

Council

Tuesday 26 March 2024 at 10.15am

AGENDA

Northland Regional Council Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 26 March 2024, commencing at 10.15am

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

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

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

Haumie hui e
TĀIKI E!

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

Bring forth unity
Tis Done!

TITLE: **Confirmation of Minutes - 27 February 2024 and 13 March 2024**


From: Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Authorised by: Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 11 March 2024

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 27 February 2024 and the extraordinary council meeting held on 13 March 2024, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed Council Meeting minutes - 27 February 2024 [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Unconfirmed Extraordinary Council Meeting minutes - 13 March 2024 [↓](#) 

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

Northland Regional Council Minutes

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

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford
Deputy Chairperson, Tui Shortland (*Via audio-visual link. Lost connection at 11.36am*)
Councillors:
John Blackwell
Joe Carr
Jack Craw
Peter-Lucas Jones
Amy Macdonald (*Via audio-visual link*)
Marty Robinson
Rick Stolwerk

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Tangata Whenua Advisors (x2)
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services
Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM – Biosecurity
Translator (*Via audio-visual link*)
Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Investment Consultants (x2 *Via audio-visual link*)
Finance Manager (*Via audio-visual link*)
Manager – Māori Relationships (*Via audio-visual link*)
Management Accountant (*Via audio-visual link*)
Financial Accountant (*Via audio-visual link*)
Māori Cultural Technical Advisor
Personal Assistant – Environmental Services
Governance Specialist

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.15am.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

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.

Confirmation of Minutes - 12 December 2023 and 14 February 2024 (Item 5.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Stolwerk/Carr)

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

Carried

It was further moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

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

Carried

Secretarial Note: Confirmation was provided that the recording of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 14 February 2024 was now available via council's website.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Carr/Craw)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Financial Report to January 2024 (Item 6.1)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

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

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *The most recent Eriksens Global report had been issued just prior to the meeting and confirmed that council's managed funds had produced a good result for both the month of January and year to date.*
- *The market risk had lowered since the correction to long term interest rates and the current financial situation was describes as 'stable'. However management had been proactive in monitoring and responding to potential risk with council's managed funds on track to meet its targets for the financial year.*
- *Clarification was provided that 'cost matching' referred to income received in advance but could only be recognised when the funds were actually spent.*

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

Regional Rates Collection - update to 31 December 2023 (Item 6.2)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Robinson/Jones)

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

Carried

Secretarial Note: The current rates collection was in line with last year. However, staff to maintain a watching brief with a further report to council in the next quarter.

Withdrawal of the Planned 2023-24 Annual General Funding Contribution from the Managed Fund Portfolio (Item 6.3)

Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)

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

Carried

Proposed carry forward of budget for PF2050 (Item 6.4)

Report from Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free

Moved (Jones/Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Proposed carry forward of budget for PF2050' by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity and Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free dated 9 February 2024, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Craw/Blackwell)

2. That council approve carry forward commitment of \$445,000 for the purposes of funding the PF2050 Whangārei project to the 2025 financial year.

Carried

Review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland (Item 7.1)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

1. That the report 'Review of the Regional Policy Statement for Northland' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

2. That council accept the Review of the Regional Policy Statement Report and approve it for public release.
3. That council confirm that no changes to the Regional Policy Statement, including compulsory changes, are progressed for the next 12 months to enable time for further direction to be received from central government.

Carried

Secretarial Note: There was general agreement that, given the level of uncertainty, it was prudent for council to await a clear direction from central government before making any changes to the Regional Policy Statement.

NRC Councillor appointment to the Northland Inanga Spawning Habitat Restoration Project (Item 7.2)

Report from Gavin Dawson, Governance Specialist

Moved (Robinson/Carr)

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

Carried

Secretarial Note: Councillor Macdonald confirmed that, with the endorsement of council, she was supportive of the appointment and would regularly report back on progress.

Council Submission - Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products (Item 7.3)

Report from Dai Morgan, Biosecurity Manager - Partnerships

Moved (Carr/Jones)

1. That the report 'Council Submission - Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products' by Dai Morgan, Biosecurity Manager - Partnerships and dated 13 February 2024, be received.
2. That council retrospectively approve the submission as detailed in **Attachment 1** (*pertaining to Item 7.3 of the 27 February 2024 council agenda*) on the Proposal to Modify the Regulatory Controls Covering the Manufacture, Sale, Storage and Use of Brodifacoum Based Vertebrate Toxic Agent (VTA) Products.

Carried

(Councillor Robinson voted against the motion)

Secretarial Note: Confirmation was provided that NRC did not have a specific policy on the use of Brodifacoum given it was the role of the Environmental Protection Agency to set the conditions that governed its use.

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

Resourcing the Implementation of the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations (Item 7.4)

Report from Penny Pirrit, Freshwater Farm Plan Contractor

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

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

Carried

Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Amendments (Item 7.5)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

1. That the report 'Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy Amendments' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 13 February 2024, be received.
2. That council approve the amendments to the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy as detailed in **Attachment 1** (*pertaining to Item 7.5 of the 27 February 2024 council meeting agenda*).

Carried

Secretarial Note: Concern was raised that the Chair of Council was using his personal vehicle for local authority business which required extensive travel and that this was more than likely to exceed the caps on vehicle kilometre allowance. There was general agreement to monitor the situation.

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

Health and Safety Report for October to December 2023 quarter (Item 8.1)

Report from Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager

Moved (Robinson/Blackwell)

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

Carried

Secretarial: It was suggested there may be merit in the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee reviewing the appropriate level of incident reporting to governance.

Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.2)

Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

Moved (Carr/Craw)

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

Carried

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.3)

Report from Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Moved (Blackwell/Carr)

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

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- Assurance was provided that NRC would work with the Department of Conservation to revisit sites where the highly invasive sea spurge had been found to ensure there was no reinfestation.
- Appreciation was extended to the Maritime Team for the extra enforcement presence on Northland's waters over Summer.
- Concern was raised regarding the impact of feral cats on native wildlife, such as the Pāteke.
- Appreciation was extended to the Transport Team for the introduction of the new live tracking system for the CityLink Bus Service which provided real time data as to the location of any bus. It was anticipated this would encourage more people to use the bus service.
- Staff involved in the Awanui flood scheme and river works were encouraged to engage closely with the communities and people strongly connected with the surrounding lands (with particular reference made to Kareponia Road).
- Staff to check what level of detail could be reported in relation to current court cases without breaching the Privacy Act.

Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 11.36am due to technical issues. The meeting reconvened at 11.45am. At this time Councillor Shortland lost connection.

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

Legislative Compliance Half Yearly Report July-December 2023 (Item 8.4)

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

Moved (Stolwerk/Jones)

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

Carried

Secretarial Note: Staff were encouraged to be fully aware of the content within each of the Settlement Acts to ensure all interested parties were engaged and notified on all relevant matters.

Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2023/24 Year (Item 8.5)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

Moved (Stolwerk/Robinson)

That the report 'Reporting on Long Term Plan 2021-2031 Performance Measures for Quarter Two of the 2023/24 Year' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 25 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Stolwerk/Robinson)

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Regional Transport Committee held on 4 December 2023

be received.

Carried

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

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

Moved (Stolwerk/Robinson)

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

Item No.	Item Issue	Reasons/Grounds
10.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 12 December 2023	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting.
10.2	Quarterly People and Culture Report	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting.
10.3	The Future of Tāika Forest	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).
10.4	Confirmation of confidential resolutions in open meeting	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting.

