistance with two extra summer enforcement officers to help with education and summer bylaw patrols. One was based at Mangawhai with a new vessel carrying out regular on water safety patrols both there and adjacent Waipu estuaries, as well as Kai Iwi lakes. This has been met very favourably by locals who have been asking for an increased on-water presence for some time. The other enforcement officer assisted Bay of Islands staff between shipping with on-water patrols and is also attending boat ramps to provide safety advice. This also freed up staff to carry out education in other harbours.

Wrecks

One wreck beached on the East coast above Tapuaetahi, and another at Unahi were removed and destroyed, and one large ex fishing vessel was removed before it sank and disposed of. Several other smaller derelicts and break offs were dealt with over summer.

Fuel Excise duty (FED) funded safety campaigns also continued in Northland with funding of \$85,000 and resources approved by Maritime NZ towards “Nobody’s stronger than Tangaroa” campaign developed by staff. Northland drowning statistics are thankfully down significantly from a high in 2022.

A safety campaign targeted recreational vessels at Marsden point getting in way of shipping included radio broadcasts, additional signage, patrols and cameras, as well as fines for those who were dangerously non-compliant.

8.3.8 KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION

KMR has started 2024 in excellent heart, and we are seeing strong momentum as we head into Winter 2024, our first winter of planting across the full landscape.

Two recent independent surveys demonstrate that both the landowners working with us and our own Kaipara Maurikura staff are extremely engaged and positive about their experience working in KMR.

Just over two years into operational delivery, the January 2024 Key Performance Indicators demonstrate KMR's ongoing progress in scaling up. The significant uplift in January likely reflects the development of projects in the hill country as KMR expands from our previous focus on waterways protection to also support sediment remediation projects across the whole landscape.

Jobs & Skills

- 57 people trained as KMR Field Advisors – many from local iwi/hapū
- New work created in rural communities – the equivalent of a year's work for >145 people
- \$13.6m invested in sediment reduction projects, supporting local, nature-based employment

Engagement

- Just on half of the estimated pastoral landowners in the catchment engaged by KMR
- 785 landowners submitted Expressions of Interest in KMR
- 576 co-funded project plans developed with landowners
- ~100 schools, hapū, marae and community groups engaged
- 54 projects led by collectives completed, underway or in development

Nature

- Just on 1.5 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant
- 347 hectares of riparian planting completed or contracted
- 627km of fencing completed or contracted: the same distance as from Kaitiāia to Taupō
- >110,000 hectares managed under KMR plans

The KMR team have already been out and about at a number of events in the community this year, with many more to come over the summer months. We're enjoying hearing from a wide range of farmers, other landowners, nurseries, suppliers and local kaitiaki as we meet at various local environmental events, A&P Shows, Field Day events and industry- and iwi/hapū-facing gatherings. Since we last reported, KMR has updated and released our Planting Guide to reflect the expansion from waterway protection to also supporting projects on erodible hillsides. We have also hosted two further webinars this year - the first on KMR's expansion into projects on erodible hillsides and the second on KMR's approach to planting. As more than 60% of our landowners heard about KMR by word of mouth, and nearly a quarter heard about KMR by reading about someone like themselves taking action, we have also developed a refreshed set of stories about landowners, kaitiaki, communities, schools and groups working with KMR for print and other media.

2024 will not be without change or challenge for KMR. Conversations we expect to have with KMR governors this year include KMR's role in the forthcoming Freshwater Farm Plan system, how we are leveraging opportunities from carbon and possibly also biodiversity markets; how KMR will progress and integrate Kōrero Tuku Iho (mātauranga Māori) project findings into our work, and how Tātaki Wai (the Auckland Council-developed freshwater management tool) will best inform KMR decision-making.

These discussions will occur against a backdrop of ongoing uncertainty about the policy and regulatory settings that affect landowner willingness to engage with KMR as a voluntary programme, and continued economic headwinds for many landowners.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Legislative Compliance Half Yearly Report July-December 2023

From: Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 14 February 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report presents the findings of council's legislative compliance programme for the six-month period 1 July – 31 December 2023.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Legislative Compliance Half Yearly Report July-December 2023' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst and dated 7 February 2024, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

The Office of the Auditor-General encourages local authorities to apply a systematic process to managing the legal risks that might arise in relation to the functions and activities that they are responsible for.

