

# **AGENDA**

**Council**  
**Tuesday 28 February 2023 at 10.30am**

## Northland Regional Council Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 28 February 2023, commencing at 10.30am

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

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<b>1.0 NGĀ MAHI WHAKAPAI / HOUSEKEEPING</b>	
<i>Key Health and Safety points to note:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If the fire alarm goes off – exit down the stairwell to the assembly point which is the visitor carpark.</li><li>• Earthquakes – drop, cover and hold</li><li>• Visitors please make sure you have signed in at reception, and that you sign out when you leave. Please wear your name sticker.</li><li>• The toilets are on the opposite side of the stairwell.</li><li>• Please adhere to the recommended Covid alert guidance that applies.</li></ul>	
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<b>3.0 NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ / APOLOGIES</b>	
<b>4.0 NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA / DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</b>	
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<b>10.3</b>	<b>Introduction of Greenmount Capital Co-Investment Fund into the Long-Term Investment Fund</b>	

<p><b>ACC</b> - Accident Compensation Corporation</p> <p><b>ALGIM</b> - Association of Local Government Information Management</p> <p><b>AMA</b> - Aquaculture Management Area</p> <p><b>AMP</b> - Asset Management Plan/Activity Management Plan</p> <p><b>AP</b> - Annual Plan</p> <p><b>BOI</b> - Bay of Islands</p> <p><b>BOPRC</b> - Bay of Plenty Regional Council</p> <p><b>CAPEX</b> - Capital Expenditure (budget to purchase assets)</p> <p><b>CBEC</b> - Community, Business and Environment Centre</p> <p><b>CCO</b> - Council Controlled Organisation</p> <p><b>CCTO</b> - Council Controlled Trading Organisation</p> <p><b>CDEM</b> - Civil Defence Emergency Management</p> <p><b>CEEF</b> - Chief Executives Environment Forum</p> <p><b>CEG</b> - Co-ordinating Executive Group</p> <p><b>CEO</b> - Chief Executive Officer</p> <p><b>CIMS</b> - Co-ordinated Incident Management System (emergency management structure)</p> <p><b>CMA</b> - Coastal Marine Area</p> <p><b>CPCA</b> - Community Pest Control Areas</p> <p><b>CRI</b> - Crown Research Institute</p> <p><b>DHB</b> - District Health Board</p> <p><b>DOC</b> - Department of Conservation</p> <p><b>DP</b> - District Plan</p> <p><b>E350</b> - Extension 350 programme</p> <p><b>ECA</b> - Environmental Curriculum Award</p> <p><b>ECAN</b> - Environment Canterbury</p> <p><b>EECA</b> - Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority</p> <p><b>EF</b> - Environment Fund</p> <p><b>EMA</b> - Employers and Manufacturers Association</p> <p><b>EOC</b> - Emergency Operations Centre</p> <p><b>EPA</b> - Environmental Protection Authority</p> <p><b>ETS</b> - Emissions Trading Scheme</p> <p><b>FDE</b> - Farm Dairy Effluent</p> <p><b>FNDC</b> - Far North District Council</p> <p><b>FNHL</b> - Far North Holdings Limited</p> <p><b>FPP</b> - First Past the Post</p> <p><b>GE</b> - Genetic Engineering</p> <p><b>GIS</b> - Geographic Information System</p> <p><b>GMO</b> - Genetically Modified Organism</p> <p><b>HBRC</b> - Hawke's Bay Regional Council</p> <p><b>Horizons</b> - Brand name of Manawatu-Wanganui Regional Council</p> <p><b>HR</b> - Human Resources</p> <p><b>HSNO</b> - Hazardous Substances &amp; New Organisms Act</p> <p><b>HSWA</b> - Health and Safety at Work Act 2015</p> <p><b>IHEMP</b> - Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plan</p> <p><b>ILGACE</b> - Iwi and Local Government Chief Executives Forum</p> <p><b>IPPC</b> - Invited Private Plan Change</p> <p><b>IRIS</b> - Integrated Regional Information System</p> <p><b>KDC</b> - Kaipara District Council</p> <p><b>KPI</b> - Key Performance Indicator</p> <p><b>LAWA</b> - Land, Air, Water Aotearoa</p> <p><b>LEA</b> - Local Electoral Act 2001</p> <p><b>LGA</b> - Local Government Act 2002</p> <p><b>LGNZ</b> - Local Government New Zealand</p> <p><b>LGOIMA</b> - Local Government Official Information &amp; Meetings Act 1987</p> <p><b>LIDAR</b> - Light detection and ranging</p> <p><b>LTI</b> - Long time injury</p> <p><b>LTP</b> - Long Term Plan</p> <p><b>MBIE</b> - Ministry of Business, Innovation &amp; Employment</p> <p><b>MFE</b> - Ministry for the Environment</p> <p><b>MFL</b> - Māori Freehold Land</p> <p><b>MHWS</b> - Mean High Water Springs</p> <p><b>MMH</b> - Marsden Maritime Holdings Limited</p> <p><b>MNZ</b> - Maritime New Zealand</p> <p><b>MOH</b> - Ministry of Health</p> <p><b>MOT</b> - Ministry of Transport</p> <p><b>MPI</b> - Ministry for Primary Industries</p>	<p><b>MSD</b> - Ministry of Social Development</p> <p><b>MTAG</b> - Māori Technical Advisory Group (a subgroup of TTMAC)</p> <p><b>NCMC</b> - National Crisis Management Centre</p> <p><b>NDHB</b> - Northland District Health Board</p> <p><b>NEMA</b> - National Emergency Management Agency</p> <p><b>NES</b> - National Environmental Standards</p> <p><b>NFT</b> - Northland   Forward Together</p> <p><b>NGO</b> - Non-Governmental Organisation</p> <p><b>NIF</b> - Northland Intersectoral Forum</p> <p><b>NINC</b> - Northland Inc. Limited</p> <p><b>NIWA</b> - National Institute of Water and Atmosphere</p> <p><b>NORTEG</b> - Northland Technical Advisory Group</p> <p><b>NPS</b> - National Policy Statement</p> <p><b>NPS-FM</b> - National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management</p> <p><b>NZCPS</b> - New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement</p> <p><b>NZTA</b> - Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency</p> <p><b>NZTE</b> - New Zealand Trade and Enterprise</p> <p><b>NZWWA</b> - New Zealand Water and Wastes Association</p> <p><b>OFI</b> - Opportunity for Improvement</p> <p><b>OPEX</b> - Operating Expenditures</p> <p><b>OSH</b> - Occupational Safety &amp; Health</p> <p><b>OTS</b> - Office of Treaty Settlements</p> <p><b>PCBU</b> - Person Conducting Business or Undertaking</p> <p><b>PGF</b> - Provincial Growth Fund</p> <p><b>PPE</b> - Personal Protective Equipment</p> <p><b>RAP</b> - Response Action Plan</p> <p><b>RBI</b> - Regional Broadband Initiative</p> <p><b>RFI</b> - Request for Information</p> <p><b>RFP</b> - Request for Proposal</p> <p><b>RLTP</b> - Regional Land Transport Plan</p> <p><b>RMA</b> - Resource Management Act 1991</p> <p><b>RMG</b> - Resource Managers Group (Regional Councils)</p> <p><b>RMZ</b> - Riparian Management Zone</p> <p><b>ROI</b> - Return on Investment</p> <p><b>RP</b> - Regional Plan</p> <p><b>RPMP</b> - Regional Pest Management Plan</p> <p><b>RPMS</b> - Regional Pest Management Strategy</p> <p><b>RPS</b> - Regional Policy Statement</p> <p><b>RPTP</b> - Regional Public Transport Plan</p> <p><b>RRSAP</b> - Regional Road Safety Action Plan</p> <p><b>RSG</b> - Regional Sector Group</p> <p><b>RSHL</b> - Regional Software Holdings Ltd</p> <p><b>RTC</b> - Regional Transport Committee</p> <p><b>RTO</b> - Regional Tourism Organisation</p> <p><b>SIG</b> - Special Interest Group</p> <p><b>SIPO</b> - Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives</p> <p><b>SITREP</b> - Situation Report</p> <p><b>SOE</b> - State of Environment (or) State Owned Enterprise</p> <p><b>SOI</b> - Statement of Intent</p> <p><b>STV</b> - Single Transferable Vote</p> <p><b>TAG</b> - Technical Advisory Group</p> <p><b>TKoT</b> - Te Kahu o Taonui</p> <p><b>Tier 1</b> - Site level plan or response for an oil spill</p> <p><b>Tier 2</b> - Regional level plan or response to an oil spill</p> <p><b>Tier 3</b> - National level plan or response to an oil spill</p> <p><b>TLA</b> - Territorial Local Authority – City &amp; District Councils</p> <p><b>TON</b> - Top of the North (regions)</p> <p><b>TTMAC</b> - Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party</p> <p><b>TTNEAP</b> - Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan</p> <p><b>TMP</b> - Treasury Management Plan</p> <p><b>TOR</b> - Terms of Reference</p> <p><b>TPK</b> - Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development)</p> <p><b>TWWAG</b> - Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group</p> <p><b>UNISA</b> - Upper North Island Strategic Alliance</p> <p><b>WDC</b> - Whangarei District Council</p> <p><b>WRC</b> - Waikato Regional Council</p> <p><b>WSMP</b> - 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 - 13 December 2022

**From:** Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

**Authorised by:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 21 February 2023

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**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 13 December 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

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**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Council Meeting Minutes 13 December 2022 [↓](#) 

Council Meeting  
13 December 2022

## Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 13 December 2022, commencing at 1.00pm

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Tui Shortland

Councillors:

John Blackwell  
Joe Carr  
Jack Crow  
Geoff Crawford  
Peter-Lucas Jones  
Amy Macdonald  
Marty Robinson  
Rick Stolwerk

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

Independent Financial Advisor  
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer  
Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services  
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services  
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services  
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity  
Human Resources Manager  
Governance Specialist

#### Part Meeting

Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement  
Management Accountant  
Financial Accountant  
Resource Management – Strategic Policy Specialist

The Chair declared the meeting open at 1.00pm and proceedings commenced with the Tauāki ā roto by full council.

### Ngā whakapahā/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.

Council Meeting  
13 December 2022

## **Confirmation of Minutes - Council Meeting 22 November 2022 (Item 5.1)**

**Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

**Moved (Carr/Robinson)**

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 22 November 2022 be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

**Carried**

## **Financial Report to 30 November 2022 (Item 6.2)**

**Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant**

**Moved (Craw/Stolwerk)**

That the report 'Financial Report to 30 November 2022' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 10 December 2022, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- The Independent Financial Advisor addressed the report, noting that while council's finances were currently 'in good shape', it must remain particularly vigilant over the following three to six months with arrears in collections due to a 'shrinking household budget', rising interest rates and wages failing to keep up with inflation likely to have an impact. It was also noted that some councils were starting to factor in a higher level of inflation than the BERL recommended assumptions. In particular, inflation assumptions on infrastructure construction and wages.*
- An assessment was being undertaken as to the impacts of staff turnover and recruitment issues on the ability for the organisation to deliver on its key performance indicators.*

## **Triennial Agreement 2022 - 2025 (Item 7.1)**

**Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)**

1. That the report 'Triennial Agreement 2022 - 2025' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 2 December 2022, be received.
2. That the Chair be authorised to sign the Triennial Agreement on behalf of council; including the ability to approve any necessary minor drafting, typographical or presentation corrections prior to the signing of the document.

**Carried**

## **2023 Meeting Calendar (Item 7.2)**

**Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Robinson)**

1. That the report '2023 Meeting Calendar' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 1 December 2022, be received.



Council Meeting  
13 December 2022

2. That the programme of meetings for 2023 (as detailed in Attachment One pertaining to Item 6.1 of the 13 December 2022 council meeting agenda) be adopted.
3. That the meeting calendar be reviewed for effectiveness in conjunction with the governance structure review in August/September 2023.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Staff to prepare a proposal on the rotation of council meetings around Northland (taking into account the Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) regional hui).*

**Freshwater Plan - Council workshops and Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group selection panel (Item 7.3)**

**Report from Ben Lee, Planning and Policy Manager**

**Moved (Craw/Robinson)**

1. That the report 'Freshwater Plan - Council workshops and Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group selection panel' by Ben Lee, Planning and Policy Manager and dated 28 November 2022, be received.
2. That the council decisions for report 6.5 titled 'Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group' of the 18 August 2020 council meeting agenda be amended as follows:
  - a) Decision 3 is withdrawn and replaced with:

That council delegate to the following selection panel the role of appointing the members of the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group:

    - a. Two tangata whenua members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, as endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party;
    - b. Councillor Macdonald; and
    - c. Chair Shortland.
  - b) Decision 4 is withdrawn and replaced with:

That three tangata whenua representative members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party Māori are appointed to the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group and the three members be invited to attend all council workshops on the content of the Freshwater Plan.
3. That council approves retrospectively the participation of the three tangata whenua representative members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, on the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group.
4. That council approves retrospectively the attendance of the three tangata whenua representative members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, at the council workshop on the Freshwater Plan on 7 December 2022.
5. That the three tangata whenua representative members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party to attend council workshops on the content of the Freshwater Plan are remunerated in accordance with council's Non-elected members' Allowances Policy.

Council Meeting  
13 December 2022

*Secretarial Note: In accordance with Standing Order 23.4 'Substituted Motion', with approval of the original mover and seconder the motion was substituted with an amendment (adding part 2a)d).*

**Moved (Craw/Robinson)**

1. That the report 'Freshwater Plan - Council workshops and Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group selection panel' by Ben Lee, Planning and Policy Manager and dated 28 November 2022, be received.
2. That the council decisions for report 6.5 titled 'Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group' of the 18 August 2020 council meeting agenda be amended as follows:

a) Decision 3 is withdrawn and replaced with:

That council delegate to the following selection panel the role of appointing the members of the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group:

- a. Two tangata whenua members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, as endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party;
- b. Councillor Macdonald;
- c. Chair Shortland; and
- d. A representative from Te Kahu o Taonui (Iwi Chairs).

b) Decision 4 is withdrawn and replaced with:

That three tangata whenua representative members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party Māori are appointed to the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group and the three members be invited to attend all council workshops on the content of the Freshwater Plan.

3. That council approves retrospectively the participation of the three tangata whenua representative members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, on the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group.
4. That council approves retrospectively the attendance of the three tangata whenua representative members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, at the council workshop on the Freshwater Plan on 7 December 2022.
5. That the three tangata whenua representative members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party to attend council workshops on the content of the Freshwater Plan are remunerated in accordance with council's Non-elected Members' Allowances Policy.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *Te Reo translation services to be commissioned as soon as practicable to support council meetings.*
- *Further consideration to be given as to whether a representative from Te Kahu o Taonui should also be invited to attend the council workshops on the content of the Freshwater Plan change (including related costs).*

Council Meeting  
13 December 2022

## **NRC submissions - Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Bills (Item 7.4)**

**Report from Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Jones)**

1. That the report 'NRC submissions - Natural and Built Environment and Spatial Planning Bills' by Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 24 November 2022, be received.
2. That council approve the development of draft submissions on the Natural and Built Environment Bill and the Spatial Planning Bill.
3. That council delegate authority to approve draft submissions on both Bills to Councillors T Shortland and A MacDonald as Chairs of the Northland Regional Council and Natural Resources Working Party respectively.
4. That draft submissions are circulated to all councillors for comment before being approved under delegation.
5. That the final version of submissions as lodged with the Select Committee are provided to councillors as soon as practicable after being lodged.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Appreciation was extended to staff for their work drafting the submissions under significant time pressure.*

## **Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.1)**

**Report from Tui Shortland, Chair**

**Moved (Macdonald/Stolwerk)**

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Tui Shortland, Chair and dated 1 December 2022, be received.

**Carried**

## **Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.2)**

**Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Carr)**

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 22 November 2022, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- Detailed discussion on the consenting and compliance of municipal wastewater treatment plants would be progressed through the Natural Resources Working Party (noting specific concerns were raised with regard to the impacts on the Waima River and also the increasing pressure on the Dargaville plant).

Council Meeting  
13 December 2022

- *Further clarification to be provided as to how council was engaging with neighbouring landowners and Māori that were affected by the flood works being undertaken in the Lower Whangatane SH10.*

## Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Craw/Stolwerk)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Civil Defence Emergency Management Group 29 November 2022
- be received.

Carried

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

Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)

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 - Council Meeting 22 November 2022	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	Human Resources Report - November 2022	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	Council's Director Nominee(s) To Regional Software Holdings Limited	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).

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

Carried

*Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 2.25pm and reconvened at 2.29pm to address business with the public excluded.*

## Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 2.40pm with a karakia by the Independent Financial Advisor.

**TITLE:**                    **Receipt of Action Sheet**

**From:**                    Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

**Authorised by:**        Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 21 February 2023

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### **Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

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


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### **Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation**

That the action sheet be received.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Council Action Sheet - February 2023 [↓](#) 

**Council Actions as at 21/02/2023**

Id	Meeting	Target Date	Description	Request Details	Most Recent Comment
6578	Council 22/11/2022	31/12/22	Confirmation of governance structure, membership and councillor portfolios	That the allocation of the pool for higher duties allowance be provided to the Remuneration Authority with the appropriate supporting information.	The supporting information was sent to the Remuneration Authority on 7 December 2022.
6614	Council 13/12/2022	30/06/23	2023 Meeting Calendar	Staff to prepare a proposal on the rotation of council meetings around Northland (taking into account the TTMAC regional hui).	Work in progress.
6615	Council 13/12/2022	28/02/23	Te Reo translation.	Te Reo translation services to be commissioned as soon as practicable to support council meetings.	It is anticipated that translation services will be secured in time for the February 2023 council meeting.
6620	Council 13/12/2022	30/06/23	Freshwater Plan - Council workshops and Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group selection panel	That consideration be given as to whether a representative from Te Kahu o Taonui should be invited to attend the council workshops on the content of the Freshwater Plan change (including related costs).	Staff will bring the issue back to a council workshop for direction (April / May).

**TITLE: Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2022**

**From:** Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 21  
**Group Manager/s:** February 2023

## 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 2022/23 financial year and the total outstanding rate balances at 31 December 2022.

Overall, the three district councils collected a total of 51.8% of our annual rate strike in the six months to 31 December 2022. (As a comparative, 53.6% was collected for the same period in the last financial year).

<b>Table One Summary Q2, 31 December</b>	<b>WDC</b>		<b>KDC</b>		<b>FNDC</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>	
	22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22
Amount of Current Year Rates Collected	\$13.7M	\$12.5M	\$4.2M	\$3.6M	\$7.9M	\$7.4M	\$25.7M	\$23.5M
Percentage of Current Year Rates Collected	55.5%	57.8%	53.7%	52.5%	45.6%	48.1%	51.8%	53.6%
Amount of Rate Arrears Collected	\$205K	\$192K	\$180K	\$203K	\$344K	\$337K	\$730K	\$731K
Percentage of Rate Arrears Collected	33.7%	35.5%	20.5%	23.3%	11.1%	13.6%	15.9%	18.8%
Total Current Rates outstanding at end of quarter	\$11.0M	\$9.2M	\$3.6M	\$3.2M	\$9.4M	\$8.0M	\$24.0M	\$20.4M
Total Rate Arrears outstanding at end of quarter	\$403K	\$348K	\$697K	\$668K	\$2.8M	\$2.1M	\$3.9M	\$3.2M
Total Overall Rates outstanding at end of quarter	\$11.4M	\$9.5M	\$4.3M	\$3.9M	\$12.2M	\$10.1M	\$27.8M	\$23.5M

## Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2022' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 1 February 2023, be received.

## Background/Tuhinga

### Whangārei District Council (WDC)

The Whangārei District Council collected 55.5% of our annual rate strike to the end of December 2022 (Last financial year Q2 comparison (LY) 57.8%).

33.7% (\$205k) of the WDC outstanding rate arrears balance (LY: 35.5%; \$192k) was also collected in the first six months of this financial year resulting in a closing rate arrears balance of \$403k.

WDC advised that:

- there are some ratepayers that continue to struggle for a variety of reasons, e.g., illness, business impacted by COVID-19, unemployment, and other family/life challenges.
- Referral of rates arrears to the debt collector has helped some debtors prioritise the payment of rates.

- In 2023/24 WDC are looking at sending texts/email/letters to ratepayers who will incur a penalty after the due date and may consider extending the due date to give these ratepayers a few extra days to pay. The WDC system is currently being tested to assess if it can implement this new process.

As part of council's cyclical assurance programme, Deloitte have been engaged to undertake a review of the rating processes at the Whangarei District Council this year. The Deloitte report summarising the findings of this review will be presented to the Audit and Risk Subcommittee.

### **Kaipara District Council (KDC)**

The Kaipara District Council collected 53.7% of our annual rate strike to the end of December 2022 (LY: 52.5%).

20.5% (\$180k) of the KDC outstanding rate arrears balance (LY: 23.3 %; \$203k) has also been collected in the first six months of this financial year resulting in a closing total rate arrears balance of \$697k.

KDC advised that:

- they have increased resource and focus in their Revenue team to assist with debt collection and are seeing the current rates collection slightly higher than in the previous year.

The collection of rate arrears has dropped by approximately 2% when comparing December 2022 to December 2021. When rate payments are received, they are allocated to the oldest debt first which decreases the older debt rather than the current debt. What remains unpaid is older debt that is often complex and difficult to collect. This older debt then attracts penalties which increases the overall debt balance that perpetuates year on year.

### **Far North District Council (FNDC)**

The Far North District Council has collected 45.6% of our annual rate strike to the end of December 2022, (LY: 48.1%).