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

Open Meeting

Moved (Carr/Blackwell)

That the council resumes in open meeting.

Carried

Council Meeting
27 February 2024

Confirmation of confidential resolutions in open meeting (Item 10.4)

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

Moved (Robinson/Carr)

That the following resolutions pertaining to confidential items be confirmed in open meeting:

- 10.1 Confirmation of Confidential Minutes – 12 December 2023
- 10.2 Quarterly people and culture report

Carried

Secretarial Note: The resolutions were as follows:

Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 12 December 2023 (Confidential Item 10.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Carr/Jones)

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

Carried

Quarterly People and Culture Report (Confidential Item 10.2)

Report from Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor; Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor

Moved (Blackwell/Jones)

That the report 'Quarterly People and Culture Report' by Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor; Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor and dated 9 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 1.06pm with a karakia by Councillor Jones.

Extraordinary Council Meeting
13 March 2024

Northland Regional Council Minutes

Extraordinary meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 13 March 2024, commencing at 10.15am

Tuhinga/Present:

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

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor (*Via audio-visual link*)
TTMAC members (x5. *Via audio-visual link*)
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services
Group Manager - Community Resilience
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity
Corporate Strategy Manager
Policy Specialist
Corporate Policy Analyst
Translator (*Via audio-visual link*)
Governance Specialist

Part Meeting

Independent Financial Advisor
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Secretarial Note: The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.17am and proceedings commenced with the Tauāki ā roto/Opening karakia led by Councillor Robinson.

Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)

There were no apologies.

Extraordinary Council Meeting
13 March 2024

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. At this time Councillor Stolwerk declared a conflict of interest in relation to Surf Lifesaving (*who were current recipients of NRC's Emergency Services Fund*).

Adoption of the draft Rating Policies (including the Policy on the Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land) for consultation (Item 5.1)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

Moved (Macdonald/Carr)

1. That the report 'Adoption of the draft Rating Policies (including the Policy on the Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land) for consultation' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 9 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: It was advised that due to the fact that district councils collected rates on behalf of the regional council, NRC was required to adopt their relevant policies.

It was further moved (Craw/Robinson)

2. That council resolves to consult on changes to the draft Rating Policies (including the Policy on the Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land), (*included as **Attachment 1** pertaining to Item 5.1 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*), in accordance with section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002, and that this be carried out in conjunction with consultation on the Long Term Plan 2024-2034.
3. That council adopts the Statement of Proposal on the draft Rating Policies, including Rates Remission and Postponement Policies, and the Policy on the Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land (*included as **Attachment 2** pertaining to Item 5.1 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*) for consultation.
4. That council delegates to the Group Manager – Corporate Services the authority to make any changes to the Statement of Proposal for the consultation of the draft Rating Policies (including Rates Remission and Postponement Policies, and the Policy on the Remission and Postponement of Rates on Māori Freehold Land) that may improve readability and compliance with the Local Government Act.

Carried

Extraordinary Council Meeting
13 March 2024

Rating considerations under Section 100T of the Biosecurity Act for the purpose of consultation, in conjunction with Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (Item 5.2)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

Moved (Craw/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Rating considerations under Section 100T of the Biosecurity Act for the purpose of consultation, in conjunction with Long Term Plan 2024-2034' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 9 February 2024, be received.
2. That council notes the requirements of Section 100T of the Biosecurity Act 1993, and approves the draft analysis set out in this item for the purpose of consulting on the Pest Management Rate, as set out in the Funding Impact Statement of the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Supporting Information document.

Carried

Adoption of the draft Revenue and Financing Policy, draft Financial Contributions Policy, and draft Significance and Engagement Policy (Item 5.3)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

Moved (Robinson/Carr)

1. That the report 'Adoption of the draft Revenue and Financing Policy, draft Financial Contributions Policy, and draft Significance and Engagement Policy' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 24 January 2024, be received.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

Secretarial Note:

- *Confirmation was provided that the Revenue and Financing Policy must align with the proposals contained within the Consultation Document. If, through the consultation and deliberations process, council made amendments to the preferred option on which it consulted, then the Policy would also need to be amended to reflect the change.*
- *Members of the public were encouraged to familiarise themselves with the consultation material to ensure they were fully aware of the proposals put forth in council's 2024 – 2034 Long Term Plan.*

It was further moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

2. That council resolves to consult on changes to the following policies in accordance with section 82 of the Local Government Act and that this consultation be carried out in conjunction with the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 process of consultation:
 - a. The draft Revenue and Financing Policy (*pages 183 - 191 of the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Supporting Information Document, included as Attachment 1 pertaining to Item 5.5 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*);
 - b. The draft Financial Contributions Policy (*page 192 of the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Supporting Information Document, included as Attachment 1 pertaining to Item 5.5 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*); and

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- c. The draft Significance and Engagement Policy (*pages 197 - 200 of the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Supporting Information Document, included as **Attachment 1** pertaining to Item 5.5 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*).
 3. That council adopts the statements of proposal for:
 - a. The draft Revenue and Financing Policy (*set out in **Attachment 1** pertaining to Item 5.3 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*);
 - b. The draft Financial Contributions Policy (*set out in **Attachment 2** pertaining to Item 5.3 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*); and
 - c. The draft Significance and Engagement policy (*set out in **Attachment 3** pertaining to Item 5.3 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*).
 4. That council delegates to the Group Manager – Corporate Services the authority to make any necessary minor formatting, typographical and administrative changes to the to the statements of proposal and policies prior to formal public consultation.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

Adoption of the Draft User Fees and Charges 2024/25 and Approval to Consult (Item 5.4)

Report from Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst

Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)

1. That the report 'Adoption of the Draft User Fees and Charges 2024/25 and Approval to Consult' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst and dated 17 January 2024, be received.
2. That council adopts the Statement of Proposal and the Draft User Fees and Charges 2024/25 (*included as **Attachment 1** pertaining to Item 5.4 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda*) for the purposes of consultation, pursuant to section 150 of the LGA, to be carried out in conjunction with consultation on the Long Term Plan 2024 - 2034.
3. That council delegates to the Group Manager – Corporate Services the authority to make any necessary minor formatting, typographical and administrative changes to the Statement of Proposal and Draft User Fees and Charges 2024/25 prior to formal public consultation.

Carried

Secretarial Note: User Fees and Charges were the mechanism for council to recover the actual costs for carrying out activities on the behalf of other parties. If these were not set appropriately the cost burden would then fall on the general ratepayer.

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Adoption of the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Supporting Information Document and Consultation Document, and approval to consult (Item 5.5)

Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

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

Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)

1. That the report 'Adoption of the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Supporting Information Document and Consultation Document, and approval to consult' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 30 January 2024, be received.

Carried

It was further moved (Craw/Blackwell)

2. That council approves the consultation approach outlined in this report, including an official feedback period of 16 March – 19 April 2024, providing an opportunity for spoken feedback at a series of events and at a hearing, and receipt of submissions through council's online portal, email, post and hand delivery during the official feedback period.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

Secretarial Note: A comprehensive campaign was set to roll out to support the consultation period including, but not limited to, material on the council website and social media platforms, a mail out to those directly impacted by the proposals within the Draft Long Term Plan as well as a general mail out, videos, Google ads, radio, public notices and 'Have Your Say' events.