Council's current legislative compliance framework provides assurance for compliance with legislation that is fundamental to the council's operations and/or poses significant potential risk (core legislation). Core legislation includes:

- Council's own rules, policies and bylaws
- The Local Government Act 2002
- The Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014
- The Non-Financial Performance Measures Rules 2013
- The local Government Borrowing Act 2011
- The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002
- The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022
- The Local Authorities (Member's Interests) Act 1968
- The Resource Management Act 1991
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

- The Holidays Act 2003
- The Employment Relations Act 2000
- The Biosecurity Act 1993
- The Building Act 2004
- The Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002
- The Soil Conservation and Rivers Control Act 1941
- The Public Works Act 1981
- The Land Transport Act 1998
- The Maritime Transport Act 1994
- The Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017
- The Privacy Act 2020
- The Public Records Act 2005
- The Goods and Services Tax Act 1985
- The Residential Tenancies Act 1956
- The following settlement acts:
 - Ngāti Kuri Claims Settlement Act 2015;
 - Te Aupōuri Claims Settlement Act 2015;
 - NgāiTakoto Claims Settlement Act 2015;
 - Te Rarawa Claims Settlement Act 2015;
 - Ngāti Kahu Accumulated Rentals Trust Act 2015;
 - Te Hiku Omnibus Settlement Acts.

There are several other pieces of legislation that also have relevance to council operations, but compliance is managed via other internal processes and procedures and not reported here.

Legislative compliance reporting is completed six-monthly by group managers. Reporting requires group managers to confirm compliance (or otherwise) with the relevant legislation and identify action that has been carried out to ensure that council is aware of any new legislation or regulations. Group managers must sign a declaration confirming their level of compliance.

Group managers stay informed of legislative amendments via ComplyWith, ListServes, national steering groups, parliamentary alerts, legal advice, advisors, and audit processes.

Reporting has been completed for the six-month period 1 July – 31 December 2023, and the results are reported here by exception.

Reporting indicated that compliance was achieved with all of council's core legislation, except:

- One occasion where the Council's own plan rules were breached due to unauthorised sediment discharge. An infringement notice was received from NRC for the unauthorised sediment discharge associated with work on the car park at the 36 Water Street building. Internal procedures have been reviewed to prevent a recurrence.
- Records achieved part compliance due to the information asset register not having been completed during the reporting period. Progress on the development of the asset register has included certified storage of relevant files, external review of IM maturity, the establishment of a Protective Security Group, scoping a retention and disposal project, and promotion of Council acceptable use policy.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2023/24 Year

From: Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

Authorised by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 19
Group Manager/s: February 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report presents the results of council's long term plan key performance indicators for the second quarter of the 2023/24 financial year, being October to December 2023 inclusive.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2023/24 Year' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 25 January 2024, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

The Long Term Plan 2021-2031 includes 31 key performance indicators that measure aspects of council's service provision across three activity areas:

- Te Taiao | Natural environment
- Manawaroa te hāpori | Community resilience
- Hautūtanga ā rohe | Regional leadership

Council's Deputy Leadership Team have responsibility for analysing quarterly reporting at the end of each quarter to address any concerns, including a comprehensive analysis at the end of the financial year.

Each performance measure provides a sample of the activity's performance. The frequency of reporting against measures varies, with the majority being reported annually at the end of the financial year.

These indicators will form part of the results for the Annual Report 2024 and are the third and final year of reporting on these indicators as they relate to the Long Term Plan 2021-2031.

There are 10 performance measures that we report on in quarter two. Of these ten, six have achieved their targets for the quarter. The remaining four are yearly targets, which are currently on track to being achieved.