11.1% (\$344k) of the FNDC outstanding rate arrears balance has also been collected in the first six months of this financial year, (LY: 13.6%; \$337k), resulting in a closing rate arrears balance (excluding current year rates) still to be collected of \$2.8m.


FNDC advised that:

- their rates recovery team have contacted ratepayers with outstanding Q1 and Q2 rates with the majority subsequently paying after the Q2 statistics were compiled.
- they are currently monitoring the level of unpaid rates associated with businesses in the tourism industry as this sector is facing challenges due to staff shortages and recent bad weather events.

**Attachment 1** is the revenue and collections report provided by FNDC outlining the actions they have in place to collect outstanding rate arrears.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Far North District Council - Q2 Revenue and Collections Report [!\[\]\(9db214d549b9aeebe72aa11d3a5c4b1a\_img.jpg\)](#) 





**MEETING:** COUNCIL – NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

**Name of item:** REVENUE AND COLLECTIONS QUARTERLY REPORT as at 8 December 2022

**Author:** Margriet Veenstra, Manager - Transaction Services

**Date of report:** 25/01/2023

#### Executive Summary

This is the second report for the financial year 2022-23 and provides information on action taken to collect the Northland Regional Council's current rates and rates arrears

#### 1) Background:

This document has been prepared to outline current and arrears balances for rates as at the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 2022 for Northland Regional Council, and actions taken by Far North District Council's debt management team for the collection of the monies outstanding.

#### 2) Discussion and options

The data provided is for General Title and Māori Freehold Land rates. Since 1 July 2022, the General Title rates total arrears balance has been reduced by 20%.

##### General Title rates debt

Key actions since the last report:

- Legal services team served statutory demand against one business and owner of multiple properties for overdue rates and a payment arrangement now in place and debt to be cleared by end of March 2023. Another similar business paid before statutory demand was served. *A statutory demand is notice demanding payment from a debtor where there is no reasonable dispute about the amount of the debt, or the fact that it is due. The debtor can either apply to set the demand aside, pay or come to an arrangement, if not the company is presumed insolvent and liquidation proceedings may be filed by the creditor.*
- Recruitment to replace two revenue recovery officers who moved to other positions in council at the start of the rating year. One new officer started 9 January, interviews to be completed by the end of January for the second.

Next actions:

- Prepare and pass a further list of businesses with rates arrears to Legal Services team to serve statutory demand.
- Commence pre-mortgage demand calling 16 January 2023, one bank per week over a 5-week period, finishing 17 February 2023. Mortgage demand will be issued to the relevant bank at the end of each week.

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For the total number of General Title rates accounts marked as 'Debt recovery action to commence':

- These are properties where there is no mortgage, and we do not have a payment arrangement or direct debit set up on the account.
- 46% of properties only have last year's rates in arrears and 22% have 2 years of arrears. Debt management will be contacting these owners by phone, email, or letter. Any water arrears will be picked up at the same time.
- 30% of these accounts have arrears of 3 or more rating years. Debt management will start the final demand process for these which can result in referral to commence legal proceedings.

Comparing Q2 last year to this year, arrears collection was up this quarter compared to the previous year, but we have seen a drop of current rates collected, similar to Q1 of this year. The number of properties receiving penalty notices this quarter increased by 15% compared to last year. Revenue recovery did make post instalment due date calls in November to owners who had not paid Q1 and Q2 instalments and majority had forgotten and subsequently paid. There appeared to be several businesses in the tourism sector with unpaid rates and we successfully trialled issuing statutory demand which we will continue with this year. We will continue to monitor rates accounts for businesses within the tourism sector for the next couple instalments, as it has been widely publicised that the industry is facing challenges due to staff shortage and recent bad weather events.

### Maori Freehold Land rates

The rates debt has reduced by 2.3% since the start of the year of which 25% was for write-offs for properties which are non-rateable since the introduction of the Whenua Māori rating amendment law.

### Collection Data

Arrears is the debt outstanding from previous rating years, excluding the current rating year.

An analysis of the arrears for General Title Land and Māori Freehold Land is included in the below tables. The tables now show the ageing in the year the rates were struck for each collection type.

General Title Rates Arrears 2022-2023							
General Title Rates - 8 December 2022	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017+	Total	# accounts
Abandoned Land	13,708	10,692	10,023	9,306	17,890	61,618	39
Payment Arrangement	16,305	1,801	1,334	760	262	20,461	65
Deceased Rate Payer	17,152	11,975	10,805	9,303	16,387	65,622	48
Mortgage Run 2022-23	191,458	58,099	11,012	6,404	6,512	273,484	626
Legal Action Commenced (external)	19,489	15,491	13,597	9,711	20,553	78,841	51
Legal Action Commenced (FNDC)	3,737	2,827	2,689	2,156	4,391	15,800	8
Liquidation	374	293	278	259	18	1,222	2
Direct Debit	28,258	7,185	2,965	1,602	1,088	41,097	126
Debt recovery action to commence	278,834	153,948	101,676	77,111	94,652	706,221	875
<b>Rates Total</b>	<b>569,314</b>	<b>262,311</b>	<b>154,378</b>	<b>116,611</b>	<b>161,752</b>	<b>1,264,366</b>	<b>1,840</b>

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MFL Rates Arrears 2022-2023							
General Title Water - 8 December 2022	2021-2022	2020-2021	2019-2020	2018-2019	2017+	Total	# accounts
Abandoned Land	508	401	381	361	662	2,313	2
Payment Arrangement	1,585	983	804	528	640	4,540	8
Deceased Rate Payer	5,221	4,137	3,911	1,451	1,263	15,983	12
Direct Debit	11,425	7,735	5,726	4,749	6,531	36,166	24
Debt recovery action to commence	432,082	337,234	308,711	126,770	234,435	1,439,233	1,261
<b>Rates Total</b>	<b>450,821</b>	<b>350,489</b>	<b>319,534</b>	<b>133,858</b>	<b>243,532</b>	<b>1,498,234</b>	<b>1,307</b>

### Council's remission policies

Council's remission policies are designed to recognise the unique nature of the Far North with its significant areas of unoccupied Maori freehold land. Overall, the policies address issues of financial hardship and the protection of areas of land with particular conservation or community values. The following table shows the instance of remissions for each policy and the financial impact of these remissions.

Policy Name	Remissions as at 8 December 2022		Remissions to 30 June 2022	
	2023		2022	
	Qty	\$value	Qty	\$value
Maori Freehold Land Remissions	403	-\$134,988.40	401	\$126,595.35
Charitable or Community Organisations	67	-\$36,081.65	66	\$47,912.02
Remission of Postponements	45	-\$25,689.39	46	\$70,544.37
Common use properties	465	-\$160,560.18	484	\$144,253.47
Properties partly in District	1	-\$228.35	1	\$196.61
Conservation Property	248	-\$29,849.24	248	\$44,745.74
Unusable Land	2	-\$2,159.66	1	\$1,841.03
School Sewerage Remission				
Excess Water Remissions				
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>-389,557</b>	<b>1,247</b>	<b>\$436,089</b>

**TITLE: Financial Report to 31 January 2023**

**From:** Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 22  
**Group Manager/s:** February 2023

**Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

This report is to inform council of the year to date (YTD) financial result to 31 January 2023. Council has achieved a YTD surplus after transfers to and from reserves of \$5.0M (November YTD \$3.5M) which is \$1.5M (November \$791K YTD) favourable to budget.

**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the report 'Financial Report to 31 January 2023' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 15 February 2023, be received.

**Background/Tuhinga**

SUMMARY OPERATING RESULTS			
	000's ACTUAL YTD	000's BUDGET YTD	000's VARIANCE YTD
Revenue (including other gains)	\$42,525	\$43,716	(\$1,191)
Expenditure	\$35,837	\$38,248	\$2,410
<b>NET (COST)/SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES</b>	\$6,688	\$5,469	\$1,219
Transfer From (To) Special Reserves	(\$1,648)	(\$1,987)	\$339
<b>NET (COST)/SURPLUS AFTER TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES</b>	\$5,040	\$3,481	\$1,558

**Managed Funds**

No managed fund gains or losses have been accrued for the month of January, due to the Eriksens Global report not yet available. An update on fund performance for January will be included in the March financial report. The gains/losses reported here are for December YTD against January YTD budgets.

At the end of January 2023, \$636K of gains derived from councils managed fund portfolio have been transferred to the bottom line to represent that they are available for budgeted general funding and therefore contribute to council's overall favourable variance of \$1.5M. If these gains are booked as recapitalised/reinvested gains, then councils overall favourable variance would reduce to \$922K.

MANAGED FUNDS		December	January
	000's ACTUAL YTD	000's BUDGET YTD	000's VARIANCE YTD
Short Term Funds	\$409	\$395	\$13
Long Term Funds	\$746	\$2,266	(\$1,520)
<b>TOTAL FUND GAINS/(LOSSES)</b>	\$1,155	\$2,661	(\$1,506)
Transfer From (To) Special Reserves representing reinvestment	\$0	(\$544)	(\$544)
<b>NET GAINS/(LOSSES) AFTER TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES</b>	\$1,155	\$2,117	(\$963)

## Revenue

Year to date revenue is \$42.5M, which is \$1.2M or 2.7% below budget.

YTD REVENUE VARIANCE INDICATORS BY REVENUE TYPE			
	FAV / (UNFAV)		Commentary
	\$	%	
Rates	\$139,131	0.6%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher than budgeted rates due increase in land values and SUIP's</li> </ul>
User Fees and Sundry	\$290,231	7.8%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher than budgeted Pilotage of \$310K</li> <li>Higher than budgeted Navigation Bylaw fees of \$69K</li> <li>Higher than budget Enviroschools course fees of \$31K</li> <li>Higher than budgeted monitoring fees for land use, water and coastal compliance of \$245K</li> </ul> Offset by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower than budgeted bus fare box income of \$175K</li> <li>Lower than budgeted resource user fees of \$119K</li> <li>Lower than budgeted FDE consent fees of \$70K</li> </ul>
Grants and Subsidies	(\$470,291)	(5.7%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher than budgeted subsidies for sHaRP, wilding conifer and wild rice programmes of \$984K</li> <li>Higher than budgeted subsidies for maritime works of \$44K</li> </ul> Offset by ; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lower than budgeted subsidies from NZTA of \$74K</li> <li>Lower than budgeted subsidies for emergency management operations of \$171K</li> <li>Lower than budgeted subsidies for predator free programmes of \$873K, due to timing</li> <li>Lower than budgeted subsidies for Kauri protection programme of \$350K due to timing</li> </ul>
Investment Interest Income and Other Gains	\$207,053	165.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher than budgeted interest of \$76K, as a result of a derisking strategy, placing long term and short term fund monies into term deposits.</li> <li>Higher than budgeted rates of interests earned on ASB banking facilities \$88K</li> <li>Higher than budgeted interest on internal and lending \$33K</li> </ul>
Investment Property Income	\$148,831	9.0%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Higher than budgeted rent income on investment properties \$148K</li> </ul>
Dividend	\$291	0.0%	
Long Term Fund Gains	(\$1,519,514)	(67.1%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actual December YTD returns of 1.2% are lower than the budgeted 3.03% (6.05% annualised). Note that no long term fund nor short term fund gains accrued for the month of January is included in this report.</li> </ul>
Short Term Fund Gains	\$13,235	3.3%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Actual December YTD returns of 3.9% are higher than the budgeted 2.08% (4.15% annualised).</li> </ul>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(\$1,191,033)</b>	<b>(2.7%)</b>	

## Expenditure

Year to date expenditure is \$35.8M, which is \$2.4M or 6.3% below budget.

YTD EXPENDITURE VARIANCE INDICATORS BY COUNCIL ACTIVITY					
	FAV / (UNFAV)		Commentary	Offset by:	
	\$	%		Subsidies	Reserves
					Not offset FAV / (UNFAV)
Regulatory Services	(\$31,272)	(1.3%)	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to recruitment issues		\$166K
			• Lower than budgeted RMA hearing costs		\$25K
			• Higher than budgeted contractors and consultant expenditure relating to consents and monitoring	(\$5K)	(\$129K)
			• Higher than budgeted legal costs relating to consents and monitoring		(\$86K)
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group		(\$2K)
Environmental Services	\$561,722	7.9%	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to recruitment issues		\$424K
			• Lower than budgeted Efunds grants awarded	\$37K	\$85K
			• Lower than budgeted consultancy on dune lakes and coast care projects	\$9K	\$6K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on water testing and field work	\$34K	\$43K
			• Lower than budgeted software costs		\$55K
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure on fencing and planting costs for sHaRP and Northern Wairoa awa.	(\$104K)	(\$42K)
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group		(\$4K)
Biosecurity	\$1,182,095	18.3%	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to recruitment issues		\$267K
			• Lower than budgeted contract expenditure for Kauri protection	\$145K	
			• Lower than budgeted poisons and field works expenditure		\$80K
			• Lower than budgeted contractor costs for biossecurity projects	\$3K	\$117K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for Predatory Free BOI programme	\$473K	
			• Higher than budgeted contractors and consultants for Predatory Free BOI programme	(\$270K)	
			• Lower than budgeted poison and field works for Predatory Free Whāngarei	\$57K	\$182K
			• Lower than budgeted contractor costs for weeds programme	\$25K	\$93K
			• Lower than budgeted contractor and field work costs for wilding conifers project	\$71K	\$2K
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure on materials for resale	(\$12K)	(\$34K)
Governance and Engagement	\$552,757	13.0%	• Other small accumulated variances within this group		(\$17K)
			• Lower than budgeted salaries due to recruitment issues		\$153K
			• Lower than budgeted costs on publicity and promotions		\$67K
			• Lower than budgeted costs on economic feasibility study and projects		\$150K
			• Lower than budgeted consultation costs		\$70K
			• Lower than budgeted iwi community workshops and engagement		\$48K
			• Lower than budgeted councillor costs, due predominantly to lower election related expenses	\$64K	\$20K
Community Resilience	\$697,894	9.1%	• Other small accumulated variances within this group		(\$19K)
			• Lower than budgeted salaries due to recruitment issues		\$88K
			• Lower than budgeted climate change consultancy costs		\$77K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on emergency services grants	\$83K	\$113K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on public communications across the group	\$43K	\$63K
			• Lower than budgeted operational costs for CDEM	\$40K	\$0K
			• Lower than budgeted interest expense across the group		\$136K
			• Lower than budgeted operational expenditure on river schemes	\$36K	\$160K
Corporate Services	(\$564,149)	-6.45%	• Higher than budgeted expenditure for regional transport activities due to timing of invoices	(\$82K)	
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure on water resilience grants		(\$14K)
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group		(\$8K)
			• Lower than budgeted salaries due to recruitment issues		\$58K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on professional fees		\$153K
CEO Office	\$11,442	0.7%	• Higher than budgeted strategic review costs	(\$90K)	(\$16K)
			• Higher than budgeted HR consultantancy expenditure		(\$70K)
			• Higher than budgeted IT operational costs, predominantly for enterprise	(\$587K)	
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group		(\$12K)
Total	\$2,410,489	6.3%	• Higher than budgeted salaries predominantly due final pay of former CEO		(\$43K)
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on CEO corporate office costs		\$39K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on CEO project costs	\$14K	\$1K
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group	\$500K	(\$576K)
					\$2,486K

### ***Salary Variances***

Across council there is a \$1.1M net favourable salaries variance predominantly due to the time to complete recruitment of vacant positions and new positions identified in the LTP (Long Term Plan).

<b>SALARY VARIANCE</b>	<b>000's</b>
Gross salary variance	\$1,372
Add: Annual leave earned not taken	\$72
Less: Budgeted staff savings	(\$177)
Less: Other employment costs higher than YTD Budget	(\$154)
<b>NET SALARY VARIANCE</b>	<b>\$1,113</b>

### ***Transfers to reserves***

For the year to date there has been a net transfer to reserves of \$1.6M (November YTD \$1.9M) compared to a budgeted net transfer to reserves of \$2.M (November YTD \$2.3M). The variance of \$339K is predominantly due to

- \$543K lower than budgeted transfers to externally managed fund reserves, due to lower than budgeted gains on long-term funds to December YTD.
- \$200K lower than budgeted transfer from Far North Bus Reserve, due to lower than budgeted expenditure to January YTD.

### ***Capital Expenditure***

Capital expenditure amounts to \$4.8M and is \$2.7M less than the corresponding budget at this stage of the year predominantly due to:

- Delays in the Awanui flood protection works programme (\$952K behind budget) because of contractors being denied access to site and unfavourable weather conditions.
- Delays in the Otiria-Moerewa flood mitigation spillway (\$1.4M behind budget) because of longer than anticipated negotiations to secure the land use rights for the Pokapu bridge. The bridge is currently under construction.

Both of these projects are targeted rate funded and are expected to be completed by December 2023 in-line with the extension granted by MBIE.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil



**TITLE: Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Update**

**From:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

**Authorised by** Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on  
**Group Manager/s:** 22 February 2023

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**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

The Elected Members Expenses and Allowances Policy (the Policy) sets out what expenses and allowances an elected member is eligible to claim for and under what circumstances. The Policy is updated at the end of each financial year to give effect to the new Determination issued by the Remuneration Authority<sup>1</sup>. However, with the onboarding of the new council and points of clarification being sought it was clear the Policy was in need of an update.

This report seeks formal council approval of the proposed updates.

---

**Recommendations**

1. That the report 'Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Update' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 7 February 2023, be received.
2. That the updated Elected Members Expenses and Allowances Policy (included as Attachment One to the report) be approved.

---

**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Council approves the proposed changes.	<p>Provides clarity for elected members, staff and the community what expenses and allowances elected members are eligible for and under what circumstances.</p> <p>Refines and updates the Policy to ensure it is relevant, consistent, clear and practical in application.</p> <p>Aligns allowances with those directly available to staff.</p>	None apparent.

---

<sup>1</sup> Schedule 7 section 6 states that the Remuneration Authority must determine the remuneration, allowances, and expenses payable to mayors, deputy mayors, chairpersons, deputy chairpersons, and members of local authorities.

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
		Gives effect to guidance from the Remuneration Authority.	
2	Council does not approve the proposed changes.	None apparent.	<p>Misses an opportunity to refine the policy to ensure it is up to date, consistent, clear and practical in application.</p> <p>Leaves many areas unclear or open to interpretation.</p> <p>Does not align with allowances available to staff.</p> <p>Does not incorporate up to date advice provided by the Remuneration Authority.</p>

The staff's recommended option is Option 1.

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## Considerations

### 1. Climate Impact

This is an administrative matter and has no direct climate impacts.

### 2. Environmental Impact

Being an administrative matter it has no direct environmental impacts.

### 3. Community views

Being open and transparent with the community about the remuneration of councillors to undertake their role is important.

### 4. Māori impact statement

There is no greater impact on Māori than community views in general.

### 5. Financial implications

Having clear guidance on what expenses and allowances councillors are eligible to claim for and in what circumstances assists with the setting of budgets.

### 6. Implementation issues

Having clear guidance assists with the administrative function to process claims on a monthly basis.

## 7. Significance and engagement

When assessed against council's Significance and Engagement Policy this administrative matter is deemed to be of low significance.

## 8. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

The Elected Members Expenses and Allowances Policy is in accordance with the Local Government Members (2022/23) Determination 2022.

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### Background/Tuhinga

Having reviewed the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy (which included seeking clarity on specific points from the Remuneration Authority)<sup>2</sup> the key updates proposed include:

- Updated terminology (mileage to vehicle kilometres, communications to ICT)
- Consistency in terminology (local authority business, formal resolution of council at a meeting open to the public)
- Consistency on the approval process for expenses/allowances and eligible business activities.
- Added clarification if the Chair decides to use their private vehicle to attend local authority business they are eligible to claim vehicle kilometre allowances.
- Clarified other travel expenses must relate to local authority business or have prior approval.
- Clarification that council will cover the cost of accommodation when local authority spans multiple days if it is more economical than the elected member travelling by private vehicle to and from home in interim days.
- Increased the allowance to stay with friends/family to \$70 to be consistent with what is available for staff and clarified they are still eligible to claim for meals.
- Aligned meals cost with what is available to staff.
- Clarified that any claims for hospitality and entertainment must be associated with local authority business and have prior approval.

Council workshopped the matter on 8 February 2023 with general support demonstrated for the proposed changes.

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### Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Elected Members Expenses and Allowances Policy (with track changes) [↓](#) 

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<sup>2</sup> Clarification was received that the Determination does not enable accommodation to be paid in lieu of travel time and the Chair's use of a private vehicle to travel into and out of the office on a daily basis does not qualify as local authority business under the Policy.



## Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy

Date: ~~January 2023~~ July 2022

Author: Governance

ID:-DMHUB-979727956

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DOCUMENT REVIEW APPROVAL		
Date	Change	Actioned by
18 January 2023	Overall review and refresh of the policy.	Governance Specialist

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7.1 Provision of ICT devices 13

## 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 (2022/23) Determination 2022. This can be accessed using the following link:

[https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0178/latest/LMS702449.html?search=ts\\_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg\\_local+government+members\\_resel\\_25\\_a&p=1](https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2022/0178/latest/LMS702449.html?search=ts_act%40bill%40regulation%40deemedreg_local+government+members_resel_25_a&p=1)

## 2. Principles ~~purpose~~ 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 ~~mileage~~ kilometre and travel time allowance;
- ~~Communication Information and Communications Technology (ICT)~~ allowance;
- Hearing fees (with exception of ~~the Chairman~~);
- Childcare allowance

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

### 2.2 ~~Principle of r~~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 ~~here 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, ~~the Chief Executive Officer, or their Deputy,~~ 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" ~~and advise the Chair, who will make the final decision, or in the case of claims from the Chair, the Deputy Chair.~~

### 2.4 Evidence of expenses

With the exception of ~~mileage~~ vehicle kilometre, travel time and annual ICT allowances, all other expense claims require supporting receipts. For ~~mileage~~ vehicle kilometre expenses, please refer to ~~the policy statements in the "Vehicle Mileage and Travel Time Allowance" section of this policy~~ 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 ~~mileage~~vehicle kilometre, travel and ~~communications~~ICT allowances

Despite the inclusion of specific allowance values for ~~mileage~~vehicle kilometre, travel and ~~communications~~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 4(e)2.6.1(b) below applies.  
~~Council, committee/sub-committee, working party/working group workshops, as noted in the formal meeting calendar. Claims will only be paid for travel to such workshops at which the elected member has been elected or appointed to the forum concerned, unless policy statement 4(e) below applies.~~
  - b) Attendance at other meetings or workshops, conferences, site visits relating to an appointed portfolio, and civic functions. ~~Travel~~Claims outside of these areas will only be approved if there is evidence of prior approval ~~of the Chair (or Deputy Chair in the Chair’s absence) or the Chief Executive Officer.~~

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

All expenses, and business activities<sup>1</sup> 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
- ~~a.c.~~ c. By formal resolution of council at a meeting open to the public.

<sup>1</sup> 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).

Commented [JG1]: Is this true regarding workshops needing a resolution of council - we schedule them all the time and don't go to council

Commented [CT2R1]: This is the can of worms you open up the more you look at it. Workshops for council are by default scheduled for every Tuesday and Wednesday during the year and cancelled if not required or less likely moved to another day. RTC has workshops piggybacking on their meetings. This was to put some more rigor around workshops as the non elected members policy mirrors this statement and the likes of TTWAG and others thought they could meet as often as they like and get reimbursed for it. It is now clear their work programmes and number of meetings/workshops that they will get compensated for must be approved by council.

Commented [CT3R1]:

## 3. Travel expenses

### 3.1 Chair's car

1. Council will provide a vehicle with full private use<sup>2</sup> permitted. 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).<sup>3</sup>

### 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 'Staff-Vehicle-Use-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.

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> 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), subject to that travel being necessary for the fulfillment of the member's role as directed and approved the Chair, or the Deputy Chair or the Chief Executive Officer in the Chair's absence.~~ 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.) ~~undertaken in the fulfillment of an elected member's role on official~~ required by an elected member to undertake local authority ~~council~~ 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, ~~subject to that cost being necessary for the fulfilment of the member's role as directed and approved by the Chair or by a resolution of council in a public meeting~~ 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 ~~that accommodation being necessary for the fulfilment of the member's role as directed and approved by the Chair or by a resolution of council in a public meeting and arranged by Northland Regional Council~~ Section 2.7.
2. ~~Reimbursements for mini-bar purchases or 'in-house' movies will not be made.~~ 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.

### 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 \$~~750~~ 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.

- 4.2. If an elected member stays in accommodation provided by friends/relatives they are still eligible to claim meal allowances.

## 5.4 Meals and sustenance, incidental and drinks allowances and expenses

1. Standard overnight allowance to cover meals and drinks is \$123, as follows:
  - Breakfast \$27
  - Lunch \$21
  - Dinner \$59
  - Alcoholic drink (one with dinner \$16).

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) Approved by the Chair and Chief Executive Officer or the Deputy Chair and the Chief Executive Officer; 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).

## 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) 83 cents per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
    - (ii) 31 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term;
  - b) for a petrol hybrid vehicle, -
    - (i) 83 cents per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
    - (ii) 18 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term;
  - c) for an electric vehicle, -
    - (i) 83 cents per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
    - (ii) 10 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.
5. ~~A local authority's business is defined as:~~
  - a) ~~Council, committee/sub-committee, working party/working group meetings 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 4(c) below applies.~~
  - b) ~~Council, committee/sub-committee, working party/working group workshops, as noted in the formal meeting calendar. Claims will only be paid for travel to such~~

~~workshops at which the elected member has been elected or appointed to the forum concerned, unless policy statement 4(c) below applies. Attendance at other meetings or workshops, conferences, site visits relating to an appointed portfolio, and civic functions. Travel claims outside of these areas will only be approved if there is evidence of prior approval of the Chair (or Deputy Chair in the Chair's absence) or the Chief Executive Officer.~~

## 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	\$200
Personal internet connection service	\$800
Personal mobile phone connection service, including calls, text and data	\$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.
- 4.



## 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.

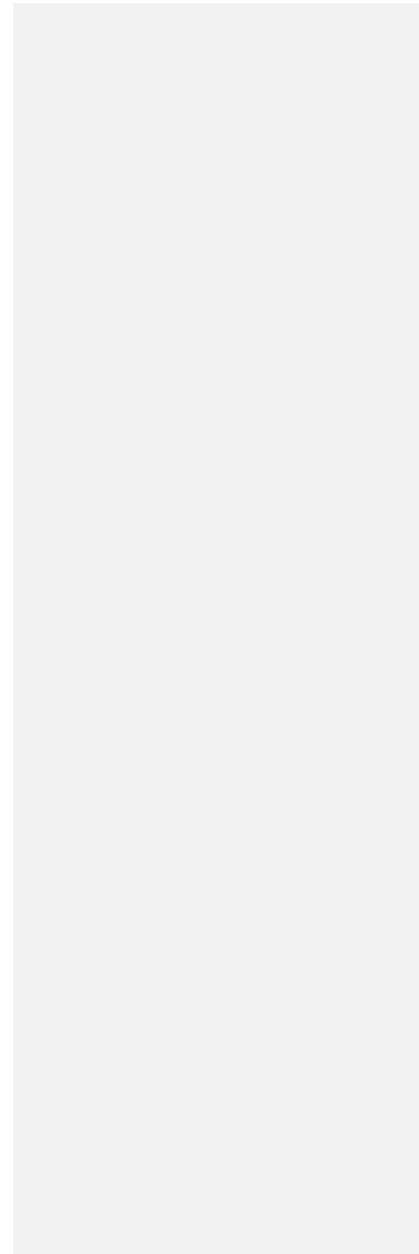
## 10. Hearing fees

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.



**Northland Regional Council**

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**TITLE:** **Appointment of council Registrar - Pecuniary Interests Register**

**From:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

**Authorised by** Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on  
**Group Manager/s:** 22 February 2023

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### Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

The Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022 came into force on 20 November 2022 which set new provisions under the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA 02) relating to members' pecuniary interests. This Act can be viewed using the following link:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2022/0024/latest/whole.html#LMS646556>

The purpose of this new legislation is to increase transparency, trust and confidence in local government by making information about members' pecuniary interests publicly available.

Members are required to provide annual returns detailing certain pecuniary interests within the statutory timeframe, ensure this information is correct and take action as soon as practicable if they become aware of an error or omission in their return.

Under the new legislation each council is required to appoint a Registrar<sup>3</sup> whose role is to compile and maintain the Register of Pecuniary Interests for elected members<sup>4</sup> and also make a summary of the information contained in the Register publicly available.<sup>5</sup> The Registrar is also available to assist elected members if they need advice on their return.

The purpose of this report is to formally appoint the NRC Governance Specialist as the council's Registrar.

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### Recommendations:

1. That the report 'Appointment of council Registrar - Pecuniary Interests Register' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 13 January 2023, be received.
2. That the NRC Governance Specialist be appointed council's Registrar in accordance with section 54G of the Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022.

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<sup>3</sup> Section 54G(1) of the LGA 02.

<sup>4</sup> Section 54A(1) of the LGA 02

<sup>5</sup> Section 54A(3)(a) of the LGA 02.

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## Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Appoint the council Registrar.	Complies with the requirements of the Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022.  Identifies a resource to oversee this specific function.	None-apparent.
2	Do not appoint the council Registrar.	None-apparent	Does not meet the requirements of the new legislation.  There is no officer appointed to co-ordinate the receipt and summarising of elected members' annual returns.

The staff's recommended option is Option 1.

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## Considerations

### 1. Climate Impact

This is an administrative matter and does not have any direct climate impacts.

### 2. Environmental Impact

This is an administrative matter and does not have any direct environmental impacts.

### 3. Community views

The keeping of the pecuniary register and making a summary publicly available is aimed to increase transparency and the community's trust and confidence in local government.

### 4. Māori impact statement

This is an administrative matter and does not have any specific impacts on Māori any greater than the community as a whole.

### 5. Financial implications

The Amendment Act requires a heightened level of financial reporting by elected members.

### 6. Implementation issues

Maintaining and summarising the Pecuniary Register will take resourcing and there remain areas that are unclear or are not supported by guidance. For example, there is no specific guidance regarding what information needs to be included in the summary (although parliamentary disclosures have been referenced).

**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 the appointment of the council Registrar is an administrative matter.

**8. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance**

The appointment of a council Registrar is a new requirement in the Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022. It also helps manage risk by clearly identifying a resource to oversee this specific function.

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**Background/Tuhinga**

Nil

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**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE: Delegations for Proposed Regional Plan Appeals**

**From:** Michael Payne, Policy Specialist

**Authorised by** Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao – Group Manager Environmental Services, on  
**Group Manager/s:** 10 February 2023

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**Whakarāpopototanga | Executive Summary**

Council is in the process of resolving appeals on the Proposed Regional Plan (Proposed Plan). This includes formal Environment Court mediations, informal negotiations with appeal parties and ultimately an Environment Court hearing for any matters that cannot be resolved.

Through mediation and negotiation, council needs to be able to review and make decisions on whether to accept changes to the decisions version of the Proposed Plan.

Over the election period this task was delegated to the Chief Executive Officer. This delegation lapsed on 1 February 2023. Without new delegations being issued, full council approval would be needed for council to agree to any changes to the decisions version of the Proposed Plan.

This paper seeks to delegate the following powers to provide for more efficient and effective decision making on Proposed Plan appeals:

- Councillor A MacDonald and the Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services be delegated the ability to make decisions and resolve appeals that are generally aligned with the direction already set by council.
- Four councillors are delegated the authority to make decisions on council's behalf for resolving appeals that are not generally aligned with the direction already set by council.

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**Ngā mahi tūtohutia | Recommendations**

1. That the report 'Delegations for Proposed Regional Plan Appeals' by Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and dated 8 February 2023, be received.
2. That Councillor MacDonald and the Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services be delegated the ability to make decisions on council's behalf for resolving appeals on the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland that are generally aligned with the direction already set by council.
3. That four councillors be delegated the authority to make decisions on council's behalf for resolving appeals on the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland that are not generally aligned with the direction already set by council:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
4. That a decision made in accordance with the delegation under Resolution (2) and (3), must be unanimous. If not unanimous, then the decision will revert back to council.

## Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	<p>Delegate to one councillor and GM Environmental Services for decisions that align with council direction.</p> <p>Delegate to four councillors where resolutions depart from earlier council direction</p>	<p>Reasonably nimble decision-making process to resolve appeals.</p> <p>Provides the ability for decision makers to confer with one another to ensure decisions are Appropriate and reflect wider view of council.</p>	<p>Decision-making process not as nimble as option 2.</p> <p>Low risk of decisions that wider council does not support.</p>
2	<p>Delegate to one councillor and GM Environmental Services for decisions that align with council direction.</p> <p>Delegate to two councillors where resolutions depart from earlier council direction</p>	<p>Nimble decision-making process to resolve appeals.</p>	<p>Greater risk (compared to options 1 and 3) of decisions that wider council does not support because only two councillors involved.</p>
3	<p>No delegation (full council consideration)</p>	<p>Ensures all councillors are evenly involved and decisions reflect the view of council.</p>	<p>Decision making is the least nimble of all the options and council may struggle to keep pace with the Environment Court schedule to resolve appeals.</p> <p>All councillors will need to come up to speed with the specific technical details of the relevant Plan provisions, background and appeals.</p>

The staff's recommended option is 1 as it provides the best balance of nimble decision making and minimising risk of decisions not reflecting the wider council view.

## Considerations

### 1. 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 has previously been consulted on, is provided for in council's Long Term Plan, and is part of council's day-to-day activities. As the Proposed Plan has been prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991, it is subject to the Schedule 1 process, which involves a robust and thorough public consultative process.

Being of low significance under council's Significance and Engagement Policy 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.

### 2. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

The preparation and development of the Proposed Plan (including the current appeals phase) is subject to various sections of the Resource Management Act 1991, including sections 30, 32,



and Schedule 1. Procedurally, the decisions being recommended are consistent with the relevant sections of the Resource Management Act.

Being a purely administrative matter Community Views, Māori Impact Statement, Financial Implications, Climate impact, and Implementation Issues are not applicable.

## Tuhinga | Background

The Proposed Regional Plan for Northland was notified in September 2017. At the same time, council delegated authority to a Hearing Panel of three members (Councillor Joce Yeoman and two independent commissioners - Rob van Voorthuysen and Miria Pomare) to conduct the hearing into submissions on the Proposed Plan and make recommendations to council on the Proposed Plan in response to submissions.

At the April 2019 council meeting, council accepted and adopted the recommendations of the Hearings Panel. The Decisions Version of the Proposed Plan was publicly notified on 4 May 2019. Any person who made a submission on the Proposed Plan then had the ability to appeal the decision. The last day for lodging appeals with the Environment Court was 17 June 2019.

## Appeals

A total of 23 appeals were received.

Any person who has an interest greater than that of the general public could join the proceedings as a s274<sup>6</sup> party. Thirty-eight parties joined the appeals as a s274 party.

The Environment Court, appellants, 274 parties and council have been working toward resolution of appeals since 2019. Parties have participated in court assisted mediation, informal discussion and Environment Court Hearings which have resulted in the majority of appeals being resolved. Environment Court consent orders and decisions detailing these decisions are available on council's website<sup>7</sup>.

A handful of appeals remain unresolved. These are summarised in the table below:

Topic / issue	Unresolved Provisions	Comments
Topic 1 – Coastal activities	Rule C.1.8	Discussions are ongoing and resolution without a hearing is likely.
Topic 1 – Significant ecological areas and significant bird areas	Rules: C.1.1.21, C.1.1.22, C.1.1.23, C.1.1.27, C.1.2.5, C.1.2.6, C.1.2.13, C.1.5.3, C.1.5.5, C.1.5.7, C.1.5.12, C.1.6.3 and C.1.6.5 (previously C.1.6.4) Policies: D.5.11 and D.5.24	All of these provisions relate to one issue, being: how Significant Ecological Areas and Significant Bird Areas are addressed in policies and rules. Resolution of that single issue will resolve all of these provisions.
Topic 1B - Vehicles on beaches	Rule C.1.5.1 and C.1.5.1(A)	Discussions are ongoing. The court has requested a progress report by 31 May. If appeals remain unresolved by July this matter will be set down for hearing.

<sup>6</sup> This refers to section 274 of the RMA which provides for parties to join appeals in support or opposition to an appeal.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/about-us/council-projects/new-regional-plan/consent-orders/>

Topic / issue	Unresolved Provisions	Comments
Topic 10 - Infrastructure and energy	Policy D.2.9	Discussions are ongoing and resolution without a hearing is likely.
Topic 17 - Outstanding natural landscapes	Appeals seek inclusion of mapped outstanding natural landscapes on land from the RPS and mapping of ONLs in the CMA. Rules: C.1.1.12, C.1.2.5 and C.1.2.6 Policies: D.5.11 and D.5.24	Discussions with parties are ongoing. This issue has been set down for Judicial conference 13 March.

### Resolving appeals – council representation

Council needs to decide how it will represent its position and make decisions through the remaining appeal negotiations and mediations. It is recommended that this be delegated to one councillor and the Group Manager – Environmental Services where resolutions are generally aligned with previous council position. At the 22 November 2022 council meeting council confirmed “Regional Plan Appeals” were within Councillor MacDonalds portfolio as Chair of the Natural Resources Working Party. For that reason, staff have suggested that councillor MacDonald be delegated power in line with recommendation 2 of this report.

Two people are preferable to one, to ensure the decisions are generally consistent with council direction. It is also administratively efficient to have a small number of people, such as to get urgent agreement on mediated provisions. The decision makers will be supported by staff, legal and any specialist advice required on the matters under appeal.

Including a senior staff member with these delegations will reduce the workload on individual councillors. It is further recommended that the scope of this delegation be limited to confirming agreements with appellants that are generally aligned with the direction already set by council (either as set in the decisions version of the Proposed Plan or subsequent council direction, generally via council workshops). At this stage there is only one topic in which a resolution may depart from previous council direction: Topic 1B – Vehicles on Beaches.

It is recommended that departure from the direction already set by council is managed via a separate delegation to a group of four councillors. A delegation to four councillors provides a good balance for efficient decision making while minimising risk of decisions not reflecting the wider council view. It is also recommended that any decision by the four councillors must be unanimous. If it is not unanimous then the decision will revert back to council.

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### Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

**TITLE: Independent Risk Advisor Recruitment**

**From:** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 22  
**Group Manager/s:** February 2023

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**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

Council's previous Independent Risk Advisor resigned in April 2022.

The role of the Independent Risk Advisor is to provide independent risk advice in relation to council's activities. This role attends both the Audit & Risk and the Investment & Property Subcommittees as an independent member and attends council meetings in an advisory capacity.

It is recommended that council undertake recruitment for an Independent Risk Advisor. The proposed process and timeframes are:

- Role advertised by 10 March 2023;
- Applications close 27 March 2023;
- Shortlisting complete 31 March 2023;
- Interviews in week of 3 – 7 April 2023; and
- Report to council meeting 26 April 2023 with recommendation of appointment.

Council policy on appointment of independent advisors is **attached**.

It is recommended that the interview panel to be comprised of Councillors Stolwerk (Chair of Investment & Property Subcommittee), Jones (Chair of Audit & Risk Subcommittee) and Chair Shortland. The reason for recommending these councillors is due to their Chair roles on the respective subcommittees and Chair Shortland being an Ex-Officio member on both subcommittees.

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**Recommendation(s)**

1. That the report 'Independent Risk Advisor Recruitment' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 21 February 2023, be received.
2. That council commences recruitment for an Independent Risk Advisor.
3. That Councillors Stolwerk, Jones and Chair Shortland be appointed as the panel to shortlist and interview applicants for the Independent Risk Advisor role and make a recommendation for appointment to council.

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**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Undertake a competitive recruitment process for an Independent Risk Advisor	Test the market and recruit the best possible candidate for the role.	Nothing material.
2	Do not undertake a competitive recruitment process for an	Avoid having to go through the recruitment	Are not able to test the market and may not find

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
	Independent Risk Advisor and undertake a direct appointment	process, immaterial time and cost savings.	the best possible candidate for the role.
3	Do not recruit an Independent Risk Advisor	Cost savings.	Lack of independent risk advisory over council activities.

The staff's recommended option is Option 1.

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## Considerations

### 1. Climate Impact

Nil.

### 2. Environmental Impact

Nil.

### 3. Community views

Community views are unknown, although it is assumed that the community would support opportunities to strengthen council's approach to risk management.

### 4. Māori impact statement

There are no known issues and Māori have not been engaged.

### 5. Financial implications

Funding for this role is contained within council's budget.

### 6. Implementation issues

Nil.

### 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

Recruitment, and subsequent appointment, of an Independent Risk Advisor will strengthen council's approach to risk management.

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## Background/Tuhinga

Nil.

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## Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Policy on the appointment of independent advisors [↓](#) 

## **Policy on the Appointment of Independent Advisors to Council**

### **Policy Context**

Council appoints Independent Advisors for the provision of specialist advice for matters such as audit/risk and finance. These advisors are engaged on a contractual basis to provide independent specialist advice to council and council subcommittees.

This policy sets out the appointment process, restrictions, terms of appointment, engagement/remuneration and exclusions for the Independent Advisor roles.

### **Appointment Process**

Independent Advisor roles will be advertised unless good reason exists not to. The power to decide not to advertise is to reside with council but may be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer. In deciding not to advertise, the council will consider:

- The costs of any advertisement and selection process;
- The already known availability of qualified candidates;
- The urgency of the appointment; and
- Whether there is a high prospect that an incumbent will be reappointed.

A recruitment panel will be established to consider applications, conduct interviews and make a recommendation on preferred candidate(s) to council. The panel shall normally comprise the council Chair and two other councillors.

The panel and candidates are required to declare any potential conflicts of interest during the recruitment process and in the subsequent recommendation to council.

### **Appointment restrictions**

No Independent Advisor shall be a current staff member, director or consultant to any NRC council-controlled organisation or council organisation (i.e. Marsden Maritime Holdings, Northland Inc).

No Independent Advisor shall provide any consulting work or professional services to NRC (other than in directly performing their Independent Advisor role).

### **Term of appointment**

Appointments shall be for a maximum three-year term, subject to any review the council considers necessary.

Reappointment may not occur for reasons unrelated to the performance of the Independent Advisor, such as other changes to the composition of the council or changes to the direction of the council or the environment in which it operates.

Independent Advisors should have no expectation of re-appointment at the end of any three-year term.

The maximum number of consecutive terms for any Independent Advisor is two, but with reappointments exceeding six continuous years being considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Engagement and Remuneration of Independent Advisors**

Independent Advisors will be engaged by way of a short form contract to NRC, executed by the Chief Executive Officer.