It was further moved (Blackwell/Carr)

3. That council approves the draft Financial Strategy for the purpose of including relevant aspects of this information in the Consultation Document and in the Supporting Information for the Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

It was further moved (Blackwell/Macdonald)

4. That council approves the draft Infrastructure Strategy for the purpose of including relevant aspects of this information and proposals in the Consultation Document and in the Supporting Information for the Long Term Plan 2024-2034.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

It was further moved (Carr/Blackwell)

- 4a. That council agrees and confirms that the words 'climate crisis' and associated phrasing in the Long Term Plan Consultation Document be changed to 'climate change'.

Carried

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It was further moved (Carr/Craw)

5. That council adopts the Supporting Information Document for the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 (included as **Attachment 1** pertaining to Item 5.5 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda), for the purpose of consultation.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Appreciation was extended to all staff involved in preparing the Long Term Plan documentation.*
- *Attention was specifically drawn to the council's proposed option to fund the shortfall to build a Joint Emergency Coordination Centre.*

It was further moved (Macdonald/Robinson)

6. That council adopts and approves the release of the Consultation Document (included as **Attachment 2** pertaining to Item 5.5 of the 13 March 2024 Extraordinary Council Meeting agenda) for the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 via the Special Consultative Procedure pursuant to sections 93, 93A, and 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

Carried

(Councillor Stolwerk voted against the motion)

Secretarial Note:

- *It was reiterated that the regional council's rates were much smaller than that of the district councils, so the combination of a percentage qualified by a dollar figure throughout the documentation helped provide clarity and a sense of scale to the reader.*
- *An updated version of the Consultation Document was tabled at the meeting including further tweaks as the information contained within was continually refined. These changes were incorporated by the following resolution (7) to delegate minor changes to the relevant GM.*

It was further moved (Craw/Carr)

7. That council delegates to the Group Manager – Corporate Services the authority to make any necessary minor formatting, typographical and administrative changes to the Supporting Information Document and Consultation Document prior to formal public consultation.
8. That pursuant to Schedule 7, clause 32 of the Local Government Act 2002, the council delegates to councillors its function under S83(1)(d) of that Act, that being to provide opportunity for persons to present their views to council in a manner that enables spoken interaction.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) members were acknowledged for their contribution in the development of the draft Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 10.54am with a karakia by GM – Governance and Engagement.

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

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


Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

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

Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation

That the action sheet be received.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

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

Council Actions as at 18/03/2024

Id	Meeting	Target Date	Description	Request Details	Most Recent Comment
7159	Council 12/12/2023	12/06/24	Poplar and Willow Nursery Investment Options	That staff undertake a market investigation to explore future supply and commercial investment options and bring the results back to council within 6 months (by 12 June 2024).	GM – Environmental Services to provide a verbal update at the meeting.
7256	Council 27/02/2024	12/03/24	Quarterly People and Culture Report	That consideration be given as to whether the People and Culture Report can be addressed in open meeting.	COMPLETE. This report can be provided in the open meeting, providing there is nothing in the report that would require withholding information under section 7 of the Local Government Official Information Act.
7258	Council 27/02/2024	12/03/24	Reporting on current court cases	Staff to confirm what level of detail can reported in relation to current court cases without breaching the Privacy Act.	COMPLETE. Confirmation was received that defendants' names are public information after first appearances before the court unless name suppression has been sought by the defendant and made by the court.

TITLE: Financial Report to February 2024

From: Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Authorised by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 18
Group Manager/s: March 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report is to inform council of the year to date (YTD) financial result to 29 February 2024. Council has achieved a YTD surplus after transfers to and from reserves of \$3.5m, which is \$731k YTD favourable to budget.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Financial Report to February 2024' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 11 March 2024, be received.

Background/Tuhinga

SUMMARY OPERATING RESULTS			
	000's ACTUAL YTD	000's BUDGET YTD	000's VARIANCE YTD
Revenue (including other gains)	\$54,876	\$54,622	\$254
Expenditure	\$46,579	\$50,536	\$3,957
NET (COST)/SURPLUS BEFORE TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES	\$8,298	\$4,086	\$4,211
Transfer From (To) Special Reserves	(\$4,828)	(\$1,348)	\$3,480
NET (COST)/SURPLUS AFTER TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES	\$3,470	\$2,738	\$731

Managed Funds

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

At the end of February 2024, the variance of \$731k does not include gains on long-term funds used as general funding. If we had utilised gains as general funding as per the budget, the variance after transfers to reserves, at the end of February would have been \$2.1m.

MANAGED FUNDS	January	February	000's VARIANCE YTD
	000's ACTUAL YTD	000's BUDGET YTD	
Short Term Funds	\$217	\$285	(\$68)
Long Term Funds	\$2,415	\$2,027	\$388
TOTAL FUND GAINS/(LOSSES)	\$2,633	\$2,312	\$321
Transfer From (To) Special Reserves representing reinvestment	(\$2,539)	(\$1,164)	(\$1,375)
NET GAINS/(LOSSES) AFTER TRANSFERS FROM/(TO) RESERVES	\$94	\$1,148	(\$1,054)

Revenue

Year to date revenue is \$54.9m, which is \$254k or 0.5% above budget.

YTD REVENUE VARIANCE INDICATORS BY REVENUE TYPE			
	FAV / (UNFAV)		Commentary
	\$	%	
Rates	\$50,806	0.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher than budgeted rates due to an increase in land values
User Fees and Sundry	\$833,794	17.1%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher than budgeted RMA application fees \$494k Higher than budgeted mooring fees of \$106k due to timing of invoicing Higher than budgeted income from prosecutions of \$105k Higher than budgeted fees for marine biosecurity, safety navigation and pilotage of \$140k
Grants and Subsidies	(\$821,767)	(7.3%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower than budgeted NZTA subsidies of \$347k due to timing Higher than budgeted MPI subsidies for Caulerpa incursion of \$556k, which is disbursed on unbudgeted Caulerpa response works Lower than budgeted MPI subsidies recognised for Kauri protection projects due to cost matching of \$63k Lower than budgeted MPI subsidies for Hill Country Erosion of \$68k, Wild Rice of \$85k and marine incursion of \$64k, due to timing Higher than budgeted MfE subsidies for Whangārei urban awa of \$82k Lower than budgeted MfE subsidies for Land management project of \$241k due to timing Lower than budgeted MfE subsidies for coastal water and Freshwater planning of \$171k due to timing Lower than budgeted funding recognised for cyclone regional recovery works of \$165K due to cost matching Lower than budgeted MBIE funding for rivers and flood infrastructure programme of \$223k
Investment Interest Income and Other Gains	\$85,628	29.7%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher than budgeted rates of interests earned on Cash and ASB banking facilities of \$119k Higher than budgeted internal interest of \$81k Offset by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower than budgeted interest on Infrastructure investments of \$87k Lower than budgeted interest on Nest loan of \$29 due to early repayment
Investment Property Income	(\$39,525)	(1.5%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower than budgeted rent income on investment properties of \$39k
Dividend	(\$175,616)	(9.6%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower than budgeted dividend received of \$175k
Long Term Fund Gains	\$388,455	19.2%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual January returns of 4.1% are higher than the budgeted 3.16% (5.42% annualised). Note that no long term fund gains accrued for the month of February are included in this report.
Short Term Fund Gains	(\$67,773)	(23.8%)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actual January returns of 3.9% are higher than the budgeted 2.46% (4.21% annualised). No short term fund gains are accrued for the month of February. The budget for February gains are included in this report.
Total	\$254,002	(0.5%)	

Expenditure

Year to date expenditure is \$46.6m, which is \$4.0m or 7.8% below budget.