Te Taiao | Natural environment

1.1 Science		
1.1.1 Information on water quantity and water resources, including rainfall, river flow, groundwater and flood levels, is made available		
1.1.2 Information on the life-supporting capacity of water (fresh and marine) is made available		
1.1.3 Information on the standards for ambient air quality is made available		
Percentage of time that flood-level monitoring is accurate (to enable flood	100% compliance	100% – achieved

1.1 Science		
warnings to be developed) and is made available to the community		For the floods registered, the warning was accurate and made available.
Percentage of time that continuous monitoring of air sheds is achieved, with any exceedances of National Environmental Standards reported and made available to the community	100% compliance	100% – achieved
1.2 Catchment management		
1.1 Improved water quality is advanced through advice and funding to support sustainable land management		
Number of subsidised poplar poles provided for erosion-prone land by the council-owned nursery	2021/22: 5,000 2022/23: 7,000 2023/24: 9,000 2030/31: 25,000	20,633 – achieved This covers the planning season for 2023/24, which we report on annually in Q2.
1.2 Biodiversity		
1.3 Indigenous biodiversity and ecosystems are maintained and enhanced, particularly around our rivers, lakes, wetlands and coastal margins		
Number of plants provided through CoastCare programme	2021/22: 14,000 2022/23: 15,000 2023/24: 16,000 2030/31: 20,000	5224 – on track to achieve Plant numbers for Q1 and Q2 are down due to losses in the nursery because of weather conditions. Current numbers are projected to meet or exceed the target for 2023/24.
1.4 Biosecurity		
1.4.1 Community involvement in pest management is promoted in both urban and rural environments through successful implementation of initiatives in the regional pest management plan		
1.4.2 The introduction and spread of marine pests is slowed through inter-regional management		
Increase in hectares of land under Community Pest Control Area Plans (CPCAs) per annum	5,000ha annually	On track to achieve Biosecurity officers are working with community groups to establish several new CPCAs this financial year. These include: Whananaki (c. 4,000ha), Motatau (c. 1,500h), Mangakahia Willow Removal Project (2ha), William Upton Reserve (293ha), and Te Tangi O Te Ata (c. 4,00ha). Contractors are currently being engaged for most of these new projects, and while the exact land area under each may vary, we're expecting to meet target.
1.6 Consents		
1.6 Processing and administering of resource consents is efficient and effective		
Percentage of all resource consent applications that are processed within the statutory timeframes	100% compliance	100% – achieved There were 203 applications received in this reporting period.
1.7 Compliance monitoring		

1.1 Science		
1.7 Compliance monitoring of resource consents, and response to reported environmental incidents, is timely and effective		
Percentage of consents that are monitored as per the council's consent monitoring programme	90% compliance or more	57% – on track to achieve Progress to date shows over half complete.
Percentage of environmental incidents reported to the Environmental Hotline resolved within 30 working days	80% or more resolved within 30 working days	91% – achieved There were 430 incidents for the period, with 40 not resolved within 30 working days.

Hautūtanga ā rohe | Regional leadership

3.1 Governance		
3.1 Council maintains effective, open and transparent democratic processes		
Percentage of official information requests that are responded to within 20 working days	100% compliance	100% – achieved 94 requests were received under LGOIMA during October, November, and December 2023. All were responded to within the required timeframe; however it is noted that in one case the requestor was unable to be contacted regarding their LGOIMA.
Percentage of time that elected members attend council meetings	90% compliance	100% – achieved

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Receipt of Committee Minutes

From: Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 20 February 2024

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Regional Transport Committee and
- Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting

be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Regional Transport Committee - 4 December 2023 [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting - 5 December 2023 [↓](#) 

Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Monday 4 December 2023, commencing at 10.00am-12.30pm

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Chairperson, NRC Councillor Joe Carr
Deputy Chairperson, Councillor John Blackwell
FNDC Councillor Steve McNally
WDC Councillor Simon Reid
KDC Councillor Ash Nayyar
Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships Steve Mutton
KiwiRail Eric Hennephof
FNDC Councillor Ann Court
WDC Councillor Phil Halse