Remuneration for Independent Advisors will be determined by the Chief Executive Officer and based on an hourly rate with an upper limit of number of hours per year.

**Exclusions to this Policy**

This policy does not apply to the Independent Investment Advisor role, as that role is subject to commercial negotiations and other considerations outside of the scope of this policy.

**TITLE:** **Health and safety report**

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

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 22  
**Group Manager/s:** February 2023

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### **Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

This report is to inform the council of the activity in Health and Safety for the second quarter period of October - December 2022.

An overview/summary of the report includes:

- A new Health and Safety Advisor started in October. The role was vacant for six months.
- Health and safety inductions for new staff are now achieving expected targets.
- Incidents of staff speeding remain the largest number of reported incidents. A policy is being drafted to formally address repeated speeding incidents.
- Overall numbers of incidents/hazards (excluding speeding) are trending up, however these remain low.

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### **Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the report 'Health and safety report' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and dated 8 February 2023, be received.

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### **Background/Tuhinga**

#### **1. Health and safety performance**

A summary of the health and safety performance for the period October - December 2022 is shown in Table 1 below.

- A review of health and safety systems will be carried out now the new Health and Safety Advisor has started.
- An external maturity audit of selected Health and Safety processes and policies is booked for 21st to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 (deferred from February due to Cyclone Gabrielle).
- The numbers of completed health and safety inductions for new staff has trended up, and are now meeting performance targets. The induction process has been streamlined to focus on the essential information only to prevent overwhelming new staff in the first two days. Managers are fully aware that a staff member is not allowed to perform their duties until the relevant health and safety training is provided for tasks.
- The health monitoring programme has not been conducted for the past 12 months. A revision of the service provider contract for this programme has been carried out. The health monitoring programme will be administered from Enterprise, work is ongoing to upload all existing information and records into Enterprise. Once Enterprise and the contract are in place, health monitoring will be promoted as a staff priority. It is anticipated the Enterprise transition will be completed by the first week of March.
- Training undertaken for the period included four wheel drive, health and safety rep, traffic inspector, swift water rescue, wader and water safety, situation awareness and tactical communications, fire warden and kayak skills.

- There is one outstanding incident investigation from the 2021-2022 financial year, relating to the consideration of a fork lift truck at Union Street East. There are 10 ongoing investigations of incidents from July to December 2022.

Table 1: Health and safety performance lead and lag indicators October to December 2022

2022-2023 Financial Year	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	FY Total
% annual review of systems reviewed	0%	0%	0%	0%
Workplace inspections completed	2	8	1	18
Number of vehicle events	3	4	0	11
Number of contractor events	0	1	1	5
Contractors successfully pre-engaged	0	1	0	2
H&S trainings completed	15	31	54	152
New workers H&S inducted	50%	93%	100%	58%
Health monitoring vaccine programmes completed				0*
Health monitoring programmes completed				0*
				FY Total
Incident investigations logged	21	30	35	145
Incident investigations completed	19	26	32	135

Full Year totals based on 2022/23 financial year

## 2. Risk management

As of the end of December 2022, there are 90 risks listed in the NRC Health and Safety Risk Register. Table 2 below shows the top ten risks for the organisation, identified by their residual risk score. Residual risk scores are calculated after all controls have been put in place, and are between one (low) and 25 (extreme).

### Risk Updates

- There have been no new risks added to the Health and Safety Risk Register since the previous reporting period. However, the trailer risks have been modified and the residual risk score for vehicle incidents increased to 10 as a result of two incidents.
- There have been no other changes to the top ten risks over the three month period from October – December 2022.
- Extended workload/stress residual risk score was increased to 12 last quarter.
- The risk register is still in the process of being transferred to Promapp.



*Table 2: Top ten Health and Safety risks as at 30 September 2022*

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Residual risk score</b>
Working with Contractors	16
COVID-19 pandemic	16
Extended workload/stress	12
Driving motor vehicles – accident related events causing injury or other trauma	10
Dealing with aggressive people – psychological harm	10
Workplace bullying and harassment <i>Note: This due to potential risk, not high numbers</i>	9
Sedentary work - working at computers and laptops (including both in the office, and at home)	8
Working under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol	8
Slips, trips, and falls	8

### 3. Injuries, incidents, and hazards

88 events were reported by staff for the October – December 2022 period, 57 of which were speeding events, including two from speeding tickets, two from public notifications to council, and the remainder picked up by ERoad units in vehicles. Figure 1 below shows injury/incident related events, as compared to hazard related events, for the previous 12 months. Note that from July 2022, speeding events have been classified as incident related, rather than hazard related and incidents greater than 10km/hr exceedance have been logged as incidents.

Staff are continually encouraged to report minor events, as these help to build the picture of the type of work NRC engages in and help with correctly assigning the associated risks. The transition to Enterprise for reporting incidents may pose a barrier to reporting in the short term as staff learn the new reporting system, however system training and encouragement to continue to report will be provided.

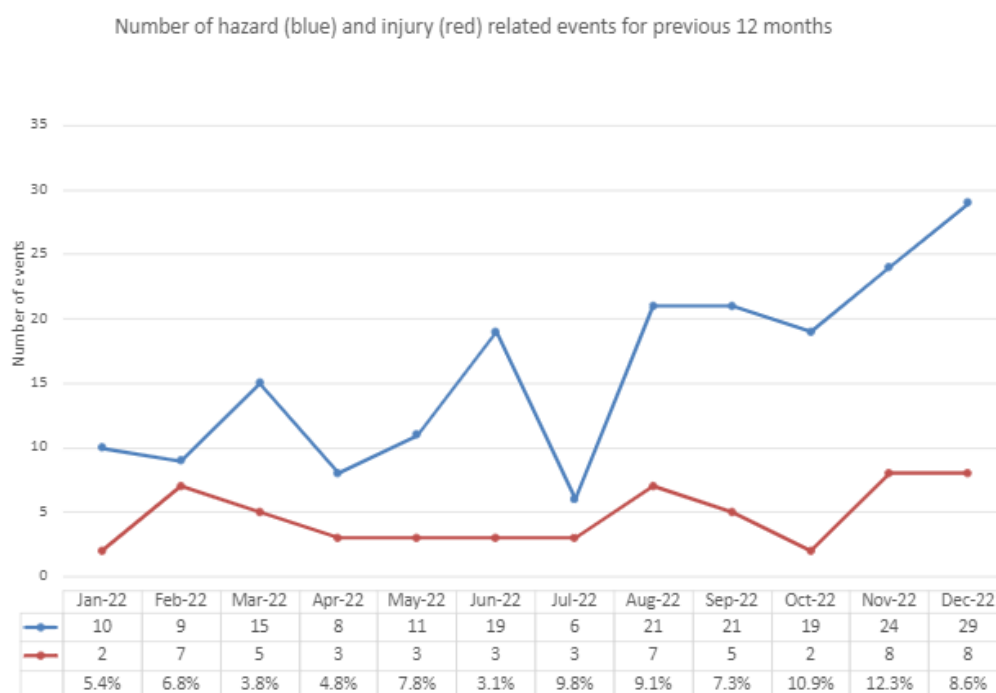


Figure 1: Number of hazard and injury/incident related events for the previous 12 months – note, speeding recording changed from 'injury/incident' to 'hazard' category from July 2022.

### Events reported

Incidents, hazards and near misses that are reported are assigned a risk description. Figure 2 below shows all event types (based on risk description) for the October – December 2022 quarter. The top two event types for this period, excluding speeding, were vehicle incidents and slips trips or falls. The vehicle incidents include a number of near miss reports, as well as minor damage to fleet vehicles and two trailer incidents (classified here as vehicle incidents, not lose objects).

Slips trips and falls also includes near miss reporting and staff reporting events that occur out in the field, and is indicative of the number of hours staff spend in the field.

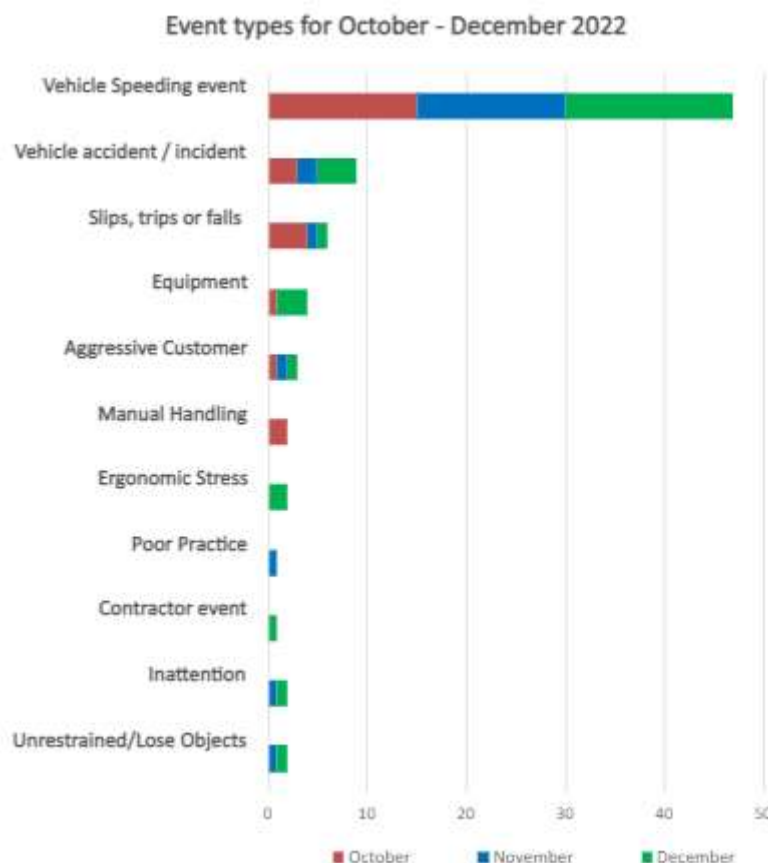


Figure 2: Event types reported for July – September 2022

Figure 3 below shows the top ten event types for the 12 month period from January – December 2022. Vehicle speeding continues to be the most common event reported (142). This includes speed camera tickets issued, and E-road reports where vehicles were recorded travelling more than 20km/hr over the speed limit (January to July) and more than 10km/hr over the speed limit (August to December). The Health and Safety Committee are reviewing speeding events and how they are followed up.

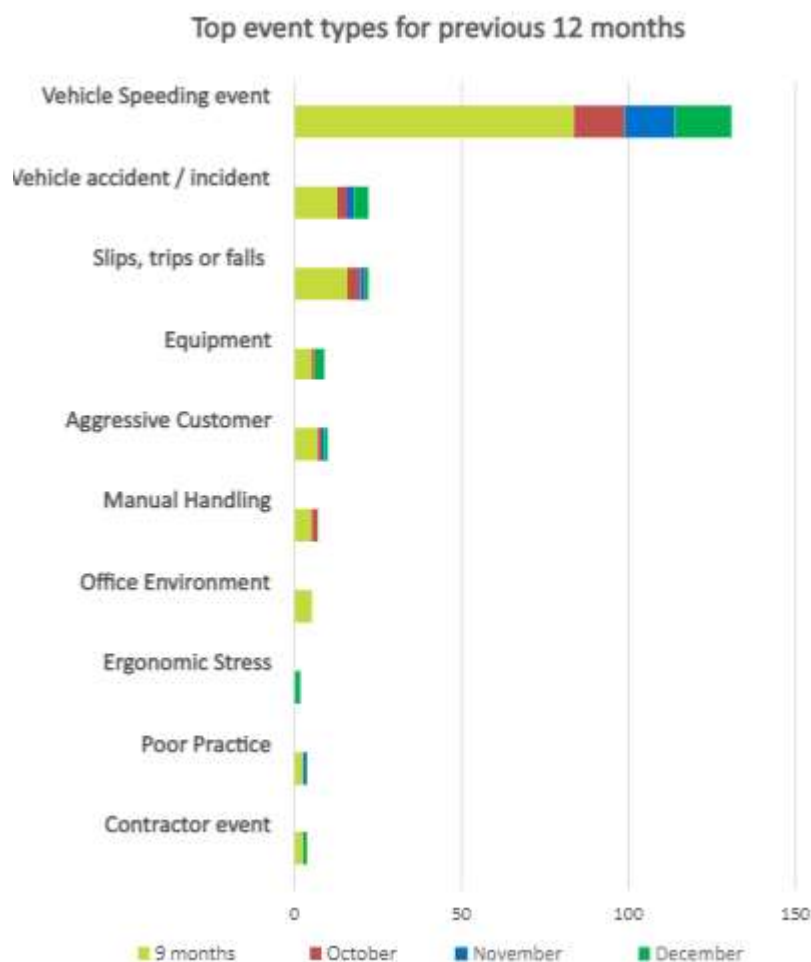


Figure 3: Top event types for previous 12 months

### Events of interest

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

The following 'events of interest' occurred in the quarter October – December 2022.

- Two incidents where trailers were involved in serious near miss incidents. In the first incident the wind-loading on the trailer contents increased the stress on the tie downs to the point both strops snapped simultaneously. The load was lost into the road, no other vehicles were present. In the second incident a trailer became detached from the tow ball during transit. Although the trailer was restrained by the double chains on the trailer, there was damage to the towing vehicle.

A focus group met to discuss trailer risks and a standard operating procedure has been drafted to address the risks associated with using trailers. This draft is currently with relevant staff for consultation.

Appropriate training has been identified for trailer users and will be rolled out to relevant staff in 2023.

- Six events where field staff tripped, slipped or fell while out in the field. One incident resulted in injury that was notifiable to WorkSafe (the staff member is now fully recovered).

- Staff were made aware of an unreported contractor near-miss incident (by another individual) two months after the event. An investigation into the incident is ongoing. In the early stages, it appears there may have been some lack of clarity around responsibilities in a contract which covers more than one component of work. When the investigation is completed any potential improvements to the contracting work system will be implemented and communicated to contract managers.

#### **4. Health and safety strategy work programme**

The new Health and Safety Advisor started in October 2022. The work programme developed at the start of 2022 will be reviewed with the Health and Safety Committee to prioritise the work focus for the next 12 months.

The external audit of health and safety, taking place in February 2023, will also inform this programme.

#### **5. Legislative changes**

October 2022 changes to Ministry of Health guidance on typhoid vaccination for workplace exposure – no longer requiring vaccination for workplace exposure to typhoid in New Zealand.

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#### **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 22  
**Group Manager/s:** February 2023

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**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 26 January 2023, be received.

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**8.2.1 HIGHLIGHTS**

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- **Field Days**
  - Northern Region Young Farmer of the Year competition will be held in Kaikohe on February 17 and this year the Land Team has been asked to run an assessment module, which we have focused on new freshwater rules. Members of the Land Team will be onsite to run our module including marking and reporting our results. There will be 20 contestants and various other supports who we also hope to engage with over the course of the day.
  - Dargaville field days, March 2-4, will have a large Land Team presence as usual, with a focus on soils, soil conservation, poplars and willows. We'll also be prepared to answer freshwater regulation queries and will have regulatory services staff in our display area to help with those queries.
- **Māori Partnerships**
  - NRC Biodiversity Team were hosted by Ngāti Kuri to explore our partnership beyond the FIF project. Ngāti Kuri goals, priorities, challenges, and solutions were discussed, and several site visits were undertaken. The visit successfully strengthened this important relationship, and some clarity was gained around future directions. Several Wetland Condition Index plots were also established, and training undertaken in measurement technique. This was the first in what will be an ongoing series of visits to continue to build the friendship and capacity for both Ngāti Kuri and NRC to effectively work together for positive biodiversity outcomes. The report can be found here: [REPORT Ngāti Kuri and NRC Biodiversity Team Kotahitanga 2022.pdf. Ngā Roto Tapokapoka wānanga planned for February 2023 was cancelled due to capacity challenges in the Ngāi Takoto taiao team.](#)

**8.2.2 CEO'S OFFICE**

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**Current Legal Proceedings**

Department	Description	Status
Consent decision appeal	Two separate consent applications for replacement and new consents relating to a proposed expansion of, Doug's Opuā Boat Yard in Walls Bay, Ōpuā	The council is waiting on further directions or a decision on the appeals from the Court.
Consent decision appeal	Irrigation of avocado orchards and horticulture crops	Parties have been in discussions regarding agreement to a set of conditions. A request is to be made to the Court for an extension until 1 March 2023 to provide a report back to the Court on progress with the conditions.

### 8.2.3 CORPORATE SERVICES

#### Enterprise Systems Update

	Status	Notes
Timeline		Working with Infor on an (simpler) solution for accounts payable and debt management
Budget		Tracking according to plan
Quality		Tracking according to plan
Key:		
		Tracking according to plan
		There are challenges, but they can be addressed at project level
		There are issues that cannot be resolved at project level, need help from the project governance group

#### Fraud Declaration

I am not aware of any fraud nor am I investigating any incidence or suspected incidence of fraud at this time.

#### Council Property Report

- NIWA Kingfish Recirculating Agriculture System (RAS) practical completion was issued to CB Civil on Friday the 9th of December 2022. This was only in relation to the CB Civil contract works including the building and core infrastructure. There was a portion of the RAS fit out elements that were not part of CB Civils contract works that NIWA continued with, including installing and making operational the oxygen supply, vacuum air lifts and the permanent seawater supply. Fish stocking is expected in February 2023, and 'facility operational' March 2023. The official opening date is not confirmed at this stage, relying on communications and arrangements with central Government and local hapu Patuharakeke.
- The Property Team and the Engineer to the Contract (EC) had a walk through the Kaipara Service Centre (KSC) to inspect resolved defects in late February as the defect period ends in April 2023. Decisions are to now be made on \$85,000 that has been held back in retentions. Council's key tenant, Kaipara District Council had 18 workings days with no air conditioning during the recent summer months due to a failure in the system. Now resolved, consideration is being given to impacts on their 'quiet enjoyment' of the premises and a request for rent relief. The Property Team and Engineer to the Contract will be pursuing the contractor for costs. The Property Team, Emergency Management Team and KDC have agreed to co-fund an in-house generator for the KSC. Council's contribution will come from existing budgets.
- The Chief Executive has approved unbudgeted expenditure for urgent roofing maintenance for Chambers and the CEO Office area of up to \$30,000 + GST for the 2022-23 financial year.
- The Chief Executive approved unbudgeted expenditure for one new vehicle (4x4 Ute) for the Kauri Protection Project of up to \$60,000 + GST for the 2022-23 financial year in December 2022 and for another (Hybrid) for up to \$50,000 + GST in February 2023. The capital is being refunded through cost recovery from external parties.

## 8.2.4 REGULATORY SERVICES

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### Consents in Process

During December 2022 and January 2023, a total of 89 Decisions were issued. These decisions comprised:

December 2022 (53)		January 2023 (36)	
• Coastal Permits	8	• Coastal Permits	7
• Air Discharge Permits	1	• Land Discharge Permits	4
• Land Discharge Permits	8	• Land Use Consents	25
• Land Use Consents	21		
• Water Permits	11		
• Water Takes	31		
• Bore Consents	1		

The processing timeframes for the December 2022 consents ranged from:

- 674 to 6 calendar days, with the median time being 35 days;
- 64 to 4 working days, with the median time being 20 days.

The processing timeframes for the January 2023 consents ranged from:

- 435 to 27 calendar days, with the median time being 71 days;
- 168 to 1 working days, with the median time being 24 days.

Thirty-eight applications were received in December 2022. Twenty-one applications were received in January 2023.

Of the 109 applications in progress at the end of January 2023:

- 38 were received more than 12 months ago;  
Reasons for being more than 12 months old:
  - Awaiting additional information (including CIAs) 14
  - Granted recently or about to be granted 2
  - Consultation with affected parties/stakeholders 7
  - On-hold pending new rules becoming operative 3
  - Other 12
- 11 were received between 6 and 12 months ago (most awaiting further information from the applicant);
- 60 less than 6 months.

### Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

No commissioners were appointed in December 2022 and January 2023.



### 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 2023 is (by number):

- Applications Publicly/Limited Notified During Previous Month 1
- Progress on Applications Previously Notified 7
- Hearings and Decisions 1
- Appeals/Objections 2

### COMPLIANCE MONITORING

The results of compliance monitoring for the period 1 December 2022 – 31 January 2023 (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	36	35	0	0	0	1
Bore Consent	13	8	4	0	0	1
Coastal Discharge	31	20	8	2	0	1
Coastal Permit	97	69	21	0	0	7
FDE – Discharge permit	1	0	0	1	0	0
Land Discharge	125	102	9	7	0	7
Land Use Consent	78	69	3	0	0	6
Water Discharge	95	63	13	16	2	1
Water Permit	102	68	1	0	0	33
Water Take	88	68	7	2	0	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>502</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>68</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>75.4%</b>	<b>9.9%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>10.2%</b>
<b>Year to date</b>	<b>3485</b>	<b>2557</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>217</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>73.4%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>6.2%</b>

### Coastal

There were ongoing coastal permit inspections in the Bay of Islands.

Bacteriological monitoring was completed for Tutukaka and Marsden Cove marinas. Monitoring continues across all other marinas as weather permits. A follow-up meeting was held with Marsden Maritime Holdings to discuss non-compliances with its stormwater discharge consent for its industrial park development at Marden Point. A meeting was also held with Northport to discuss the planned forthcoming development of a fourth berth and compliance monitoring of the relevant resource consents.