	FAV / (UNFAV)		Commentary	Offset by:		Not offset FAV /
	\$	%		Subsidies	Reserves	
Regulatory Services	(\$526,797)	(16.8%)	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$100K
			• Higher than budgeted hearing, commissioner and consultancy costs offset by higher than budgeted consent applications			(\$608K)
			• Higher than budgeted legal fees for monitoring and consents advice			(\$73K)
			• Lower than budgeted field operation and software costs			\$61K
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group			(\$7K)
Environmental Services	\$1,788,981	20.0%	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$957K
			• Lower than budgeted consultants and contractor field work costs for biodiversity work programmes		\$39K	\$63K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on Hill Country Erosion Fund	\$132K		
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on software maintenances and services for Land projects		\$94K	\$80K
			• Lower than budgeted grants for afforestation scheme			\$35K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on natural resource works		\$12K	\$34K
			• Lower than budgeted consultancy costs for resource management planning, offset by higher than budgeted costs for freshwater planning.	(\$45K)	\$200K	
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure for public education courses, due to higher than budgeted demand for courses			(\$35K)
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on consultancy, field and lab testing costs for natural resource science works			\$158K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on lab testing, field equipment and inspections costs for water quality work programmes	\$41K		\$29K
Biosecurity	\$747,631	9.3%	• Other accumulated variances within this group			(\$5K)
			• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$302K
			• Lower than budgeted contractors, consultants, and field work costs for wild deer and gold clam incursions	\$46K	\$42K	\$166K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for Kauri protection work programme	\$62K		\$57K
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure on contractors and field work for Caulerpa response and Biosecurity alerts, funded by unbudgeted MPI income	(\$398K)		(\$13K)
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on pest control consultants and field works for biosecurity partnership programmes of \$290k, and	\$17K		\$258K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on environment funds of \$78k offset by			
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure on contractors and materials for resale of (\$93k)			
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on project costs for Te Hā o Tangaroa	\$75K		\$0K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on contractors and field costs for biosecurity weed programmes	\$85K	\$6K	\$37K
• Other small accumulated variances within this group			\$6K			

Continued ...

	FAV / (UNFAV)		Commentary	Offset by:		Not offset FAV / (UNFAV)	
	\$	%		Subsidies	Reserves		
Governance and Engagement	\$332,778	5.9%	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$230K	
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on community development projects of \$187k , offset by higher than budget consultancy costs of (\$21K)		\$167K	\$0K	
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure for enviro schools course cost due to higher than budgeted demand for enviroschool courses				(\$31K)
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure for online public education and promotions				(\$34K)
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group				\$1K
Community Resilience	\$915,564	8.1%	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$284K	
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure on water resilience and zero carbon grants of \$83k, due to budget timing offset by		(\$79K)	\$37K	
			• Lower than budgeted consultancy and contractor costs of \$40k				
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure for extreme weather event recovery	(\$241K)			\$0K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for civil defence consultation, implementation programmes including Tsunami siren network costs of \$237k	\$297K			\$0K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for field and other operation costs of \$60k				
			• Higher than budgeted expenditure on consultancy for river hazard management				(\$43K)
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure for stop bank and river schemes works	\$340K			\$0K
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on NTA regional administration costs and publications due to timing of invoicing	\$244K			\$20K
			• Lower than budgeted marine insurance due to timing of invoicing				\$54K
• Other accumulated variances within this group				\$3K			
Corporate Services	\$695,024	5.5%	• Lower than budgeted salaries due to vacancies for the group			\$159K	
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on commercial investment consultancy and maintenance		\$273K	\$0K	
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on people and culture consultancy and development costs		\$33K	\$31K	
			• Higher than budgeted regional sports grants due to timing of \$55k				(\$55K)
			• Higher than budgeted insurance cost for commercial properties of \$27k				(\$27K)
			• Lower than budgeted expenditure on information systems software, maintenance and enterprise systems projects		\$278K		
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group				\$3K
CEO Office	\$4,109	0.3%	• No variance to budgeted salaries			(\$9K)	
			• Lower than budgeted consultancy for CEO projects				\$30K
			• Higher than budgeted training fees		(\$15K)		
			• Other small accumulated variances within this group				(\$2K)
Total	\$3,957,290	7.8%		\$655K	\$995K	\$2,307K	

Salary Variance

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

SALARY VARIANCE	000's
Gross salary variance	\$2,284
Add: Annual leave movement	\$166
Less: YTD redirected salary savings	(\$339)
Less: Other employment costs higher than YTD Budget	(\$88)
NET SALARY VARIANCE	\$2,023
Less: Remaining annual redirected salary savings	(\$281)
ADJUSTED SALARY VARIANCE	\$1,742

Transfers to reserves

For the year to date there has been a net transfer to reserves of \$4.8m compared to a budgeted net transfer to reserves of \$1.3m. The variance of \$3.5m is due to;

- lower than budgeted transfers from the Enterprise reserve of \$394k, due to lower than budgeted expenditure on the enterprise project
- lower than budgeted transfer from the Equalisation reserve of \$509k due to lower than budgeted expenditure for long-term strategic and planning projects.
- lower than budgeted transfers from the Investment and growth reserve of \$146k, due to delays in funding drawdown by Northland Inc.
- higher than budgeted transfers to the Property Reinvestment fund of \$821k, Regional Project Reserve of \$645k, and the Regional Economic Development reserve of \$75 due to higher than budgeted interest and managed funds gains not required as general funding.
- higher than budgeted transfers to Whangārei Bus Reserve of \$359k, due to higher than budgeted surplus across the transport program, due to timing of costs.
- higher than budgeted transfers to carry forwards reserve of \$519k, primarily due to pre-approved carry forwards for the Predator Free Whangārei programme.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure YTD amounts to \$8.9m and is \$2.6m lower than the corresponding budget at this stage of the year due to;

- delays in the commencement of design of the Waipapa service centre of (\$385k) behind budget.
- delays in the development plan and funding for the Joint Emergency Co-ordination Centre (\$515k) behind budget.
- delays in the progressing of the Hannah Street development (\$2.7m) behind budget.

- delays on the Awanui river flood protection programme (\$497k) behind budget due to unsuitable weather conditions.
- progress on the Otiria-Moerewa Spillways scheme is \$675k higher than budget, supported by FNDC contributions.
- progress for the upgrade of Tsunami sirens of \$397k higher than budget, supported by other TLA contributions.
- progress on Investments property investigations of \$638k higher than budget, supported by the Property Reinvestment Reserve.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Approval to Borrow \$9.3 Million to fund the Vessel Replacement Project, Enterprise Project, and Flood Infrastructure Works

From: Simon Crabb, Finance Manager

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 18 March 2024

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

Council approved in its 2023-24 Annual Plan that the costs of the Enterprise system, constructing the new maritime vessel, and flood infrastructure works would be partly funded by borrowings.