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NRC Councillor, Geoff Crawford
NRC Policy Specialist, Michael Payne
NRC Secretariat, Gavin Dawson
NTA General Manager, Calvin Thomas
NTA Transport Manager, Chris Powell
NTA Representative, Jeff Devine
NTA Representative Nick Marshall
NTA Representative Elizabeth Stacey
NTA Representative Kayla Gunson
NZ Police Representative, Ann-Marie Fitchett
Northland Road Safety Trust, Ashley Johnston
NTA Representative, Nicole Cauty
NTA Representative Caley McGillvary
Waka Kotahi Liz Maguire
KDC GM Infrastructure Services, Anin Nama (online)
Waka Kotahi, Martin Taylor (online)
WDC CEO Simon Weston
ACC Craig Crawford
AA New Zealand Tracey Risetto
Secretariat Sandra Harris
Secretariat Assistant Janice Kirk

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10am. Karakia – Calvin Thomas

Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

There were no apologies.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 3.0)

It was advised that members should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

Confirmation of Minutes - 10 October 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Erica Wyatt, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 10 October 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - National Funding Assistance Uptake Report (Item 5.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Moved (Blackwell/Nayyar)

That the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - National Funding Assistance Uptake Report ' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 2 November 2023, be received.

Secretarial Note: Chair requested for future Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 National Funding Assistance Update reports to be delivered in A3 to committee members as hard copies a minimum of five days before each meeting.

Carried

2024-27 National Land Transport Plan (NLTP) timing (Item 6.1)

Report from Calvin Thomas, Northland Transport Alliance Manager

Moved (Mutton/Blackwell)

That the report '2024-27 National Land Transport Plan (NLTP) timing' by Calvin Thomas, Northland Transport Alliance Manager and dated 2 November 2023, be received.

Secretarial Note: Waka Kotahi are in good position awaiting on direction from new central government and funding availability for clarity of budget. State Highway perspective there are 124 monitoring measures – link to be distributed to all committee members via website.

Carried

Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Wider 2022/23 Emergency Works programme and remaining sites (Item 6.2)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Moved (Blackwell/Reid)

That the report 'Wider 2022/23 Emergency Works programme and remaining sites' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 2 November 2023, be received.

Carried

Waka Kotahi update (Item 6.3)

Report from Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau

Moved (Nayyar/Reid)

That the report 'Waka Kotahi update' by Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau and dated 2 November 2023, be received.

Secretarial Note: Closure of Brynderwyns not yet confirmed with further discussion ongoing with public survey. Alternative routes to be considered. Update on windscreen damage and extent or reason, to be submitted to committee supported with a letter given to Liz Maguire from Cr Carr.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Cr Crawford left meeting 10.46am

Kiwi rail update (Item 6.4)

Report from Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland

Moved (Blackwell/Reid)

That the attached 'Kiwi rail update' by Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland and dated 2 November 2023, be received.

Carried

Committee members Priorities and updates (Item 6.5)

Report from Calvin Thomas, Northland Transport Alliance Manager

Moved (Blackwell/Reid)

1. That the report 'Committee members Priorities and updates' by Calvin Thomas, Northland Transport Alliance Manager and dated 2 November 2023, be received.
2. The supplementary verbal updates provided by Regional Transport Committee members be received.
 - Staff to provide performance outcomes and target as per NTA document.
 - Meeting to be held with review facilitator and panel members before 22 December for an update on Section 17a.

Secretarial Note: Item 6.5 deferred and tabled after 6.6 and for further workshop discussion. Cr McNally referred to Terms of reference and supporting priority concerns document for committee.

Cr McNally tabled a letter of priority concerns handed to committee members. Staff action to share with committee members high level indicators on Monitoring performance measures for viewing.

Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Chair acknowledged the tabled letter from the Northern District Councils with Whangarei District Council CE Weston present.

The Chair asked for an update on the Section 17a review in to the delivery of transport service. Following the verbal update the Chair asked that a meeting be set up with the review facilitator and panel members before 22 Dec 2023.

.Carried

Northland Road Safety – Road to Zero Update (Item 6.6)

Report from Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager

Moved (McNally/Nayyar)

That the report 'Northland Road Safety – Road to Zero Update' by Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager and dated 2 November 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Copy of supplementary presentation provided by staff and NZ Police to be circulated with meeting minutes

Secretarial Note: Meeting adjourned at 11.47am. Workshop to proceed after morning tea and meeting to reconvene after on conclusion of workshop.