## Water, Waste, Air and Land Use (WWALU) Compliance Monitoring

- Contaminated Land Management

Fourteen incidents involving the discharge of hazardous substances and 22 enquiries regarding contaminated land were received and responded to. 960 kilograms of hazardous waste was disposed of at the amnesty days, and seven sites were added to the Selected Land-Use Register.

- Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants

WWTP/Consent Status	Issues	Enforcement Action/Response
<b>Far North District</b>		
<b>Ahipara</b> Expires 2033	Regularly non-compliant with bacteriological consent limits since June 2022.	Under ANs (reissued in September 2022). Infringement notice issued in September 2022. FNDC investigating land disposal options and has advised it will install and test a UV disinfection unit before the end of April 2023.
<b>Hihi</b> Expired 30/11/2022 (replacement consent application received)	No recent issues. Fully compliant for most of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Kaeo</b> Expired 31/10/2022 (replacement consent application received)	No recent issues. Fully compliant for most of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Kaikohe</b> Expired 2021 (replacement consent application on hold)	Intermittent non-compliances with ADW flow, ammonia and bacteriological consent limits Moderately non-compliant for most of 2022.	None currently. Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
<b>Kaitiāia</b> Expired 2021 (replacement consent application has been received)	Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-complaint in 2022	Under AN (for reticulation overflows). Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
<b>Kawakawa</b> Expires 2036	No recent issues. Fully compliant for all of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Kerikeri</b> Expires 2036	No recent issues. Fully compliant for most of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Kohukohu</b>	Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-complaint in 2022	None currently.

WWTP/Consent Status	Issues	Enforcement Action/Response
Expired 2016 (replacement consent application on hold)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
<b>Opononi &amp; Omāpere</b> Expired 2019 (replacement consent application on hold)	Compliance varied in 2022 (from fully compliant to significantly non-compliant).	<u>Under AN.</u> Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
<b>Paihia</b> Expires 2034	Plant upgraded 2019; alkalinity issues preventing optimal ammonia treatment.  Moderately non-compliant for most of 2022	None currently. Alkalinity improvement project still in progress (to optimise ammonia treatment).
<b>Rangiputa</b> Expires 2032	Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-complaint in 2022	None currently.
<b>Rāwene</b> Expires 31/8/2023	System overdue for de-sludging.  Moderately non-compliant for most of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Russell</b> Expires 2024	Occasional non-compliances with E. coli consent limit post UV.  Compliance varied in 2022 (from fully compliant to significantly non-compliant).	<u>Under AN.</u> Infringement notices issued January and June 2022. Improvements underway.
<b>Taipā</b> Expires 2029	Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-compliant in 2022.	None currently.
<b>Whatuwhiwhi</b> Expires 2025	Elevated TSS levels (consent limit may be unnecessarily restrictive). FNDC to seek consent variation to address TSS levels – however this is not a priority.  Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-compliant in 2022.	<u>Under AN</u> for odour from Tokerau Beach pump station.  No recent odour complaints.
<b>Whangarei District</b>		
<b>Hikurangi</b> Expires 2025	Intermittent issues with plant performance.  Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-compliant in 2022.	Improvements to plant performance currently underway.

WWTP/Consent Status	Issues	Enforcement Action/Response
<b>Ngunguru</b> Expires 2035	No recent issues.  Fully compliant for most of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Oakura</b> Expires 2025	No recent issues.  Fully compliant in 2022.	None currently.
<b>Portland</b> Expires 2024	No recent issues.  Fully compliant for most of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Ruakākā</b> Expires 2046	Occasional non-compliances with water quality conditions of consent  Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-compliant in 2022.	None currently.
<b>Tutukaka</b> Expires 2024	No recent issues.  Fully compliant for most of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Waiōtira</b> Expires 2030	No recent issues.  Fully compliant in 2022.	None currently.
<b>Waipū</b> Expires 2030	No recent issues.  Fully compliant in 2022.	None currently.
<b>Whangārei City</b> Expired 30/4/2022 (replacement consent conditions being finalised)	Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-compliant in 2022.	<u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant.  Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
<b>Kaipara District</b>		
<b>Dargaville</b> Expired 30/6/2022 (replacement consent granted in January 2023)	Non-compliances with water quality and discharge volume consent limits.  Moderately non-compliant for most of 2022.	<u>Under AN.</u>  Issues addressed in replacement consent.
<b>Glinks Gully</b> Expires 2024	No recent issues.  Minor non-compliances for most of 2022.	None currently.
<b>Kaiwaka</b>	Intermittent non-compliances with water quality conditions of consent (mainly bacteriological)	None currently.

WWTP/Consent Status	Issues	Enforcement Action/Response
Expired 31/10/2022 (replacement consent application received)	Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-compliant in 2022.	Issues will be addressed in replacement consent
<b>Mangawhai</b> Expires 2042	Odour complaints and occasional exceedances of TDS consent limit  Compliance ranged from fully compliant to minor non-compliance in 2022	<u>Under AN.</u>  Wastewater being dosed with odour control chemicals.
<b>Maungaturoto</b> Expires 2032	Intermittent non-compliances generally due to high rainfall  Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-compliant in 2022.	<u>Under AN</u>
<b>Te Kopuru</b> Expires 2044	Intermittent minor non-compliances with water quality parameters  Compliance ranged from fully compliant to moderately non-compliant in 2022.	KDC investigating options for improvement

### Farm dairy effluent (FDE) monitoring

FDE inspections commenced on 22 July 2022. NRC staff and the FDE contractor visited a total of 718 farms this monitoring season (40 less than last year). All farms have now been reported on. Comparisons of this season's results against last season are given in the tables below. The rate of significant non-compliance has risen this year, compared with last year. This is largely attributed to the very wet weather that the region experienced over the latter part of the season, which put extra pressure on both effluent infrastructure and management. Follow-up inspections are currently underway to re-visit all the significantly non-compliant farms. The overall rate of significant non-compliance was 8%.

#### Consented farms (541 farms)

Full Compliance		Moderate Non-Compliance		Significant Non-Compliance	
This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
379	467	128	90	34	18
70%	81%	24%	16%	6%	3%

*Non-consented farms (177 farms)*

Full Compliance		Moderate Non-Compliance		Significant Non-Compliance	
This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
127	137	30	37	20	9
72%	75%	17%	20%	11%	5%

**Environmental Incidents**

No environmental incidents were closed in December or January that resulted in a significant environmental impact.

**ENFORCEMENT**

**Abatement Notices, Infringement Notices and Formal Warnings**

The following gives the total numbers of abatement and infringement notices issued:

Action Type	Number
Abatement Notice	44
Infringement Notice	26

**Other Enforcement**

- **Breach of enforcement orders - Kaitaia**  
On 28 June 2022, NRC commenced prosecution against an individual for the breach of enforcement orders. The enforcement orders included remedial work on contaminated land which also required a resource consent. On 18 October 2022, the defendant pledged guilty. On 6 December 2022, NRC granted a resource consent for the remedial work. As the defendant needs time to undertake the remedial work, the Judge granted an adjournment to 18 April 2023 so that the parties can provide update if work has been completed and sentencing date can be allocated.
- **Earthworks & vegetation clearance within a wetland – Teal Bay**  
Charges were laid in the Whangarei District Court on 7 December 2021 against four parties for offences relating to earthworks, vegetation clearance and discharge of sediment that occurred in December 2020. A joint memorandum was signed on 28 June 2022 regarding one issue - whether the wetland is a natural wetland or a constructed wetland. This issue is relevant for some of the charges. A Joint Memorandum was filed on 20 January 2023 seeking adjournment to allow time for both parties' experts to consider the evidential statements and arrange a conference. The Registrar granted an adjournment to 18 April 2023.
- **Farm dairy effluent - Hikurangi**  
Charges were laid in Whangarei District Court against four defendants for the illegal discharge of farm wastewater that occurred in November 2021. On 24 January 2023, both parties reported to Court that there will be a meeting between NRC and the defendants so that the defendants can discuss points of difference with NRC experts before entering pleas. The meeting is planned to be in February. The next appearance is 18 April 2023 for defendants to enter pleas.
- **Discharge of contaminated water to stormwater - Whangārei**  
Charges were laid in Whangarei District Court against one defendant for offences relating to the discharge of contaminated water to stormwater network that occurred in September 2021. On

24 January 2023, the defendant pleaded guilty to one charge. Sentencing is set to be on 18 April 2023.

- *Burning of tyres – Kaiwaka*  
Charges were laid in Whangarei District Court against an individual for the burning of tyres and burying the remains in January 2022. On 24 January 2023, the defendant pleaded guilty to all three charges. Sentencing is set to be on 18 April 2023.
- *Unauthorised earthworks and discharges of sediment – Russell*  
On 1 November 2022, twelve charges were laid against an individual for offences relating to unauthorised earthworks, streamworks and discharges of sediment. The offences first became known on 2 December 2021. Court granted administrative adjournment to allow the defendant and the defence lawyer time to consider disclosure. The first appearance date is moved to 18 April 2023.
- *Unauthorised reclamation and seawall – Kerikeri Inlet*  
An application for enforcement orders was filed on 20 January 2023 against an individual who built a seawall seaward of its consented position, resulting in unauthorised reclamation of land in the coastal marine area. Enforcement orders will require the individual to remove the unauthorised reclamation and relocate the seawall to its authorised position. The Court will allocate a date for a judicial conference via Teams.

## 8.2.5 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### LAND MANAGEMENT

#### Sustainable Hill Country and Regional Priorities

Milestones	Status
<b>Soil Conservation Plans</b>	The soil conservation plan target for the final year 2022-2023 is either 136 plans or a total of 34,030 ha covered by completed plans. Staff have completed 37 soil plans covering 13,609ha to date, with 21 covering 3779ha in progress. Meeting this target by June will be a focus for the team.

#### Poplar and Willow nursery

Objective	Status
<b>Harvest</b>	The nursery continues to go from strength to strength. The trees growing under a new “clear felling” regime are surging to the point that we will produce our first ever 2-year rotation poplar 3m poles this season, in addition to producing an abundance of 1m wands. However, the severe wet and windy weather has done significant damage to our new plantings (first rotation blocks) and many poles are leaning over having “socketed” during the high winds. Our established stool beds with good root networks have coped much better with little damage. We tried to save the poles by reducing some of the height/sail area, but in many cases we have had to coppice the first rotation poles to try and save the stool. Under this scenario we’ll still get wands off these stools. Part of the problem is sodden ground due to poor drainage and a lack of established shelterbelts makes the young trees susceptible to storm damage. Drainage work will begin once it’s dry enough to get machines on site, and more shelterbelts will be incorporated when replanting new blocks.

#### Whangārei urban awa project

There are 17 fencing jobs approved so far for Y3 with three completed and two awaiting sign off. Four planting jobs have been completed in Y3. The ongoing rain is a concern for fencing contractors to be able to complete the work.

The Y3Q2 report has been submitted to the Ministry for the Environment.



### Environment fund progress

Sign-off progress so far this year has been slower than usual which is to be expected given the very wet weather during spring and early summer in Northland. So far only six projects have been completed and signed off (totalling \$76,783.80), while three have withdrawn. We expect there could be a higher number of withdrawn projects than usual this year because of the impacts of the weather. Land Management Advisors are now following up with grant recipients to check on progress.

### Upcoming events

- Further planting at the Kotuku Street dam property is planned, with news recently that our bid for grant funding for 9,900 native revegetation trees through the MPI Matariki Tu Rākau fund has been approved. Planning is now underway, including setting dates for a planting event in July with staff and a community/school event.

## BIODIVERSITY

### FIF Dune Lakes Project

Objective	Status
Aquatic weed control	Hornwort control was carried out in Lake Mt Camel North and two bays in Lake Karaka by kayak. By-kill surveys were carried out two days later as required. Approximately 130 dead common bullies were found at Lake Karaka, but none at Mt Camel North. 30 of the dead fish were collected, with the plan of testing them to determine the cause of death, but no lab has been found that can do this test. The likely cause of death is considered be natural causes (heat stress or post-spawning), although there is a possibility herbicide operation contributed. The EPA, DOC, landowners and tangata whenua have been informed.
Fencing	Fencing is underway at Rotokawau - Pōuto. Staff visited the landowner and came to an agreement on fence placement. The contractor is confident the fence can be completed by the 21 <sup>st</sup> of March. Once completed, the lake will be fully fenced on this landowner's property.



**Left to right:** James Ahi (mō Ngāti Kuri) using the toss and pull rake sampler to look at the composition and cleanliness of submerged vegetation, dirty hornwort and egeria, and Puarangi (*Hibiscus richarsonii*), one of two nationally critical native hibiscus species found in the Ngāti Kuri Rohe.





**Above:** Loren, Janie, James, Stephanie and Lisa on the boardwalk at the pristine Waitāhora lagoon.

### **Terrestrial Biodiversity**

Biodiversity staff were approached to assist with bat monitoring on a landowners property that borders the Tahere river. This landowner has a long-term relationship with the biosecurity team and has extensive pest control on his property. Monitoring bats is one way to measure the success of this valuable mahi. Survey work was undertaken in December to locate good areas for the recorders and these were deployed in early January for one week. Yet again we have a new recording of long tail bats in the Whangārei region. Disappointingly, the recordings did not indicate a roost near-by but highlighted the need for further monitoring and continued pest control.

Our NRC Biodiversity Team Manager was formally recognized for her outstanding individual contribution to plant conservation in Northland at the New Zealand Plant Conservation Conference in December 2022. Significant contributions to the conference were also made by Winiwini Kingi and both our Biodiversity Team Manager and Winiwini delivered a presentation on successful partnerships.

### **COASTCARE**

CoastCare work in December and January has included:

- Dune monitoring
- Seed collecting
- Publicity -CoastCare Newsletter sent out and media release on dune monitoring:  
<https://www.nrc.govt.nz/our-northland/story/?id=76148>
- Educational work -seed collection at Taupo Bay with Oruaiti School followed up by student run workshop on spinifex for teachers from other schools
- Preparation for events, including Seaweeek



**Above:** Students from Oruaiti School learning how to collect and sort spinifex seed at Taupo Bay and collecting some litter at the same time!

### **Wetlands and Freshwater**

Wetland plant identification training was delivered at Te Pūkenga/Northtec for staff from Biodiversity, Biosecurity, Compliance Monitoring, Land Management, Whitebait Connection and Ngāti Kahu o Torongare. Our botanical and wetland expert presented on wetland types in Te Taitokerau and participants got stuck in learning to use sedge and rush identification keys. A key outcome was identifying a need for skill development in this area and a wetland education series is being planned for March – June this year.



**Above:** Participants soaking up the learning in the Northtec lab.

Content was created with the Community and Engagement team for World Wetlands Day (2 February). A video on the significance of wetlands and various posts for social media were scheduled to go out daily during the week of World Wetlands Day.

Three Wetland Condition Index (WCI) visits were completed, with a total of 9 plots surveyed this month. So far, on average, the vegetation plots have improved in score, with a score of 15.28 out of 20, compared to 15.05 in 2019. One more site visit is planned (5 plots) for February.

Two staff spent a day at Whananaki North surveying fish barriers, such as culverts and bridges, using the NIWA Citizen Science app. This work compliments that being done by the Environmental Monitoring team and each barrier that is assessed helps to improve the NIWA algorithm for prioritising fish barriers for remediation.

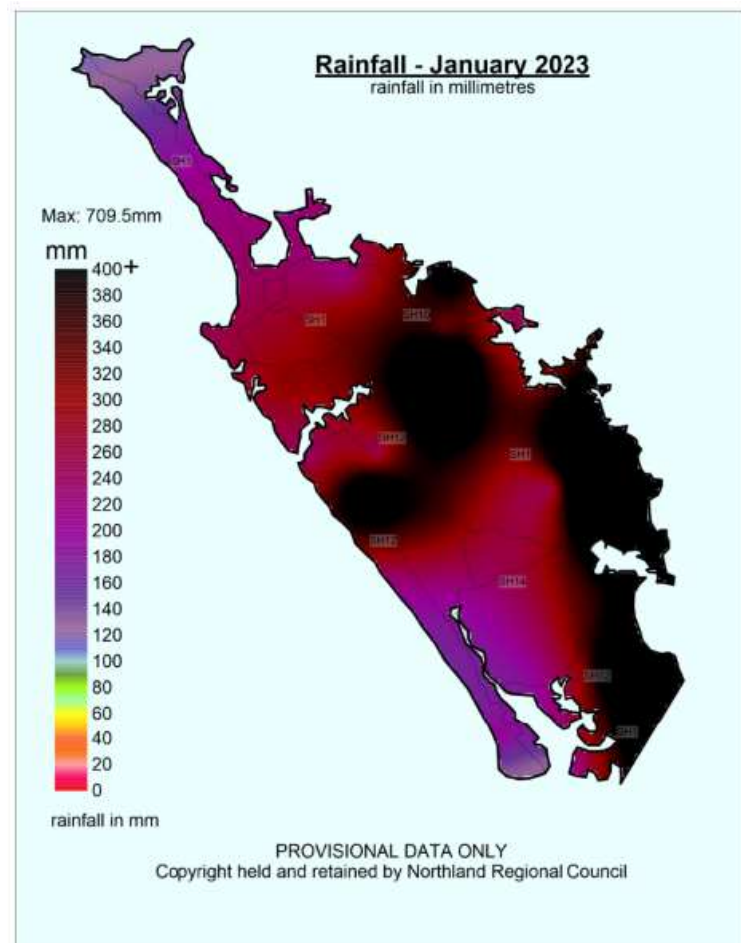
### **Biodiversity Team Partnerships**

A Biodiversity team Māori partnerships workshop with NRC's Kaiārahi Tikanga Māori – Māori Cultural Technical from the Māori Relationships team provided an opportunity to reflect on our teams' successes, challenges and next steps for growing our capacity for excellence in this arena. A key outcome was continued skill development focused on several priority areas.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

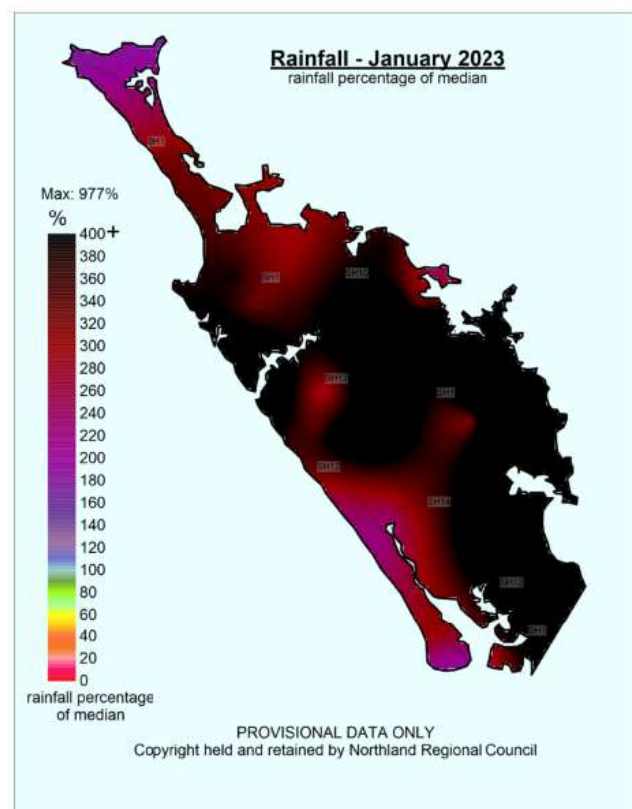
### Hydrology

#### Rainfall



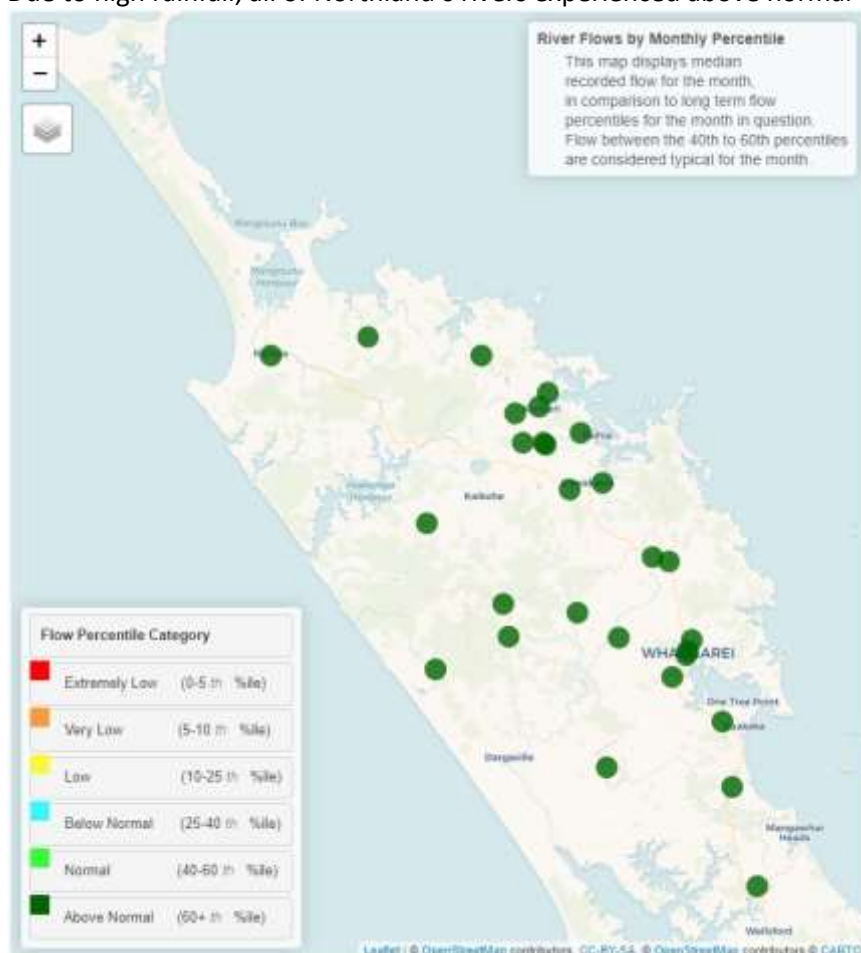
- Northland experienced extremely high January 2023 rainfall.
- The Northland region averaged 366mm for January 2023, compared to the long-term regional average of 79mm. This is 485% of normal expected rainfall.
- The highest rainfall for the month was recorded at the Hātea at Glenbervie Forest rainfall recording station with 709.5mm. The lowest rainfall was recorded at Cape Rēinga with 116.8mm.
- The highest percentage recorded was at the Whangārei Harbour at Marsden Point which received 977% (488.5mm) of expected (50mm) rainfall.