The last tranche of borrowings was drawn from the Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) on 2 June 2023. Since then, the following costs have been incurred and require borrowed funds to reimburse councils working capital:

Table One

Project	Costs requiring Borrowing
Enterprise System Project	\$896,675
Vessel Replacement Project	\$1,795,869
Flood Infrastructure Schemes	\$6,473,774
Total Costs Requiring Borrowing	\$9,166,318

Councils Independent Treasury Advisors, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) has provided a recommendation (refer Attachment One) outlining the most appropriate borrowing strategy to fund the above costs.

In line with the PwC recommendation, Council approval is sought to:

- withdraw \$3,201,214 from the Long-Term Fund (LTF) being the loan repayment proceeds received from Northland Emergency Services Trust (NEST), and
- drawdown \$6,100,000 of borrowings (including borrower notes) from the LGFA at a fixed borrowing rate in the vicinity of 5.4% pa over 5 years.

Table Two

Recommended Borrowing Strategy	Feb-24
Total Costs Requiring Borrowing (refer Table One)	\$9,166,318
Adjustment to LGFA amount to a multiple of \$100K*	-\$17,604
TOTAL BORROWING REQUIREMENT	\$9,148,714
Provided from	
Reallocated Loan repayments received from NEST	\$3,201,214
Borrowings drawdown from the LGFA	\$6,100,000
Adjustment to account for LGFA Borrower Notes (2.5% of total LGFA borrowing Feb 2024) **	-\$152,500
TOTAL BORROWED FUNDING	\$9,148,714

} \$9,301,214

* Due to the manner in which debt securities are set up with the Reserve Bank of NZ and Computershare, the LGFA can only lend in multiples of \$100,000

** All councils that borrow from the LGFA must subscribe to borrower notes in an amount equal to 2.5% of their borrowings. In this case, council is subject to \$152.5k of borrower notes that will be retained by the LGFA, earn interest, and be repaid to council when the related loan is repaid.

The borrowed funds will reimburse councils working capital that has already been used to cashflow the project costs, and upon receipt will be deposited into the working capital component of the Short-Term Investment Fund in accordance with a recommendation from EriksensGlobal.

An interest cost will be allocated to each project based on the projects outstanding loan balance and funded from the appropriate regional-wide or specific targeted rates.

All loan principal is programmed to be fully repaid by collecting and holding a portion of future regional-wide and specific targeted rates.

Recommendations:

1. That the report 'Approval to Borrow \$9.3 Million to fund the Vessel Replacement Project, Enterprise Project, and Flood Infrastructure Works' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and dated 5 March 2024, be received.
2. That council enters into a loan from the Local Government Funding Agency of \$6,100,000 (inclusive of 2.5% Borrower Notes) at a fixed rate borrowing cost in the vicinity of 5.4% per annum for a term of 5 years, to partly fund the Enterprise system project, the Vessel replacement project, and Flood Infrastructure Scheme costs.
3. That \$3,201,214 of loan repayments received from Northland Emergency Services Trust is withdrawn from the Long-Term Investment Fund, in line with a EriksensGlobal recommendation, and allocated as debt funding to the Enterprise system project, the Vessel replacement project, and Flood Infrastructure Scheme costs.
4. That the rates collected and dedicated to repaying the borrowings of \$9,301,214 are invested, and tracked separately, in the Long- Term Investment fund, and that after 5 years the \$6.1m loan will be partially repaid and refinanced, with the balance scheduled to be fully repaid after a further 7 years.

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Enter into a loan with the LGFA, and Withdraw the loan repayments received from NEST, And allocate as debt funding to the Enterprise system project, the Vessel replacement project, and Flood	Provide certainty and savings to the Northland community. Avoid any potential misperception that council has borrowed to invest by investing borrowed LGFA funds that are not due for repayment until 2033.	There is no opportunity to take advantage of any future favourable interest rate movements as the LGFA loan is locked into a fixed interest rate.

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
	Infrastructure Scheme costs.		
2	Do not enter into a loan with the LGFA and Withdraw the entire borrowing requirement from the Long-Term Investment Fund	No additional borrowing is entered into and capacity is maintained for any future borrowing.	An increased cost is placed on Northland community due to the increased cost of capital associated with utilising funding from the Long - Term Investment Fund.

The staff's recommended option is 1.

Considerations

The activities detailed in this report are of a purely administrative nature and have no climate or environmental impact.

1. Community views

The impact of external borrowing from the Local Government funding agency has been consulted on with the community through the appropriate consultative procedures in accordance with s82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

2. Māori impact statement

Targeted consultation on the council's intention to borrow externally from the Local Government Funding Agency was undertaken with tangata whenua as part of the 2021–31 Long Term Plan consultation process using existing relationship channels.

3. Financial implications

The Interest rates presented in this report are based on the current New Zealand interest rate yield curve at the time of writing and are indicative and subject to change between now and the date any drawdown is undertaken. Accordingly, it is recommended a fixed borrowing cost is in the vicinity of 5.4%, which refers to an acceptable range of 5.1% -5.7% per annum. This range allows for interest rate movements between the timing of writing this report and fixing of the borrowing rate (which will be done immediately following the council decision on the recommendations in this paper).

4. Implementation issues

There are no implementation issues that council needs to be aware of.

5. 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 and provided for in council's Long-Term Plan and is in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Policy (which includes councils Liability Management Policy).

6. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

The activities detailed in this report are in accordance with council's Treasury Management Policy, the 2021–31 Long Term Plan and the 2023-24 Annual Plan. In particular:

- council must approve all new borrowing.
- council is permitted to borrow externally for operational projects.
- council is permitted to accumulate and hold funds to repay its borrowings.
- council is permitted to part repay and concurrently drawdown debt.
- council is permitted to drawdown new loans while others are in progress.

The cost and funding models in this report involve funding the cost of a project through a combination of retained earnings, regional wide and specific targeted rating, and borrowing. The borrowing component is utilised to spread the rating cost over several years because if the project was fully funded from rates up-front it would be unaffordable.

Subsequently, each year an amount of general rates is collected and set aside in the Long-Term Investment Fund with the purpose of being available to repay the borrowings at the end of its term.

Simpson Grierson were engaged in June 2021 to evaluate the legality of this funding model and concluded that in their view:

“the funding model is lawful and it is open to the Council to consider that funding a programme using it is prudent.”

The June 2021 Simpson Grierson advice was reviewed by Lizzy Wiessing Barrister in May 2023 who recorded her agreement with Simpson Grierson.

Lizzy Weissing also considered that holding the NEST Loan repayments in the LTF would not mean that council was borrowing to invest and contravening section 14 (1) (f) of the Local Government Act 2002. However, it has been discussed by council (and its independent financial advisor) in the past that the recommended reallocation strategy proposed in this report would be a prudent approach to avoid any perception that council has undertaken a commercial transaction that is contrary to sound business practices.

Background/Tuhinga

1.1 Enterprise System Project

The implementation and operating of a new enterprise system to generate efficiencies and IT security was adopted in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan with an initial approved borrowing limit of \$5.4m, which following a review of the costings was revised down to \$3.85m.