Regional Transport Committee meeting reconvened at 2:35pm

Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2027 - Three Year Review (Item 7.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Moved (Reid/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2027 - Three Year Review' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 23 November 2023, be received.

Moved (Blackwell / Nayyar)

2. That the Regional Transport Committee approves the content the Strategic Front End of the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 – Three Year Review.

Moved (Carr / McNally)

3. That Regional Transport Committee prioritises the Local Road Improvements and Other Significant Capital Projects for inclusion and additional works to include every endeavour for Ruakākā Beach Road bridge upgrade in the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 – Three Year Review.

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

4. That the Regional Transport Committee supports Regional Transport Land Plan spreadsheet categories and the release of the of the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 – Three Year Review for public consultation.

Secretarial note: Amendments to the Strategic Front End of the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 – Three Year Review to be circulated to committees for review. Flood mitigation study map on SH1 Whakapara was distributed to committee members for Waka Kotahi to consider. Spreadsheets all passed unanimously with the exception of Committee members requesting change to wording of RTC position on spreadsheet 'State Highway Improvement Projects – Speed and Infrastructure Programme – Prioritised' stating, not in support of funding for medium barriers – Spreadsheets to be updated by staff. Changes to recommendation 3 and 4 was supported by committee members. Chair acknowledged the work submitted by staff.

Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Carried

2024/27 Regional Speed Management Plan (Item 7.2)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

1. That the report '2024/27 Regional Speed Management Plan ' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 2 November 2023, be received.

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

2. That the Regional Transport Committee approve, for consultation only, the Regional Speed Management Plan for subject to final confirmation by FNDC of their respective 3 year implementation plan

Secretarial note: Change of recommendation 2 was supported by committee members. FNDC currently proceeding with judicial review.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 8.1)

Report from Erica Wyatt, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Moved (Nayyar/Reid)

That the action sheet be received.

Secretarial Note: All actions from today's meeting to be included as part of the Action Sheet.

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

Karakia – Calvin Howell

The meeting concluded at 3.35pm

Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Monday 4 December 2023, commencing at 10.00am-12.30pm

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Chairperson, NRC Councillor Joe Carr
Deputy Chairperson, Councillor John Blackwell
FNDC Councillor Steve McNally
WDC Councillor Simon Reid
KDC Councillor Ash Nayyar
Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships Steve Mutton
KiwiRail Eric Hennephof
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I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

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NRC Policy Specialist, Michael Payne
NRC Secretariat, Gavin Dawson
NTA General Manager, Calvin Thomas
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KDC GM Infrastructure Services, Anin Nama (online)
Waka Kotahi, Martin Taylor (online)
WDC CEO Simon Weston
ACC Craig Crawford
AA New Zealand Tracey Risetto
Secretariat Sandra Harris
Secretariat Assistant Janice Kirk

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10am. Karakia – Calvin Thomas

Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

There were no apologies.

Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 3.0)

It was advised that members should make declarations item-by-item as the meeting progressed.

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Secretarial Note: Waka Kotahi are in good position awaiting on direction from new central government and funding availability for clarity of budget. State Highway perspective there are 124 monitoring measures – link to be distributed to all committee members via website.

Carried

Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Wider 2022/23 Emergency Works programme and remaining sites (Item 6.2)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Moved (Blackwell/Reid)

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Carried

Waka Kotahi update (Item 6.3)

Report from Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau

Moved (Nayyar/Reid)

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Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

Chair acknowledged the tabled letter from the Northern District Councils with Whangarei District Council CE Weston present.

The Chair asked for an update on the Section 17a review in to the delivery of transport service. Following the verbal update the Chair asked that a meeting be set up with the review facilitator and panel members before 22 Dec 2023.

.Carried

Northland Road Safety – Road to Zero Update (Item 6.6)

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Regional Transport Committee
4 December 2023

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Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

Karakia – Calvin Howell

The meeting concluded at 3.35pm