Whakapara at Puhipuhi recorded its second highest (only exceeded in 1989) January total since records began in 1905 and Hātea at Glenbervie Forest recorded its highest total for any month since 1947.



## Rivers

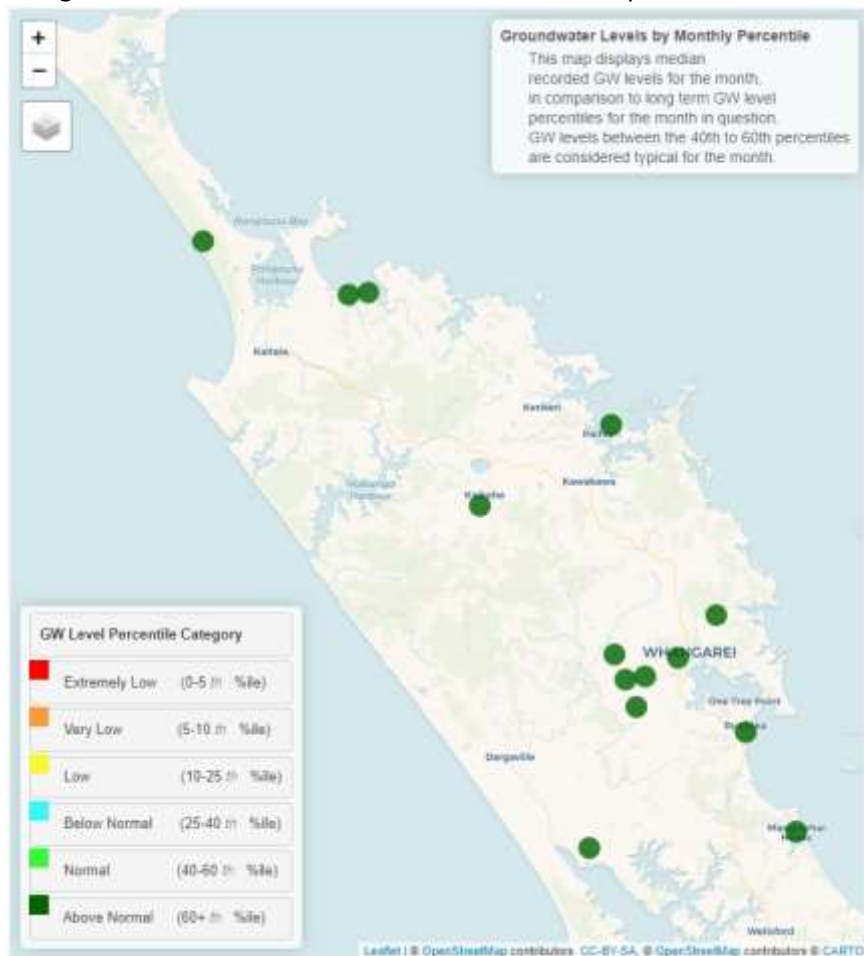
- Due to high rainfall, all of Northland's rivers experienced above normal flow for the month.





## Groundwater

- All groundwater levels in Northland's monitored aquifers are above normal for January.



## Natural Resources Science

### Freshwater Quality

- A final report and GIS deliverables for the high-resolution digital river network (DRN) model for Northland (based on regional LiDAR data) was received in January 2023. Having been derived from 1m-resolution LiDAR data, the DRN represents a significant jump in scale, accuracy and detail compared to the existing River Environment Classification (REC) a river network model at national scale. Science Freshwater will present the high-level details of this project to the Water Steering Group on 23 February 2023.

### Freshwater Ecology

- Summer monitoring is carrying on as rain and water levels allow.
- The fishing team found both bluegill bully *Gobiomorphus hubbsi* and kōaro *Galaxias brevipinnis* in a small tributary of the Punaruku river on the east coast (photos below). Both species are listed as At Risk-Declining, kōaro are one of the main whitebait species, and it is likely these are the first physical records for both species on the east coast of Northland.



- The team also found a population of kōaro in the Peria river (photo below); again, this is likely a first record of this species for Doubtless Bay.



- The contract with Pohe Environmental to sample for a nationally threatened freshwater insect (mayfly) in Mt Taika forest has not turned up the target species. However, 20% of the freshwater insect species found are of conservation interest – i.e. Threatened, At Risk, or Data Deficient. It is also possible two species are “new to science”. Pohe Environmental suggests their presence is good reason to look after the forest through policy and management.

#### Water Quantity

- An assessment of fluctuations in water level at Lake Taharoa has been published on our website: [Link here](#). This assessment was undertaken in response to the low water levels recorded in the early months of 2022. The assessment indicates that the lake has little surface inflows and outflows but has a large surface area (approximately half of the lake catchment area) resulting in large amounts of water lost via evaporation. The assessment indicates that the water level in the lake is driven by patterns of rainfall and lake evaporation.
- Low lake levels have again been recorded this year. NRC’s rainfall station at the lake indicates that last year the site received about 28% less rainfall compared to the long-term median. This together with high evaporation rates is believed to be the reason for the low water levels. <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/our-northland/story/?id=76148>

#### Water Quality Field Operations

- Freshwater ecological monitoring has been underway since December, running through to the end of March. These programmes involve collecting state of environment fish, macroinvertebrate and periphyton data. The wet weather has been a challenge as these programmes have standdown periods following significant rainfall, however staff have done a great job to remain on schedule despite the weather. Along with data collection, it has been an opportunity for outreach - training for the Auckland Council ecology team and meeting tangata whenua.
- Staff have been liaising with the Lake Ōmāpere Trust and other stakeholders in response to the ongoing algae/cyanobacteria bloom and recent bird mortality at Lake Ōmāpere. Ongoing weekly testing for cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins continues to assist the District Health Board and other stakeholders manage the human health risks.

## **POLICY AND PLANNING**

### **Freshwater plan Change**

A revised timetable for workshops with Council/TTMAC on the freshwater plan change has been confirmed, commencing on 8 March. Staff are in the process of preparing papers and background information to support these workshops.

The Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG) has continued to work on their case studies and recommendations to council on the content of council's freshwater plan change from a tangata whenua perspective. TWWAG is due to present their reports to TTMAC on 23 February for endorsement.

An introductory meeting between TWWAG and the Primary Sector Liaison Group (PSLG) is arranged for 3 March 2023 and will provide an opportunity for the two advisory groups to share their reports that are providing recommendations and feedback on NRC's freshwater plan change. TWWAG & the PSLG are scheduled to present their reports to a council workshop on 14 March 2023

A final communications push has been made to encourage the public to fill in the freshwater values and impacts survey (media release and social media).

### **Proposed Regional Plan Appeals**

Staff continue to work to resolve the remaining appeals on the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland. Key points arising since the last report include:

- **Topic 1 Coastal Activities** - The bulk of the appeals on Topic 1 have been resolved. Parties continue to work towards resolutions for the remaining issues and are hopeful of resolving these without a hearing.
- **Topic 1B Vehicles on beaches** – Discussions with parties are ongoing to resolve appeals on the management of vehicles on beaches. Staff are seeking further ecological advice to inform the council's position.
- **Topic 14 Fishing Controls** – In November the Environment Court released its decision resolving appeals on fishing controls/marine protected areas. The court confirmed no-take areas at Maunganui Bay / Te Oke Bay and Mimiwhangata, and has restricted commercial fishing in an area around Cape Brett. This decision left scope for the parties to seek minor corrections and consequential changes. Agreed wording is to be submitted to the court before 28 February and will be considered in the court's final judgement.
- **Topic 17 Outstanding Natural Landscapes** – Staff have been working with key parties and have secured agreement in principle to resolve appeals on this matter in line with the council's direction. Subject to agreement by other parties, consent documents will be filed with the Environment Court before 28 February.
- **Topic 14 General provisions and plan structure** - All appeals on these provisions have been resolved. A consent order was issued by the Environment Court on 17 January 2023.

In January parties received direction from the court for the upcoming year. A Judicial conference has been set down in March for all unresolved topics, except Topic 1B Vehicles on Beaches. For Topic 1B the court directed council to report on progress by 31 May and provided an opportunity for further mediation, if required.

## **8.2.6 BIOSECURITY**

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### **Biosecurity "NETS" conference**

The New Zealand Biosecurity Institute's National Education and Training Seminar (NETS) will be held in Northland this year - 26-28 July in Paihia. As a major sponsor of this event, we are working closely with organisers to ensure a successful event with a distinct Northland flavour that showcases the incredibly amount of Biosecurity action being taken by council, and our communities across the region.

## **INCURSIONS**

### **Wallaby sightings:**

Following the sighting last year in Waipoua forest a surveillance response was initiated with support from Tipu Matoro/Wallaby Free Aotearoa (MPI). A wallaby indicator dog that can detect wallaby droppings was used through the area, along with the establishment of a trail camera network of 25 cameras, which were deployed for six weeks. No sign of wallabies was found however bad weather and the lack of suitably qualified and available contractors impacted operations. The team is currently considering whether to expand the surveillance area.

Reports from the public from Glenbervie and Pukenui forest of a wallaby was also followed up however no further evidence has been found and surveillance involving the use of trail cameras will continue in Glenbervie Mountain Bike Park and Pukenui Forest for the next few months as a precaution.

## **WILD ANIMAL CONTROL**

### **Wild Deer Management**

Team has begun the operational planning for surveillance around several high-risk farms during the months of March and April and the roar when stags are vocal.

### **Multi-Agency Strategy**

Staff from NRC and DOC are finalising a proposed program of work to deliver a Te Taitokerau Northland deer strategy. There is the opportunity now to access funding via central government and develop an efficient and sustainable programme with the aim of eliminating the current populations and preventing any further establishment of wild deer herds into the future.

### **Russell Forest**

In preparation for the planned removal operations later in the year NRC contractors undertook additional animal control in the key sika habitat area with 21 goats, 2 pigs and 1 sika hind removed.

A working group will be pulled together to develop the sika eradication plan. This group will include representatives from NRC, DOC, hapū/Iwi with technical support from Manaaki Whenua, and eradication experts.

### **Feral Pigs**

NRC team is still receiving a high number of requests for pig traps and all the NRC loan traps are currently deployed. The new "Pig Brig" Trap purchased end of last year is proving a success and has already caught 12 feral pigs on one property.

## **FRESHWATER PESTS**

### **Koi carp**

Presence absence surveys for Koi are continuing for reports at sites outside the current containment zones with no further spread detected at this stage. Planning has begun for site-based removal at locations within the containment zones.

### **Rudd**

Following a report of Rudd in Lake Manuwai (Kerikeri) NRC participated in a joint agency netting operation with Fish and Game and DOC. No Rudd were caught but monitoring will continue as they have not previously been known from this location.





**Above:** Joint agency netting operation at Lake Manuwai. Pictured left NRC, Centre DOC and Far Right Fish and Game

### **KAURI PROTECTION**

A record rainfall during January has presented challenges around contractor access to properties and higher than normal workloads which is affecting fencing programmes and track work. There has been an extended month of wet weather, and this is likely to increase the threat of the disease spreading in waterways and via footwear and staff are mindful that extra hygiene precautions are needed when working around kauri. Staff have also been assisting Whangarei District Council with advice and planning for their reserves. Around Whangārei the Parihaka track network is experiencing increased usage, and staff have observed increased use of the hygiene stations. One of these is the Whareora track hygiene station which is being upgraded. The Drummond Track is also closed due to a large slip.

A list of other actions underway in the last month follow:

- Kaiwaka – Mountain Rd - Goat Control
- Parekura Bay – Fencing Kauri Protection Completed
- Kauri Grove Track Upgrade Rawhiti/Whangamumu Area- Contract to be let this month.
- Upper Puketotara Track Upgrade – Work started on Boardwalk / Track Upgrade
- AH Reed Kauri Park – New MK111 Hygiene Station Installed - replaced old station.
- Waorahi – Langs Beach - Barrell and Grate Station Provided
- Bream Tail – Tuariki Rd – Te Araroa Trail Link- two prototype Hygiene stations supplied and installed
- Working with community groups to monitor sterigene usage at outlying hygiene stations.
- Mair Park – MK111 Hygiene Station Installation
- Parihaka – Whareora Track network Hygiene Station Upgrade.
- Eight Stations to be upgraded from 60 litre barrels to 125 litre barrels to cope with increased track usage. Counters to be placed on tracks to obtain accurate data on track usage.
- Kauri Mountain Track Upgrade – Request for quote in preparation
- Kaiwaka Domain – Fencing around Kauri Bush Reserve

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **Northland Regional Council – Kiwi Coast partnership**

A 'Know Your Dog' workshop was held with Mahinepua-Radar Hills Landcare in January and was well attended by keen and curious dog owners. Kiwi Coast have also been working on developing a Northland Ferret Free Monitoring Protocol. Fieldwork for this project has continued in partnership

with Pāmu on their Omamari and Titoki blocks and the first two rounds of SD cards from trail cameras recording animal interactions with ZIP MotoLures – (an auto luring device) are now ready for analysis.



**Above:** Setting up ZIP MutoLure at Pamu Farm, Omamari.

#### **High Value Area (HVA) and Community Pest Control Area (CPCA) Highlights**

Along with all the usual mahi of predator control, monitoring trap catches, responding to landowner requests and recording/analysing data such as five-minute bird counts, some highlights from our HVAs in January include:

In the Kiwi Link HVA, monitoring for long-tailed bat presence using acoustic recorders was initiated in the Mt Tiger block. This will continue through January and February, which is the peak bat monitoring time. The Kiwi link community groups intend to work with bat experts at DOC and NRC to learn more and add these results to the regional database.



**Above:** Bat listening device set up alongside Upper Whareora Stream

In Tūtūkākā, a very recently hatched kiwi chick was found wet and cold by a local trappers daughter, and kept warm until it could be transferred to the Whangārei Native Bird Recovery Centre. Named

‘Kendrick’ this lucky survivor will remain in care for five-six weeks until he is ready to be released back into the wild.

***This picture will be updated***



**Above:** Kendrick the kiwi with Whangārei Native Bird Recovery Centre founder Robert Webb

In addition, two volunteer weed action events were held in January, with the main targets being Jasmine, Moth Plant, Wild Ginger and Tree Privet.

In the Piroa Brynderwyns HVA a range of exciting and innovative pest management projects are underway including a Kiwi presence survey and a ‘conservation in schools’ programme.

In the Mid-North, January has been spent following up on contacts made at the Waimate north A&P show with traps, bait, training, and advice being delivered. The Northland Correction Facility at Ngawha also delivered a further 100 trap boxes. This is a successful partnership which supplies much needed hardware to support local conservation efforts as well as teaching and adding value to those in the Corrections Facility.

In western northland, our staff are currently working with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Te Roroa on a collaborative approach to control goat populations at Maunganui Bluff for the protection of the threatened locally endemic plant Roimata o Tōhe. This approach to goat control is also being applied in the Marlborough forest where there are several CPCA projects underway. Native Forest Restoration Trust and Pupurangi CPCA are working with DOC and neighbouring forestry to manage goats at a landscape scale to make a more meaningful impact on reducing goat browsing pressure.

#### **Tiakina Whangārei – Urban Pest Control**

Our two summer interns have been working on a variety of projects within the city over the Christmas period. These include an urban waterway rat management project, installing self-setting predator traps in Parihaka Reserve, and supporting two urban community restoration groups.

**Below:** two biosecurity staff assist the trap layout in Parihaka



## PREDATOR FREE

### Predator Free Whangārei

The possum eradication project has re-established all their self-reporting live capture devices that were closed over the Xmas break. Landowner agreements are being obtained in advance of delivery in our next working block in Reotahi (60 +) and we are bolstering our interim barrier along Robinson Road and Ocean beach Coastal Strip, as progress is paused pending on the outcome of hui with Ngāti Wai.

The new year has started strongly for Predator Free Whangārei comms, with the project overview videos and Facebook page finally launched.

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/predatorfreewhangarei](https://www.facebook.com/predatorfreewhangarei)

Videos playlist: [Predator Free Whangārei](#)

### Predator Free Pēwhairangi (Bay of Islands)

Predator Free Pēwhairangi Whānui (PFPW) has progressed significantly in the last two months, with eradication strategies drafted for Predator Free Russell and Predator Free Mataroa being approved by all project partners and stakeholders.

Rakaumangamanga peninsula being developed by 3B2 Ahu Whenua Trust guided by hapū has presented their Eradication Plan (EP) which needs more adjusting to develop their eradication strategy effectively.

The PFPW project has refocused effort towards each peninsula, enabling each area to progress towards their eradication object, ensuring hapū and community can work collaboratively to achieve the objectives of their strategies.

## MARINE BIOSECURITY

### Hull surveillance

High rainfall over January which has led to poor visibility in some harbours has slowed survey work on vessel hulls however work has continued, and contractors are expected to complete the 2000 hulls required before the end of June. A table showing the number of hulls surveyed, level of fouling and vessels infected with marine pests will be available in the next report.

## PEST PLANTS

### Eradication pest plants

Cathedral Bells is a very invasive vine weed and is on the councils list of eradication species. A new site was reported by a member of the public last month. Initial control was undertaken by two staff within three days of the report confirmation. Vertical vines were cut to prevent further formation of fruit and further survey has been scheduled in the area to determine if any spread of the weed has occurred. Follow the link below to find out more about this aggressive forest invader.  
<https://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/weed-and-pest-control/pest-control-hub/?pwsystem=true&pwid=93>

The Nassella tussock program was completed with only one site having active regrowth. Out of 28 sites inspected there was no regrowth found which resulted in six Matapouri sites within the program being shifted to “Eradicated” status. Mexican Feather Grass survey resulted in finding three juvenile Mexican Feather Grass individuals regrowing on one site out of six that were inspected which was encouraging and hopefully further control will also see all plants at this site eradicated. Staff also attended the NRC stall at the Whangarei A&P show which received a lot of attention with well over 150 person engagements around weeds throughout the day.

## 8.2.7 GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

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### Te Tiriti o Waitangi Partnership

The Māori Relationships Team have continued to support council to build effective partnerships with iwi and hapū in a number of areas over December and January.

### Tu i te ora Scholarships

We now offer six Tu i te Ora scholarships of \$4000 each and a paid full time work experience opportunity (summer internship). Three of the scholarship packages are dedicated to Māori who whakapapa to Te Taitokerau. From a total of 22 applications received, eight were from Māori and five were shortlisted for interviews. Māori applicants ranged from school leavers to mature, career change candidates, from those who had lived all their lives in Te Taitokerau to those looking to reconnect with their whakapapa, and from those aspiring to be urban planners and marine hydrographers to those wanting to care for the whenua. We look forward to announcing successful candidates in the next few weeks.

### Resource Management Act reform submissions

The Government’s resource management reform bills had their first reading on Tuesday 22 November. These bills have now been referred to the Environment Select Committee – and had an initial deadline of 30 January 2023 for written submissions. Despite timing difficulties, as most were looking to shut down for the Christmas/New Year period, the Māori Relationships Team were able to support our Mana Whakahono a Rohe partners to navigate the submissions process.

### Te reo Māori interpreter services

We are proud to be able to offer a te reo Māori interpreter service for formal council and Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) meetings. We will have a certified interpreter and translator who will provide simultaneous interpretation using digital two-way technology.



## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Investment and Growth Reserve – Projects Report

Project	Update	Future developments/ reporting
Grow Northland	Reporting for work completed in period ending 31 December was due end of January.	

#### Other Work Undertaken

- **Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust** – drafted loan agreement to support construction of the Kaipara Water Scheme. To be finalised in February.
- **Northland Economic Quarterly** – December issue prepared, distributed and available online at <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/media/ev3nszm2/economic-quarterly-issue-36-december-2022.pdf>. The annual section reports the results of the 2021/22 season for four key primary industries: dairy, forestry, kiwifruit and avocado while the spotlight section examines the latest business demographic statistics for Northland. The NEQ is available through council's eNewsletter service, sign-up at: [www.nrc.govt.nz/enewsletters](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/enewsletters).
- **Freshwater Management Plan** – Continued to work with the Policy and Planning Team to estimate the costings of various mitigation options and rules for improved water quality in Northland. Completed costings report for CLUES scenarios.
- **Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (JREDC)** – Prepared and distributed Handbook to appointed members; prepared for JREDC induction session; organised meeting schedule for 2023.
- **Environmental Scan** – began preparation of report to inform development and assumptions for Long Term Plan 2024-2034.
- **Economic information** – updated TTNEAP outcome indicators for 2022.