- **Approval is sought to Drawdown the remaining \$897k (Tranche 2) of the \$3.85m Enterprise System Project Borrowing limit – Refer Table Three**

Table Three			
Enterprise System Project	Feb-24	Feb-24	Total
Cost and Funding Report	Life to date	Life to date	Approved
29-Feb-24	Actual	Project Budget	Project Budget
Project Cost	\$8,870,266	\$7,002,291	\$10,848,235
External Interest cost	\$153,886	\$336,650	\$906,346
Rates Collection Costs	\$22,147	\$22,147	\$68,236
Total Project Expenditure	\$9,046,299	\$7,361,088	\$11,822,817
<i>Funded by:</i>			
Surplus Marsden Maritime Holdings Ltd Dividends (from 2020-21)	\$649,646	\$0	\$0
Surplus Long Term Fund Gains (from 2020-21)	\$903,938	\$904,238	\$904,238
Surplus Covid 19 Reinstatement funding (from 2020-21)	\$309,000	\$309,000	\$309,000
Historical General Surplus transferred from the Equalisation reserve	\$83,650	\$100,000	\$726,000
Interest/Gains earned on monies collected & held (debt repayment)	\$0	\$50,353	\$437,158
General Rates collected	\$2,943,870	\$2,351,377	\$5,596,820
Advance from Enterprise Reserve to be repaid from future rates	\$306,595	\$0	\$0
Debt funding Tranche 1 Drawn down 2 June 2023 programmed to be repaid from General Rates & Retained earnings	\$2,952,926	\$2,749,445	\$3,849,601
Debt funding Tranche 2 <i>programmed to be repaid from General Rates & Retained earnings</i>	\$896,675	\$896,675	
Total Debt Funding - programmed to be repaid by General Rates & Retained earnings	\$3,849,601	\$3,646,120	\$3,849,601
Total Funding	\$9,046,299	\$7,361,088	\$11,822,817

1.2 Vessel Replacement Project

The construction of a new maritime vessel was initially adopted in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan with approved funding from retained earnings of \$1.6m. The project costing was subsequently reviewed in the 2022-23 Annual Plan with an approved borrowing limit established of \$3.30m.

- **Approval is sought to Drawdown \$1,8m (Tranche 2) of the \$3.30m Vessel Replacement Borrowing limit – Refer Table Four**

Table Four			
Vessel Replacement Project	Feb-24	Feb-24	Total
Cost and Funding Report	Life to date	Life to date	Approved
29-Feb-24	Actual	Project Budget	Project Budget
Project Cost	\$3,270,192	\$2,878,425	\$3,295,000
External Interest cost	\$94,045	\$112,171	\$2,438,007
Rates Collection Costs	\$4,191	\$1,718	\$31,009
Provision for Future Vessel Replacement	\$146,445	\$208,995	\$3,357,550
Total Project Expenditure	\$3,514,873	\$3,201,309	\$9,121,566
<i>Funded by:</i>			
Sale Proceeds from the sale of existing Vessel	\$0	\$0	\$500,000
Interest/Gains earned on monies collected & held (depreciation, sales proceeds & debt repayment)	\$0	\$0	\$3,549,837
General Rates collected	\$354,548	\$353,317	\$1,776,729
Debt funding Tranche 1: Drawn Down 2 June 2023	\$1,364,456	\$1,365,000	\$3,295,000
Debt funding Tranche 2 Required (Borrowings)	\$1,795,869	\$1,482,992	
Total Debt Funding - programmed to be repaid by General Rates & Retained earnings	\$3,160,325	\$2,847,992	\$3,295,000
Total Funding	\$3,514,873	\$3,201,309	\$9,121,566

1.3 Flood Infrastructure Schemes

The strategy to borrow to fund Flood Infrastructure works was re-established and approved in the 2021-31 Long Term Plan in an endeavour to spread the costs over a longer period, taking into consideration the period of benefit, intergenerational equity, and affordability.

- **Approval is sought to Drawdown a total of \$6.47m (Tranche 2) as funding for the Awanui Flood Infrastructure Scheme (\$1.3m) and the Northland Wide Flood infrastructure Scheme (\$5.15m) - Refer Table Five**

Table Five			
Flood Infrastructure Schemes	Feb-24	Feb-24	Feb-24
Cost and Funding Report	Awanui FIR	Northland Wide FIR	TOTAL
29-Feb-24	LTD Actual	LTD Actual	Life to Date Actual
Capital Scheme Costs (including Interest costs)	\$4,950,515	\$17,820,683	\$22,771,198
<i>Funded by:</i>			
Subsidies	\$2,679,272	\$9,486,753	\$12,166,024
Net Targeted rates used to offset Capital Expenditure	\$949,409	\$1,882,879	\$2,832,288
Debt funding Tranche 1: Drawn Down Aug 2020	\$0	\$1,299,112	\$1,299,112
Debt funding Tranche 2 Required (Borrowings) - programmed to be repaid from Targeted Specific & Region Wide Rates	\$1,321,835	\$5,151,939	\$6,473,774
Total Funding	\$4,950,515	\$17,820,683	\$22,771,198

Note: The Kāeo-Whangaroa, Whangārei, and Taumārere Flood Infrastructure Schemes do not require any external borrowings at this stage as their respective capital costs are offset by Subsidies and Targeted rates

2. PwC recommendation

PwC have recommended that council take an initial loan of \$6.1m from the LGFA at an indicative fixed rate of 5.4% pa over a term of 5 years.

In addition, PwC recommend that the loan repayments received from NEST (and associated with a LGFA debt not due for repayment until 2033) are withdrawn from the LTF and reallocated as a means of reimbursing council for project costs earmarked for debt funding.

Refer **Attachment One** for the PwC recommendation.

After 5 years the \$6.1m loan from the LGFA will be partially repaid and refinanced, with the balance (forecast to be circa \$3,108,000) scheduled to be fully repaid after a further 7 years (2036).

2.1 Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA)

The New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency (LGFA) is an agency specialised in financing the New Zealand local government sector. LGFA was established to raise debt on behalf of councils on terms that are more favourable to them than if they raised the debt directly.

Currently, council has a borrowing limit of circa \$158m and has drawn down external borrowings of \$18.4m, all issued from the LGFA. With the proposed \$6.1m of additional debt taken into account councils borrowing is well within the \$158m limit.

All councils that borrow from the LGFA must subscribe to borrower notes (convertible debt securities) in an amount equal to 2.5% of their borrowings. In this case, council will be subject to \$152,500 of borrower notes that will be retained by the LGFA, earn interest and be repaid to council when the related loan is repaid.

The benefits associated with securing a borrowing cost in the vicinity of 5.4% pa. as opposed to withdrawing funds from the Long-Term Investment Fund (LTF) at a cost of capital of 6.5% pa (based on the LTF targeted long term average rate of return) will be passed directly onto the Northland community.

It should be noted that the above rates are based on the New Zealand yield curve and official cash rate at the time of writing and are indicative and subject to change between now and the date any drawdown is undertaken.

2.2 NEST Loan repayments recycled and reallocated as Debt Funding.

In May 2018, council borrowed \$3.75m (\$3.81m including Borrower Notes) from the LGFA at a fixed interest rate of 4.77% pa. for 15 years. These funds were then on-lent to NEST (to assist NEST purchase a Helicopter) at a matching rate of 4.77%, but over a shorter period of 5 years.

NEST has now fully repaid their loan amount of \$3.75m back to council and these repayments (except for \$548,786 that was used to pay down debt in 2020) have been deposited into the LTF and are generating gains.