#### ONLINE CHANNELS

A wet January and the red alert weather warning/state of emergency declaration meant a jump in the number of pages viewed across the website. These increased from 61,700 in December to more than 122,000 in January. The environmental data hub, webcams and civil defence information were the most popular pages visited.

#### Most popular content on Facebook:

December 2022 – Environment Court establishes new no-take fishing areas in Northland (Media release) Thursday 15 December. Reaching 68,833 with engagement of 25,922.

January 2023 – If you live in an airshed around Taitokerau Northland, there are burning restrictions in place (campaign post regarding backyard burning) Friday 20 January. Reaching 8,416 with engagement of 1,433.

\*Engaged – number of people who 'reacted', commented or shared the post

Key Performance Indicators	Sep-22	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23
<b>WEB</b>					
# Visits to the NRC website	24,318	41,197	31,528	38,081	48,053
E-payments made	25	17	12	11	8
# subscription customers (cumulative)	1,353	1,352	1,338	*N/A	1,316
<b>SOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)</b>					
# Twitter followers	1,595	1,601	1,595	1,594	1,620

# NRC Facebook followers	11,045	11,101	11,147	11,244	11,366
# NRC Overall Facebook Reach	43,071	134,778	163,619	105,583	108,407
# NRC Engaged Daily Users	2,800	5,098	6,074	21,571	8,159
# CDEM Facebook fans	27,186	27,231	27,280	27,314	30,047
# CDEM Overall Facebook Reach	64,756	36,666	53,163	32,996	341,031
# CDEM Engaged Daily Users	5,482	2,318	4,768	991	61,224
# Instagram followers	1,568	1,575	1,583	1,613	1,613

*\*Not available due to the Christmas/New Year break*

## ENVIROSCHOOLS / EDUCATION

During December, these four enviroschools carried out successful sharing and decision-making sessions:

Enviroschool	Stage
Kerikeri Kindergarten	Green-Gold – sustainability is fully integrated
Portland School	Silver – increasing breadth and depth of learning and action
Totara North School	Silver
First Ave Kindergarten	Bronze – laying the foundations



*Cr Jack Crow and Casey Mitchell hold up First Ave Kindergarten's new Enviroschools sign.*



*Portland School's evidence that they are a Silver Enviroschool is displayed on their ngā maunga.*



*Cr Marty Robinson and the Totara North School Reflection team.*



*Cr Marty Robinson congratulates Kerikeri Kindergarten on becoming a Green-Gold Enviroschool.*

January was a month of planning and preparation:

- Te Moana Enviroschools Encounter events – Pahi, Taipa and Whangārei
- Kauri dieback, Wild animals, Kaipara Moana Remediation, Predator Free Whangārei and Predator Free Te Taitokerau – mahi tahi

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

### **Paparoa Show**

Biosecurity pest animals and weeds were the main focus of Northland Regional Council's stand at the Paparoa Show on Saturday 4 February. The show was very busy this year, with lots of pest animal enquiries received and a number of people wanting to buy traps.

### **Waitangi Day**

Northland Regional Council's stand at Waitangi Day on 6 February was primarily focused on safe boating, freshwater and the freshwater plan change process, and how people want us to communicate with them and involve them in what council does. There were plenty of people through the stand and good interest from and discussions with people throughout the day, particularly around freshwater.

### **Media liaison**

In total, 14 Northland Regional Council media releases and three Civil Defence media releases were created and distributed to media throughout Northland during the two-month period of December and January. Topics included:

- Establishment of council committees
- Biodiversity manager winning national award
- Environment Court establishing new no-take fishing areas
- Kerikeri Kindergarten Enviroschools Green-Gold
- Whangārei's Hopua te Nihotetea water detention dam
- Mangamuka repairs funding from Government
- Freshwater plan change
- Late January weather event

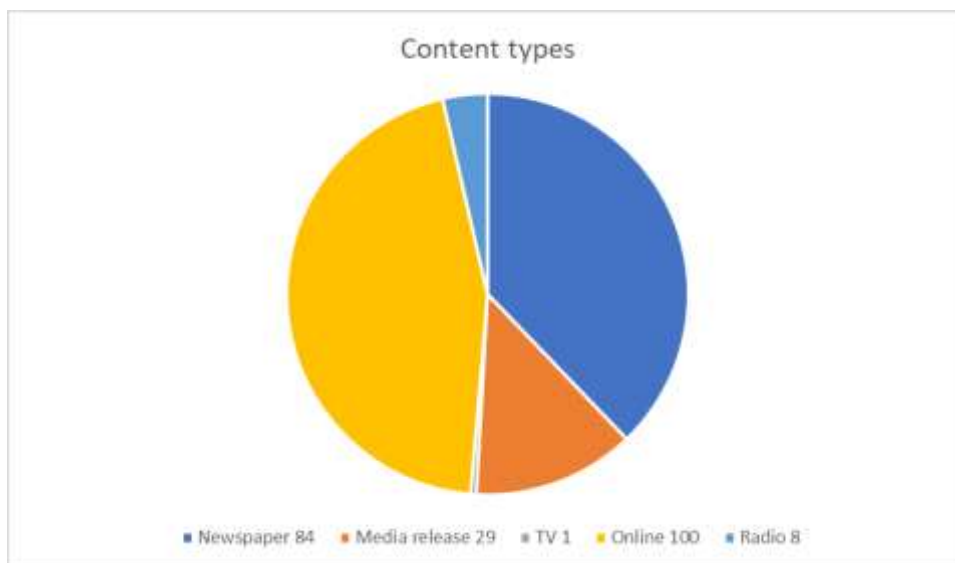
Combined, this activity helped generate 225 items mentioning Northland Regional Council as reported by media monitoring agency Fuseworks.

Top five sources of Northland coverage were:

1. Northern Advocate (53)
2. TVNZ (24)
3. Bay Chronicle, Northern News, Whangarei leader (19)
4. NZ Herald (11)
5. RNZ (8)



Content types were split as follows:



#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL INFORMATION (LGOIMA) REQUESTS

Total LGOIMAs	December 2021 to January 2022 (2 months reporting)	December 2021 to January 2022 (2 months reporting)
	23	20
Number of LGOIMAs not responded to within 20 working days		0

#### CUSTOMER SERVICES

##### Telephone inbound call statistics and enquiries

	Nov	Dec	Jan 2023
Call volume via Customer Services	1535	1273	1303
Average wait time	9.2 sec	9.6 sec	9.6 sec
Calls answered in under 30 seconds	1515	1189	1206

##### Telephone call volume over the last three years

	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Call volume via Customer Services	20812	30566	23669

##### Mailroom email processing performance

	Nov	Dec	Jan 2023
Mail processed	782	697	536

## Satisfaction monitoring

### Feedback cards, compliments, and complaints

Compliments received	Total
December	0
January	
City Link security guard went above and beyond	1
<b>Total compliments recorded</b>	<b>1</b>

Complaints received December	Total
City link	4
Total Mobility	2
<b>Total complaints recorded</b>	<b>6</b>

The complaints have been resolved or referred.

Complaints received January 2023	Total
City link (request transferred)	1
Poplar pole (request open)	1
Funding (request closed)	1
<b>Total complaints recorded</b>	<b>3</b>

## 8.2.8 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

### TRANSPORT

#### Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport

The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS) sets the Government's priorities for land transport investment. The GPS is reviewed every three years provides a 10-year horizon on how spending will be prioritised in the transport network.

On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023, the Ministry of Transport released the "*Indicative Strategic Priorities – Developing the Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 – Engagement Paper*". This document provides an early indication of the government's strategic priorities of the Draft GPS 2024/2027, expected to be released in March 2023 for comment.

#### Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027

Section 13(1)(a) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 states that "*Every 6 financial years, each regional council must ensure that the relevant regional transport committee prepares, on the regional council's behalf, a regional land transport plan*".

Section 18CA(1) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003 stipulates that "*A regional transport committee must complete a review of the regional land transport plan during the 6-month period immediately before the expiry of the third year of the plan*".

The paper "*Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - Three Year Review*" was presented to the RTC outlining the requirement to perform a three-year review of the existing Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 in accordance with requirements of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

A decision to undertake a review or a complete rewrite of the Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 was not made at the first meeting held on 7 February 2023. The RTC has requested more time to make a decision on this.

### Regional Road Safety Action Plan

The Regional Road Safety Action Plan (RSAP) is an evidence-based document aligning with relevant Government Policy Statements, National Safety Strategies (Road to Zero Strategy), Regional Land Transport Plans, district road safety plans and includes data from the Community Risk Register, hospital statistics, etc.

The above assists in determining the prioritisation of road safety focus areas in the region. Specific actions will be defined and implemented along with agreed indicators to track the results.

The RSAP will be updated annually with the issues, actions and indicators being modified as needed to maximize benefits.

### Bus Services

\*BusLink figures are reported one month in arrears, due to the required information being unavailable at the time of the agenda deadline

Bus Link stats for Nov 22/Dec 2022 (revenue excl GST)	Actual	Budget	Variance	Year / Date Actual	Year / Date Budgeted	Variance
CityLink Passengers	54,141	51,539	2,602	177,601	164,564	13,037
CityLink Revenue	\$73,241	\$66,485	\$6,756	\$227,424	\$212,288	\$15,136
Mid North Link Passengers	576	360	216	1,372	1,040	332
Mid North Link Revenue	\$761	\$1,596	\$835	\$3,618	\$4,611	\$993
Hokianga Link Passengers	147	108	39	414	312	102
Hokianga Link Revenue	\$931	\$751	\$180	\$2,401	\$2,170	\$231
Far North Link Passengers	774	750	24	2,193	2,190	3
Far North Link Revenue	\$2,127	\$2,100	\$27	\$5,658	\$6,132	\$474
Bream Bay Link Passengers	120	54	66	326	164	162
Bream Bay Link Revenue	\$417	\$389	\$28	\$1,577	\$1,181	\$396
Hikurangi Link Passengers	33	54	21	108	156	48
Hikurangi Link Revenue	\$50	\$141	\$91	\$193	\$407	\$214

### Passengers Carried

- Farebox figures include actual fares taken, the government 50% fare top up subsidy allocation and the SuperGold funding allocated to each service.
- The 50% fare subsidy is in place until 30 June 2023 when it will be replaced with Community Connect subsidy for Community Card holders.
- Passenger numbers include Adult / Child /SuperGold (where applicable)

### Passengers Carried

The number of passengers carried on all services in November 2022 and December 2022 showed an increase with the exception of the Hikurangi Service.

For the Mid North Service, whilst passengers increased, the farebox revenue was below budget due to the increased number of SuperGold Card passengers carried at reduced fares.

### Antisocial Behaviour

Antisocial behaviour continues to pose problem on urban buses mainly at peak times.

### National Bus Driver Shortage

Whilst the bus driver shortage remains a serious concern country wide, councils contracted services have managed to continue normal scheduled services to this point.

The employment of new drivers is posing an ongoing problem due to both the national shortage and the ongoing anti-social behaviour experienced on public and school buses. This has had a detrimental effect on the implementation of the proposed scholar bus services in Whangarei.

### Summer Beach Buses

Summer Beach Buses ran between Whangārei and Ocean Beach and Ruakaka Beach every Thursday from 22 December 2022 to 26 January 2023.

### BusLink Christmas Promotion – Friday 23 December

Christmas shopping was made easier again this year with free bus travel on Friday 23 December 2022 on all BusLink and CityLink services, along with Northland Regional Council and bus operators.

### Community Connect

Community Connect is a government driven national programme to make public transport more affordable for Community Services Card holders by providing a 50% concession on contracted public transport services. This initiative was off the back of the 50% offered to all passengers on contracted bus services.

Due to the government's announcement that the bus fare subsidy, which was to expire at the end of January 2023, is to continue 1 July 2023, the Community Services Card initiative has been put on hold.

### CityLink Facebook promotion

In an effort to increase the number of CityLink Facebook followers, a promotion campaign was run in November 2022 and December 2022 where respondents went into a draw to win a prize. This resulted in an increase from an average of 317 to 670 followers by the end of December 2022.

### Total Mobility Scheme (TM)

Total Mobility Scheme figures are reported one month in arrears, due to the required information being unavailable at the time of the agenda deadline.

	Total Clients	Monthly Actual Expend	Monthly Budgeted Expend	Monthly Variance	Year / Date Actual Expend	Year / Date Budgeted Expend	Annual Variance
<b>Whangārei</b>							
<b>November 2022</b>	1320	\$34,331	\$25,000	(\$9,331)	\$154,741	\$125,000	(\$29,741)
<b>December 2022</b>	1329	\$29,073	\$25,000	(\$4,073)	\$183,814	\$150,000	(\$33,814)
<b>Far North</b>							
<b>November 2022</b>	147	\$817	\$5,800	\$4,983	\$6,058	\$29,000	\$22,942
<b>December 2022</b>	156	\$1,109	\$5,800	\$4,691	\$7,168	\$34,800	\$27,632

### Total Mobility figures for Whangārei

The government announced in January 2023 that the half price Total Mobility fares have been extended indefinitely.

Current figures for Whangarei show a year to date overspend of \$33,814. Whilst this is presently fully funded by the government, moving forward councils will have to discuss with Waka Kotahi on the process and extension and more importantly how this overspend will be funded/ managed.

### Total Mobility Working Group Meeting

Transport Operators and agencies met on 1 December 2022 and discussed the following issues:

- Ridewise 1 (electronic payment system) enhancements and bug fixes
- Continuation of discounted Total Mobility fares and the resultant budget over-spend
- Accessible Strategy
- Recommended changes to the Total Mobility client assessment forms
- Challenges with taxis in the Whangarei district

### Total Mobility – Far North

Council is continuing to try and source other Transport Operators to join the Total Mobility Scheme in the Far North.

### Making Northland Accessible – 7 December 2022

A letter was sent to 1329 active Total Mobility clients, to have their say/ give feedback on the four councils Accessible Strategy: <https://www.wdc.govt.nz/Whats-new/Have-your-say/Current-Consultations/Accessibility-Feedback-2022>

### Total Mobility – Hoist Vehicles

Approved provider Freedom Companion Driving have withdrawn their wheelchair hoist vehicle due to a lack of demand.

### Total Mobility – Service Providers (Taxi Operators)

A1 Cabs and Kiwi cabs have stated that they are experiencing a driver shortage and are struggling to keep up with the demand in Total Mobility trips due to the governments discounted fares Scheme.

### Road Safety Update – Year to date figures 2023

Fatalities	Far North	Whangārei	Kaipara	Northland	National
Local roads	3	8	1	12	173
State highways	13	7	2	22	167
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>340</b>

For the four-year period 2019 to 2022, the following fatal numbers are reflected:

2019	2020	2021	2022
29	28	33	38

For the 2022 calendar year to date, there have been 34 deaths on Northland's roads:

Drivers	Passengers	Motorcyclists	Cyclists	Pedestrians
3	2	0	0	0

The breakdown of ages in regard to the 2023 fatalities reflect:

< 14 years	15 – 19 years	20 – 24 years	25 – 39 years	40 – 59 years	60+ years
0	0	1	1	3	0

### Motorcycle Safety - Ride Forever (R4E) Rider Training Year to date - Update

- 2019/2020 – 240 riders completed the Bronze/Silver/Gold courses.
- 2020/2021 – 186 riders completed the Bronze/Silver/Gold courses
- 2021/2022 – 182 riders completed the Bronze/Silver/Gold courses
- 2022/2023 – 135 riders have completed the Bronze/Silver/Gold courses for this financial year to date.

- Bronze Course – 48
- Silver Course – 42
- Gold Course – 45

### **Waka Kotahi & NZ Police Road Safety Promotion/Media**

Road safety promotional and media related themes for the above-mentioned months were concentrated around:

- Alcohol
- Motorcycling
- Drugs
- Distractions
- Speed
- Seatbelts
- Fatigue.

At a local level, Northland produces radio messages, print messaging, bus backs messages along with other social media to promote road safety specific to Northland and complimenting the 'Road to Zero' and 'Safe System Approach.' Further discussions are continuing with other road safety partners including the Northland Rugby Union.

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

### **Activations and emergencies**

During January there have been a series of MetService weather warnings, including heavy rain been a series of MetService weather warnings, including heavy rain warnings and watches, thunderstorm watches and warnings and strong wind watches and warnings for Northland. All watches and warnings are monitored by the CDEM on call personnel.

As an indication of the rainfall for the month of January, Whangarei received 489 mm, which is more than six times its average, whilst Kaikohe had 527 mm or five times its average.

On 9 January the MetService issued a heavy rain watch for the Northland area south of the Bay of Islands. The watch was later upgraded to a heavy rain warning (Ex-tropical Cyclone Hale). Water levels in rivers were already high due to rain the previous week.

Several local roads, State Highway 1 at Ruakaka, and State Highway 15, were closed due to flooding or slips. Flights into and out of the Whangārei airport were also cancelled. Agencies and stakeholders operated in enhanced BAU to manage the impacts.

On 26 January the MetService issued a heavy rain warning for Northland for a period of 24 hours from 10:00 pm Thursday 26 January, to 10:00 pm Friday 27 January, as well as a thunderstorm watch for 16 hours from 6:00 pm Sunday 29 January to 10:00 am Monday 30 January. 100 to 130 mm of rain was forecast.

The CDEM Duty Officer and hydrologists monitored the event and provided situation update to key stakeholders.

This rain system brought significant and damaging impacts to the Auckland region overnight 27 and 28 January, resulting in a declaration of State of Emergency for the Auckland region late on the 27 January.

State Highway 1 at the Brynderwyns was closed due to numerous slips, and various other local roads were closed. Access into Northland was disrupted due to flooding and slips on the State Highway and alternate roads into the Northland region from Auckland.

### **Red Weather Warning and declaration of State of Emergency for Northland**

Immediately following the Auckland weather emergency the MetService issued an orange heavy rain warning for Northland for the 22 hours from 2.00 pm Sunday 29 January to 12:00 pm Monday 30 January, for 90 to 120 mm rain, along with a severe thunderstorm and strong wind watch.

On 29 January MetService upgraded the warning to a red heavy rain warning, with a watch still in place for severe thunderstorms and a strong wind watch for Northland.

Red warnings are only issued by the MetService for the most impactful events. This was Northland's first red weather warning.

MetService were forecasting rainfall of 120 to 170 mm in the north and east with the potential for localised areas to receive 170 to 270 mm, for a period of 27 hours from 3:00 am Tuesday 31 January through to 6:00 am Wednesday 1 February, with localised falls of 25 to 40 mm/h, or possibly more.

Key stakeholders were advised and across agency coordination commenced.

An Incident Management Team (IMT) was established at Kaitia, and Fire and Emergency New Zealand, NZ Police, St John, NZ Defence Forces, the DHB, Councils, community groups, iwi, welfare agencies, and others began planning and preparations for flooding and evacuations, including bring in additional personnel and resources into the region.

At 9.00 am on Monday 31 January key agencies and others considered whether a declaration of State of Local Emergency was necessary for the Northland region. The decision to seek an emergency declaration was made in consultation with stakeholders and elected officials as a precautionary step ahead of the anticipated weather. The reason for doing it was to enable the use of the emergency powers to protect life and property which are available under the Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Act 2002

At 1.00 pm on 31 January the Chair of the Northland CDEM Group, Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford signed a Declaration of state of Emergency for Northland.

A number of media releases, communications, interviews with radio and television networks, including live updates were made during the lead up to and during this emergency event. Of note is the reach of several of the Facebook posts with several posts reaching in excess of 55,000 users and one post exceeding 65,000.

As it eventuated the powers were not required, and the declaration was terminated at 10.00 am on 1 February.

An initial internal hot de brief has been held and a wider across agency de brief is scheduled for later in the month.

Note: Northland has had a total of 5 declared local emergencies since 1973. The recent declaration is the second under the current legislation since 2002.

Offers of personnel have been made to Auckland to assist in the response.

### **Tsunami Siren Replacement Project**

The Northland Tsunami Siren Replacement Project continues to process and the project team is working through the final locations, building and resource consenting, tendering documents for installation along with a communications plan to engage with communities and others.

Installation of the sirens is estimated to commence mid-year.

### **Civil Defence National appointment**

The Chief Executive of the National Emergency Management Agency has announced the appointment of John Price, ONZM, as the new Deputy Chief Executive Emergency Management and Director for Civil Defence Emergency Management.

John Price has been a member of the New Zealand Police since 1987 and is the current District Commander for Canterbury District. He will join NEMA on 13 March following his retirement from the NZ Police.

Roger Ball will continue to be Acting DCE and Director until this time.

### **Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and Coordinating Executive Group Meetings**

The next meetings of the Northland CDEM Group and CEG are scheduled for Tuesday 7 March.

### **Vacancies and recruitment**

There are currently two vacancies within the CDEM team, for an Emergency Management Specialist and a Welfare Specialist. Recruitment is underway for both positions.

### **MARITIME**

There were 43 maritime incidents reported in December and January. This is very low for this time of the year. A major contributing factor to this was the severe weather during January which saw fewer vessels on the water.

The number of maritime safety patrols completed by the maritime teams were also reduced by half in response to the poor weather. Call outs for incidents at the same time increased over the holiday period. However, the contracted safety ambassadors based in the far north, and northeast coast have been actively working to provide safer boating advice and engaging with remoter communities. They are also scheduled to attend Waitangi Day to represent NRC.

11 mooring incidents mostly illegal occupation were also reported. There were 13 accident type reports from vessels sinking on moorings to capsizes. There were 6 speed related incidents. Three abandoned vessels were also disposed of.