To avoid any misperception that council has borrowed to invest, it is deemed prudent that the NEST repayment monies of \$3,201,214 are withdrawn from the LTF and recycled and reallocated as a source of borrowing. In effect, this will reallocate the May 2018 LGFA loan as funding for projects in line with the Financial Strategy, and the associated interest cost (at 4.77%) and loan principal will be recovered from future regional-wide and specific targeted rates.

3. Rates collected and held in the Long-Term Fund as Dedicated Loan Repayments

As council rates are collected, they will be periodically deposited and financially separated in the LTF and held as dedicated future loan repayments.

The outstanding loan amounts pertaining to all three projects will be tracked and recorded in individual reserves within council's financial information system.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: PwC \$9.3M Financing Strategy Recommendation - March 2024 [↓](#) 



Northland Regional Council

To: Simon Crabb
From: Alex Wondergem
Date: 13 March 2024
Subject: Financing Recommendation

Recommendation

We understand that the Northland Regional Council (Council) is seeking to borrow an additional c.\$9.3 million.

Of this, it is recommended that \$3.2 million is provided through the LTF, being NEST loan repayments (with the associated LGFA debt not due for repayment until 14 Feb 2033).

The balance of \$6.1m (inclusive of borrower notes) is recommended to be sourced from the LGFA as Council's lowest cost source of financing.

Council's current borrowing profile (financing amounts, tenors and terms) are shown below:

5.2 List of instruments	Counterparty	Notional \$m	Start Date	Maturity Date	Interest Rate	0 TO 3 Years	3 TO 7 Years	7+ Years
NZD Fixed Coupon Bond	NZ LGFA	\$2.80	4/08/2017	13/08/2032	4.86%			\$2.80
NZD Fixed Coupon Bond	NZ LGFA	\$3.81	7/05/2018	14/02/2033	4.77%			\$3.81
NZD Fixed Coupon Bond	NZ LGFA	\$1.93	14/05/2018	14/02/2033	4.72%			\$1.93
NZD Fixed Coupon Bond	NZ LGFA	\$1.02	22/02/2019	14/02/2033	4.00%			\$1.02
NZD Fixed Coupon Bond	NZ LGFA	\$4.40	11/08/2020	14/04/2033	1.98%			\$4.40
NZD Fixed Coupon Bond	NZ LGFA	\$4.40	2/06/2023	15/05/2028	5.25%		\$4.40	
Total		\$18.36			4.2%	\$0.00	\$4.40	\$13.96
						0.0%	24.0%	76.0%

In relation to borrowing terms for the additional \$6.1 million required, we recommend targeting a 5-year maturity tenor and a fixed interest rate basis, providing Council with certainty over the interest cost for this period and striking an appropriate balance in relation to term and rate achievable. Specifically, a 5-year borrowing term through the LGFA currently represents the lowest cost form of financing an unrated guaranteeing Council member can obtain.

We recommend that Council approach the LGFA for a borrowing amount of \$6.1 million as a Fixed Rate Bond at an indicative interest rate of 5.40%.

Please feel free to get in touch to discuss further.

Kind regards,

Alex Wondergem



Disclaimer

This memo is subject to the engagement letter dated 12 December 2012 and the following restrictions. It is a memo addressed to you Northland Regional Council.

This memo should not be reproduced or supplied to any other party without first obtaining our (PwC New Zealand) written consent. We accept no responsibility for any reliance that may be placed on our memo should it be used for any purpose other than that set out below and in any event we will accept no liability to any party other than you in respect of its contents. In the course of our work we have not verified any of the information provided to us by you, nor have we carried out anything in the nature of an audit. Accordingly, we express no opinion on the reliability, accuracy or completeness of the information provided to us and upon which we have relied. The statements and opinions contained in this memo are based on data obtained from the financial markets and are so contained in good faith and in the belief that such statements, opinions and data are not false or misleading. In preparing this memo, we have relied upon information which we believe to be reliable and accurate. We reserve the right (but will be under no obligation) to review our assessment and if we consider it necessary, to revise our opinion in the light of any information existing at the date of this memo which becomes known to us after that date. This memo must be read in its entirety. Individual sections of this memo could be misleading if considered in isolation from each other.

TITLE: Policy Approvals and Regulatory Services Oversight

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 18 March 2024

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

An update is recommended to the delegations manual to clarify where delegation resides for approval of policies. The update proposes three categories of delegation that range from approval by the CEO to approval by full council. It is also recommended that the CEO’s financial delegations limit be reduced to \$20m.

Increased governance oversight of council’s regulatory services is recommended via reporting of this activity to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee. Additional wording to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee terms of reference are recommended to achieve this purpose.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report ‘Policy Approvals and Regulatory Services Oversight’ by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 7 March 2024, be received.
2. That council approves the following text be added to the delegations manual:

Delegation	Delegated to
Authority to approve policies (including amendments to policies).	<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The Chief Executive Officer has authority to approve policies that apply solely to council staff.b) The Chief Executive Officer and the Chair have authority to approve policies that apply to both staff and elected members.c) Resolution by council is required to approve policies that:<ol style="list-style-type: none">i. apply to elected members only, and,ii. those policies that are required by legislation to be approved by council, and,iii. The following key policies:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SIPO• Risk Management Policy• Compliance, Monitoring & Enforcement Policy• Submissions Policy• Procurement Policy

3. That council set the CEO financial delegations limit at \$20m (noting that any financial delegation can only be exercised within the limits of councils approved Long Term Plan budgets).
4. That council approves increased governance oversight of council’s regulatory services via the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, and approves the following additions to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee terms of reference:

Regulatory services oversight:

- Review and recommend to council for approval Regulatory Services guiding policies.
 - Approve a hearing commissioner appointment policy and approve a list of commissioners.
 - Quarterly review and monitoring of consent application.
 - Quarterly review and monitoring of compliance monitoring activities.
 - Quarterly review and monitoring of formal enforcement activities (e.g. infringement notices, enforcement orders, prosecution cases).
5. That the Terms of Reference of the Natural Resources Working Party are updated to remove reference to council's regulatory services as per the tracked changes in Attachment 1.

Options

Clarify delegations for policy approvals and CEO financial delegation limit.

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Update the delegations manual, as per recommendation 2, to clarify delegations for policy approval.	Clarity is provided for both management and governance as to where delegated authority resides for policy approval.	Nil.
2	Do not update the delegations manual to clarify delegations for policy approval.	Nil.	Lack of clarity as to where delegation to approve policies resides.
3	Reduce the CEO financial delegation limit to \$20m.	Increased governance oversight of large financial decisions (noting however that all decisions must be within LTP budgets)	Reduced efficiency in decision making with decisions over \$20m requiring council approval.
4	Maintain the CEO financial delegation limit at \$99m.	Efficient financial decision making, noting that all decisions need to be within LTP budgets.	Less governance oversight of large financial decisions.

The staff's recommended options are Option 1 and Option 3.

Increased governance oversight of council’s regulatory services via the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee.