Seven enforcement actions were undertaken: for obstruction of a navigation channel, excessive wake, failing to give way, mooring piracy, and three speeding offences.

Staff also dealt with numerous vessels dragging anchor, near misses, floating debris and groundings.

Twenty-eight cruise ships were scheduled into the Bay of Islands for December and January. Unfortunately, two factors affected shipping this season. MPI were carrying out strict hull clean checks that resulted in 5 ships been declined permission over this period to enter the Bay of Islands or Fiordland. The remaining 7 were cancelled due to cyclonic weather systems that created high winds and swell conditions. They either found other safe ports to stay in, or were declined entry by the Harbourmaster due to the weather. Overall, 12 ships were cancelled over this period.

Of the 45 ships scheduled to visit the Bay of Islands this season, 20 have so far been cancelled by MPI or weather conditions. This is the worst cancellation record we have had.



The Waikare II build continues at Circa Marine in Whangārei with the hull taking shape. Once the hull plating is completed the vessel is turned so interior work and the deckhouse can begin.





The engines have arrived, having been ordered in March 2022. Some gear is still on order such as gear boxes, some parts of which were previously manufactured in the Ukraine. The circa project manager visited the Waikare in Opuia and met with staff to discuss details on arrangements. Close liaison is ongoing to ensure the build meets requirements.





Hatea river dredging commences this week as part of scheduled work to keep the channel clear for vessel access to the town basin and repair yards. Staff are continuing to deal with sunken wrecks with the budget fully spent this year.

## RIVERS

Work Streams	Status	Comments
<b>Awanui Flood Scheme Upgrade</b>	Year 3 of 3 year accelerated programme	<p>Wet January weather has slowed our earthworks season. If this weather continues this will have a detrimental effect on completing our summer works programme.</p> <p><b>Dunn Street</b> work is now largely completed.</p> <p><b>Northern Stopbanks (LHS)</b> Site 16 near JNL sawmill is nearing completion and earthworks will continue downstream.</p> <p><b>Matthew's Park Spillway &amp; Bench;</b> Wet weather has delayed the start to the Matthew's Park Spillway. However, we are preparing for work at 69 SH-1 location directly downstream from SH-1 Bridge.</p>

Work Streams	Status	Comments
		<p><b>Lower Whangatane SH10;</b> work is continuing with importation of surplus material from other ASU worksites and overburden from the local quarry.</p>  <p>Lower Whangatane Spillway SH-10 – Stopbank set-back to give "Room for the River" and allowing for Climate Change projections.</p>
<p><b>Otiria/Moerewa Flood Mitigation Spillway and Bridge</b></p>		<p>We would like to share the video produce by Kanoa, for this project this was filed for stage 1 moving forward into Stages 2 &amp; 3</p> <p>Whenua Māori has been negotiated with our people to allow this spillway to happen, this has been strongly hapu lead and with Manaakitanga, knowing we don't want to repeat grievance, it's been very game changing and learning for our NRC team, around Tangata Whenua concerns, and their Kawa. We are achieving momentum in this kaupapa with everyone being involved.</p> <p><a href="https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/751071954">https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/751071954</a></p> <p>The dawn blessing for stage 2 bridge construction happened on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, arriving at 4.30am to set up the site. We were joined by landowners, locals, kaitiaki, stage 2 contractors, the minister and a local horse to bless the site before earthworks begin.</p> 

Work Streams	Status	Comments
		<p>January saw the start of construction for the new Pokapu Road Bridge. Four piles have been drilled and set with the remaining four waiting until the river level has dropped from the recent rainfall.</p>  <p><i>GKH – drilling the first of eight piles</i></p>  <p><i>KCL earthworks at bridge site</i></p>

## CLIMATE ACTION OVERVIEW

### Mitigation

NRC's corporate Emissions Reduction Plan is in development and being led by Tonkin and Taylor. This will involve input from every aspect of Council's business and will include updated science-based targets. The ERP will also identify a potential set of key actions that will reduce our emissions sufficiently whilst providing best 'bang for buck'. It is likely some of these will need to be included in the forthcoming Long-Term Plan. The consultant's final report is due end of April.

A survey has also been completed outlining the emissions footprint generated by staff in their travel to and from work. This will also be factored into our overall corporate emissions profile and included in actions under the ERP.



NRC has also achieved Toitu carbonreduce certification this year with last year's total net emissions equalling 1,006.57 tonnes of CO2 equivalent (not including staff commute emissions).

### Adaptation

- The Water Resilience Fund (\$500k p.a.) is nearly fully allocated for the next two financial years. Staff continue to work with potential applicants for the remainder of the funds and seek additional funding mechanisms. The policy has been well received and shows a clear path from problem to on-ground action that could be extended into other climate action (refer summary below).

## Water Resilience Fund – LTP Year 1-3 allocations

LTP Year 1 2021-22 (\$477,600)	LTP Year 2 2022-23 (\$500,000)	LTP Year 3 2023-24 (\$365,000)
<b>Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa</b> <u>Tūtū Te Wai project</u>  <b>\$327,600</b>	<b>Te Puna Aroha Putea</b> <b>Whakapapa</b> <u>Otiria Te Kaha o te Wai</u>  <b>\$230,000</b>	<b>Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine</b> <u>Tanks A Lot</u> <u>Pipiwai/Kaikou, Motatau, Waiomio,</u> <u>Matawaia, Orauta/Ngapipito</u>  <b>\$225,000</b>
<b>Te Kotahitanga E Mahi</b> <b>Kaha Trust</b> <u>Waikotihē Puna &amp; Te Kotahitanga</u> <u>Marae &amp; Community</u>  <b>\$150,000</b>	<b>Te Kotahitanga E Mahi</b> <b>Kaha Trust</b> <u>Waima, Tautoro and Utakura</u>  <b>\$120,000</b>	<b>Te Kotahitanga E Mahi Kaha</b> <b>Trust</b> <u>Waima, Tautoro and Utakura</u>  <b>\$140,000</b>
	<b>Te Roroa Development</b> <b>Group</b> <u>Kaihu Wai Inu Pai project</u>  <b>\$150,000</b>	

- A new round of funding is being stood up to enable Iwi Hapū Environmental Management Plans (IHEMPs) to be augmented from a climate action/climate change point of view. This is due to commence shortly and will provide the first phase of targeted funding to encourage climate resilience across Taitokerau communities. A second phase will occur in the middle of the year and will look to promote more on-ground planning and action.
- The contract to review the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) for climate action best practice has commenced. Final report is due end of March 2023.
- Staff continue to support and guide the development of Community Adaptation Planning projects with our district Council partners. Kaipara District is most advanced and are hosting a number of community panel and public meetings seeking to tease out how best to manage the Raupō/Ruawai flats over the next 100+ years. NRC's support has been in programme design, guidance, engagement support and via a new model of the Raupō Drainage Scheme that incorporates the latest climate information. See: <https://www.kaipara.govt.nz/adaptive-pathways>

King tides Taitokerau initiative was made live in January 2023 and encourages locals to identify low lying spots that are already subject to coastal inundation, and will likely require some form of management response <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/climate-change/king-tides-taitokerau>



### Natural Hazards

A temporary contractor is filling in the critical role of natural hazards advice as recruitment has proven difficult. This is a key role for council and fulfils a knowledge broker role between technical science (e.g. modellers) and end users (e.g. Civil Defence, the public, agencies).

Current key investigations underway include:

- Work is underway on developing a regional approach to flood risk management to inform investment and adaptive decision-making. Beca has been engaged to coordinate this work and is identifying current practice and best practice elsewhere. This work is intimately tied into the Long Term Plan and is due for completion in the middle of the year.
- A new detailed hydraulic model of the Raupō Drainage scheme has been completed and is contributing to Kaipara's community adaptation planning project.

### Policy, Research and Network Updates

#### Policy

- Final guidance on how Councils are supposed to 'have regard to' the National Adaptation Plan and Emissions Reduction Plan has been published <https://environment.govt.nz/news/rma-guidance-note-for-local-government-on-the-national-adaptation-plan-and-emissions-reduction-plan/>.
- Direct engagement is occurring with MfE about the pros and cons of our joint mahi developed and set out in the Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy (and to inform development of the Climate Adaptation Bill). This is expected to result in workshops in the early new year to review and 'test' new climate adaptation policy being developed by the government. A workshop with MfE staff is scheduled for end of March.
- The Environmental Defence Society has published a think-piece on the ins and outs of 'managed retreat'. Their intent is to inform the Climate Adaptation Bill <https://eds.org.nz/our-work/policy/projects/climate-change-adaptation/>
- Staff remain involved in the 'end user' reference group to review and update the 2017 coastal hazards and climate change guidance. This work is ongoing and it is uncertain yet as to when it is likely to be finalised.

#### Research

Staff are involved in a number of national research projects that have direct connection to Te Taitokerau:

- Aotearoa's Future Coast - <https://niwa.co.nz/natural-hazards/research-projects/future-coasts-aotearoa>

- Te Ao Hurihuri:Te Ao Hou – our changing coast <https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/climate-news/129837870/researchers-get-13m-funding-boost-to-better-understand-sealevel-rise-effects>
- Extreme Wildfire: our new reality – are we ready?  
[https://www.scionresearch.com/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0010/83746/ExtremeWildfireInfosheet.pdf](https://www.scionresearch.com/_data/assets/pdf_file/0010/83746/ExtremeWildfireInfosheet.pdf)

### **Network**

Staff continue to provide thought leadership and critical networking links to the nationwide push for better climate adaptation work. This is being achieved through the Aotearoa Climate Adaptation Network (ACAN) and the newly formed Climate SIG.

## **8.2.9 KAIPARA MOANA REDMEDIATION**

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### **Current KMR programme performance**

In its first full year of operations ending on 30 June 2022, sediment reduction projects worth \$4.67m were contracted for and/or completed. In the first six months of this year (viz. the second half of 2022), \$1.46m of projects were contracted for, with grants paid out to an additional \$944k worth of projects. These figures will grow as new projects are contracted for and existing projects are verified (signed off for payment).

By the end of 2022, KMR was working with 432 landowners across the depth and breadth of the catchment (over 1 in 4 of the estimated 1500 landowners). A focus for the rest of the financial year is to continue to ramp up engagement at community, primary sector, rural and technical events across the catchment to recruit new landowners, building off the back of the successful summer media campaign and ongoing media articles and promotions.

### **KMR flood and storm recovery package**

KMR landowners have been significantly affected by the wettest winter on record, a set of devastating storms, and what is expected to be the wettest summer on record. While cyclone Gabrielle impacts are as yet unclear at the time of writing, what is clear is that they will be significant. Anecdotal evidence suggests that landowners across the catchment have been severely affected. Both Auckland project sites visited by our governors in December 2022, for example, have been severely impacted by the storms. Stories of as much as ~40 acres of land being swept away or collapsing in landslides are not unusual (again, mostly in Auckland) but we expect widespread impacts on our KMR landowners in Northland, too.

To ensure that KMR landowners can continue to take action on their land in years 2 and 3 of what are usually multi-year contracts with KMR, we have a strategic interest to support the recovery of KMR landowners whose land and projects have been affected. As a Jobs for Nature investment with budget lines already set aside to support local employment, we will be talking to our governors in late February a proposal to 'pivot' that budget line (which is under-expended) to support accredited KMR providers to work with affected KMR landowners to restore and remediate fences, planting areas and wetlands, as possible. Such a response will both engender ongoing commitment and sediment reduction activity by our early adopter landowners, and support employment of our accredited providers, many of whom affiliate to local iwi groups.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE:** Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2022/23 Year

**From:** Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 22  
**Group Manager/s:** February 2023

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### Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report presents the results of council's long term plan key performance indicators for the second quarter of the 2022/23 financial year, being October to December 2022 inclusive.

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### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

1. That the report 'Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2022/23 Year' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 26 January 2023, be received.

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### 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 hapori | 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.

While we report progress to council at the end of each quarter, previously we have only reported details for those measures not achieved, or not on track to achieve their targets, other than a comprehensive report to council at the end of the financial year. Is this reporting by exception the level of information you wish to receive on an ongoing basis, or would you like us to report on all measures for that quarter regardless of how they are tracking (as we have done below as an example)?

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.

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

<b>1.1 Science</b>		
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 warnings to be developed) and is made available to the community	100% compliance	100% – <b>achieved</b>
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% – <b>achieved</b>
<b>1.2 Catchment management</b>		
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	8440 – on track to <b>achieve</b>
<b>1.2 Biodiversity</b>		
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	11,622 – on track to <b>achieve</b>
<b>1.4 Biosecurity</b>		
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	Two new CPCA's have been signed, Te Arai (1116ha) and Takahiwai Mataitai (size unknown at this point) – on track to <b>achieve</b>
<b>1.6 Consents</b>		
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% – <b>achieved</b>
<b>1.7 Compliance monitoring</b>		
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 <b>achieve</b> (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% – <b>achieved</b>



### 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% – <b>achieved</b>
Percentage of time that elected members attend council meetings	90% compliance	96% – <b>achieved</b>

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### Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

**TITLE:** **Receipt of Committee Minutes**

**From:** Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

**Authorised by** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 22 February 2023  
**Group Manager/s:**

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### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Regional Transport Committee Meeting – 7 February 2023  
be received.

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### Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Regional Transport Committee Meeting [↓](#) 

Regional Transport Committee  
7 February 2023

## Regional Transport Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting held in The Orchard, 35 Walton Street, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 7 February 2023, commencing at 11.00am

### Tuhinga/Present:

Acting Chairperson, John Blackwell  
FNDC Councillor Steve McNally  
WDC Councillor Simon Reid  
KDC Councillor Ash Nayyar  
FNDC Councillor Ann Court

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

Chairperson, Joe Carr (Remotely)  
FNDC Councillor Ann Court (alternate member)  
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer Jonathan Gibbard  
NTA General Manager, Calvin Thomas  
Group Manager - Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt  
NTA Transport Manager, Chris Powell  
NTA Representative, Randhir Karma (via Zoom)  
NTA Representative, NTA Representative – Jeff Devine  
NTA Representative, Kayla Gunson  
NRC Secretariat, Rachael King  
NRC Secretariat, Lou Hartigan  
NTA Representative, Bernard Peterson  
NRC Robert Nathan  
NTA Representative, Nick Marshall  
NTA Representative, Nicole Cauty  
Automobile Association, Steve Westgate  
ACC, Craig Crawford  
NTA Representative, Ian Crayton-Brown  
NRC, Michael Payne  
Waka Kotahi NZTA, Randhir Karma  
KDC Representative, Anin Nama  
FNDC Representative, Andy Finch

*Secretarial Note: The Deputy Chair declared the meeting open at 11.04am and adjourned proceedings until 11.08am when a quorum was present. The meeting opened with a Karakia by Robert Nathan.*

Regional Transport Committee  
7 February 2023

### **Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)**

Secretarial Note: John Blackwell will Chair the meeting in the physical absence of Councillor Joe Carr who attended via speaker phone

### **Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)**

#### **Moved (McNally/ Nayyar)**

That the apologies from (non RTC members):

Councillor Rick Stolwerk;

Steve Mutton;

Blair King;

Jim Sephton;

Terrence Phillips;

Stephen Dickson;

Jason Marris;

Stephanie Hudson;

Jodi Betts;

Haydn Korach (annual leave)

for non-attendance be received.

**Carried**

### **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 - (Item 4.1)**

**Report from Louise Hartigan, Personal Assistant to GM Community Resilience**

#### **Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

#### **MOVED (Blackwell/Nayyar)**

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 2 August 2022 be noted.

**Carried**

*Secretariat Note: FNDC Councillor Ann Court a member of the RTC during the previous triennium confirmed the minutes to be true and correct.*

### **Regional Transport Committee Representatives and Regional Transport Committee Alternate Representatives (Item 5.1)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance**

#### **Moved (Carr/Nayyar)**

1. That the report 'Regional Transport Committee Representatives and Regional Transport Committee Alternate Representatives' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transport Alliance and dated 18 January 2023, be received.

Regional Transport Committee  
7 February 2023

2. That the formally elected Regional Transport Committee Representatives and Regional Transport Committee Alternate Representatives be duly noted with the addition of Randhir Karma as the alternate representative for Waka Kohati.

**Carried**

*Action Point:*

- *Waka Kotahi to send formal notice of Randhir Karma Appointment as alternate representative in writing to the Chair and the Meeting Secretary of the Regional Transport Committee.*

*Secretarial Note: The order of the agenda was changed at the direction of the Chair.*

### **Functions of the Northland Regional Transport Committee (Item 5.3)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance**

**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

**Moved Blackwell/Nayyar**

That the report 'Functions of the Northland Regional Transport Committee' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 18 January 2023, be received

**Carried**

*Discussion Points:*

- *It was noted that Functions as outlined in Item 5.1 are also applicable to Item 5.3*
- *A funding update report is presented at each meeting (once per quarter)*
- *Councillor Carr supports staff recommendations whilst noting the delegated functions from NRC to NRC representatives on the RTC and similar delegations of Northlands TLAs*

### **KiwiRail Representation on Regional Transport Committees (Item 5.2)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance**

**Moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

1. That the report 'KiwiRail Representation on Regional Transport Committees' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 18 January 2023, be received.
2. That the Regional Transport Committee approve the recommendation that KiwiRail be invited to appoint a representative to be an additional member to the Regional Transport Committee in accordance with Section 105 of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.
3. That the Chair of the Regional Transport Committee be delegated the authority to formally invite KiwiRail to appoint a representative as an additional member of the Regional Transport Committee.
4. That the appointment of a KiwiRail representative be undertaken in accordance with Section 105A of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

**Carried**

Regional Transport Committee  
7 February 2023

## **Funding Uptake Report (Item 5.4)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance**

**Moved (Blackwell/Nayyar)**

That the report 'Funding Uptake Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 18 January 2023, be received.

**Carried**

*Discussion Points:*

- Payment of contractors over the summer break
- Weather is having an impact on progress of projects, some of which are at risk of not being completed by deadline (within this financial year)

## **Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - Three Year Review (Item 5.5)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance**

**Moved (Carr / Nayyar)**

1. THAT the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - Three Year Review' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 18 January 2023, be received.

**Carried**

*Discussion Points:*

- It was noted that the RLTP is a six-year document, with a three-year review period and is both a plan and a funding application, not a guarantee of funding
- The deadline for a decision on whether a full re-write or a review is required is April at the latest
- It was advised that a complete re-write would be an eighteen-month process, involving consultation – a link to the process is provided on Page 27 of the agenda.
- 

**Moved (Carr / Blackwell)**

That Recommendations 2 and 3 from the report be deferred until the next meeting

**Carried**

## **Northland Road Safety Update (Item 5.6)**

**Report from Ian Crayton-Brown, Transport Projects Officer**

**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

**Moved (McNally/Nayyar)**

That the report 'Northland Road Safety Update' by Ian Crayton-Brown, Transport Projects Officer and dated 24 January 2023, be received.

**Carried**

*Discussion Points:*

- Update on road deaths totals 31 to date, including last weekend

Regional Transport Committee  
7 February 2023

- *Ride Forever numbers are increasing again following a fall due to COVID*
- *NZ Police are scheduled to attend the next meeting*
- *RTC expressed concern regarding the possibility that road speeds may be reduced as an alternative to maintenance*

*Secretarial Note: Additional item added at the request of the Chair*

#### **5.7 Press Release**

##### **Moved (Blackwell / Carr)**

THAT a press release on the first Regional Transport Committee meeting be drafted by the Chair (in conjunction with NRC's Media Specialist) and circulated for approval before being sent for publication.

**Carried**

#### **Karakia Whakamutanga**

Robert Nathan

**The meeting concluded at 12.24pm**

**TITLE:** **Working Party Updates and Chairpersons' Briefings**

**From:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

**Authorised by:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on date 22 February 2023

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### **Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the report 'Working Party Updates and Chairpersons' Briefings' be received.

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### **WDC/NRC Whangārei Public Transport Working Party (Chair: Cr Jack Crow)**

The WD/NRC Whangārei Public Transport met on 7 February 2023. The topics for discussion included:

- Nomination of Chair;
- Overall progress on doubling bus frequency;
- WDC progress on Kamo bus lane; and
- Provision of legal opinion on responsibility for school children on non-school provided buses.

Following discussion, the WDC/NRC Whangārei Public Transport Working Party provided advice on the following next steps:

- A further update on the Kamo bus lane to be provided at the next meeting (including reassurance for completion by 1 July 2023); and
- The legal opinion, previously sought, regarding the responsibilities for untoward behaviour on buses to be provided at the next meeting.



## **TITLE: Business with the Public Excluded**

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### **Whakarāpopototanga / Executive Summary**

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider the confidential matters detailed below for the reasons given.

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### **Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendations**

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 - 13 December 2022	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	Human Resources Report - December/January 2023	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	Introduction of Greenmount Capital Co-Investment Fund into the Long-Term Investment Fund	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage s7(2)(j).

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

### **Considerations**

#### **1. Options**

Not applicable. This is an administrative procedure.

#### **2. Significance and Engagement**

This is a procedural matter required by law. Hence when assessed against council policy is deemed to be of low significance.

#### **3. Policy and Legislative Compliance**

The report complies with the provisions to exclude the public from the whole or any part of the proceedings of any meeting as detailed in sections 47 and 48 of the Local Government Official Information Act 1987.

#### **4. Other Considerations**

Being a purely administrative matter; Community Views, Māori Impact Statement, Financial Implications, and Implementation Issues are not applicable.