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Provide for increased governance oversight of council’s regulatory services via the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee as per resolution 3.	<p>Governance are better informed of regulatory services activities, which are a core council activity.</p> <p>Management has a clear line of governance reporting.</p> <p>The activities that regulatory services undertake are aligned to Audit, Risk and Finance associated matters.</p>	Some additional reporting, however, as this is proposed through an existing committee structure this is not considered to be inefficient.
2	Provide for increased governance oversight of council’s regulatory services via the Natural Resources Working Party.	The working party already has regulatory services functions.	Being a working party it is not able to have delegations.
3	Provide for increased governance oversight of council’s regulatory services via a new committee dedicated to oversight of this function.	As per advantages in option 1, and also provides a sole focus on the regulatory services activity.	Creating an additional committee for this purpose is considered inefficient.
4	Do not provide for increased governance oversight of council’s regulatory services.	No additional reporting.	Lack of governance oversight and no clear line of reporting from management to governance.

The staff’s recommended option is Option 1.

Considerations

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

1. Implementation issues

There are no material implementation issues associated with the decisions sought in this report.

2. 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.

3. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

There are no known policy, risk or legislative compliance matters that relate to the decisions sought in this report. However, the decisions sought, once enacted, are likely to improve risk management and legislative compliance through clarification of delegations and increased governance oversight of regulatory activities.

Background/Tuhinga

Clarify delegations for policy approvals

Delegations for policy approval are not clearly outlined within council’s delegations manual.

This creates confusion for management and governance as to where the authority for policy approval resides.

Recommendation 2 provides text for inclusion in the delegation’s manual to clarify where policy approval resides, as per Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed delegations for policy approvals, with examples of policies that would be approved under such delegations.

Delegation	Delegated to	Policy examples ¹
Authority to approve policies (including amendments to policies).	a) The Chief Executive Officer has authority to approve policies that apply to council staff only.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate clothing policy • Disciplining with fairness policy
	b) The Chief Executive Officer and the Chair have authority to approve policies that apply to both staff and elected members.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vehicle policy • Fraud, dishonesty, and corruption control Policy • Harmful communications policy
	c) Resolution by council is required to approve policies that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. apply to elected members only, and, ii. those policies that are required by legislation to be approved by council, and, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Code of conduct • Elected members expense policy • Investment policy • Revenue and financing policy

¹ These examples are not the sole policies that would be approved under these delegations and the examples shown are just provided for context.

Delegation	Delegated to	Policy examples ¹
	iii. The following key policies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIPO • Risk Management Policy • Compliance, Monitoring & Enforcement Policy • Submissions Policy 	

CEO Delegated Authority Expenditure Limit

The CEO currently has a financial delegations limit of up to \$99m in the delegation’s manual. Financial delegations can only be exercised within the limits of councils approved Long Term Plan budgets. Hence an authority of \$99m is considered unnecessary and it is recommended that this amount be reduced to \$20m.

Increased governance oversight of council’s regulatory services via the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee

Council’s current governance structure provides for governance oversight via the Natural Resources Working Party and the monthly CEO reporting. Specifically, the Natural Resources Working Party has the function to:

- a) To oversee the development and implementation of regulatory strategies.
- b) To oversee and monitor the delivery of council’s consent and compliance functions.

While the Natural Resource Working Party has these functions, reporting to this working party has been limited, and hence governance oversight limited.

To address this, management has reviewed governance oversight options, including:

- Audit, Risk and Finance Committee
 - The committee already has a large remit to cover (combined two pre-existing committees). Adding oversight of council’s regulatory services may limit the ability of the committee to have sufficient time to cover all matters to an appropriate level.
- Natural Resource Working Party
 - The working party already has regulatory services functions. However, being a working party is not able to have delegations.
- New Regulatory Oversight Committee
 - It would be more efficient to add to an existing governance structure than establish a new committee. Also council has just established its new governance structure and lodged this with the Remuneration Authority and would therefore not be able to remunerate the Chair for the higher duties until the next opportunity to submit a proposal at the end of this financial year.

On balance it is suggested that the most efficient and effective option is to add this governance oversight function to the Audit Risk and Finance Committee.

The recommended Audit, Risk and Finance Committee regulatory services oversight functions include (functions to be added to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee terms of reference):

Regulatory services oversight:


- *Review and recommend to council for approval Regulatory Services guiding policies.*
- *Approve a hearing commissioner appointment policy and approve a list of commissioners.*

- *Quarterly review and monitoring of consent application.*
- *Quarterly review and monitoring of compliance monitoring activities.*
- *Quarterly review and monitoring of formal enforcement activities (e.g. infringement notices, enforcement orders, prosecution cases).*

In addition to the recommended Audit, Risk and Finance Committee regulatory services oversight functions, management also propose to include the additional governance oversight mechanisms:

- Councillors being more aware of new consents – monthly email from GM Regulatory Services of significant new consents received.
- Maintain Regulatory Services reporting in the CEO report – quarterly Audit, Risk and Finance Committee provides for quarterly deep dives into more detail.
- Prosecution decisions. Best practice guidance states that prosecution decisions should be made by suitably qualified panel of council staff. Governance should however review and approve policy guidelines for prosecution decisions and monitor and review its implementation. NRC currently has a prosecution panel (as do all other councils) and it's recommended that this approach remains in place.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: TOR Natural Resources Working Party - tracked amendments [↓](#) 

Document Management

Date	Detail	Authorised by
4 Dec 2023	Updated membership	Council resolution 28 Nov 2023

Terms of Reference

Natural Resources Working Party

Membership

The Natural Resource Working Party shall be comprised of four (4) councillors and four (4) Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) members as follows:

Chair:	Cr T Shortland
Members:	Cr J Blackwell, Cr J Carr, Cr G Crawford
Māori representation:	Four (4) members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC), Mira Norris (Te Parawhau representative), Geraldine Baker (Kahukuraariki Trust Board representative), Lynette Wharerau (Te Whakaminenga O Te Hikutu Hapu-Whanau) and one other member from TTMAC.
Ex officio:	N/A

Standing orders do not apply.

Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the working party shall be four (4). Ex-officio and TTMAC members count towards a quorum.

Vision, mission and areas of focus (Long Term Plan 2021-2031)

Our Northland – together we thrive. Working together to create a healthy environment, strong economy and resilient communities.

This working party will contribute directly to the following areas of focus:

- Healthy waters for the environment and our people
- Resilient, adaptable communities in a changing climate
- Protected and flourishing native life
- Meaningful partnerships with tangata whenua

Objectives

The objectives of the working party are to:

1. Provide oversight and assistance to the Chief Executive on council's natural resources' strategic activities ensuring accountabilities and responsibilities are fulfilled; and
2. Make recommendations to council on natural resources matters.

Responsibilities

The working party is directly responsible and accountable to the council for the exercise of its responsibilities.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the working party must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of the council rests with the CEO.

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For reasons of efficiency and/or expediency, should the working party not be able to perform its functions, the council will assume its role and responsibilities.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The council authorises the working party, within the scope of its Terms of Reference, role and responsibilities, to:

1. General

- a) Subject to operating within approved budget allocation - obtain information it needs from the CEO and/or external party (subject to their legal obligation to protect information);
- b) Discuss any matters with the external auditor, or other external parties (subject to confidentiality considerations);
- c) Request the attendance of any employee, subject to the CEO's approval, at meetings of the working party or its working groups;
- d) In discussion with the CEO and subject to operating within approved budget allocation - obtain external legal or other professional advice, as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities, at the council's expense;
- e) Co-opt a person as a (non-voting) member of the working party to assist with special projects;
- f) Recommend to council that additional members be appointed to the working party should it consider wider representation would be of assistance in performing its functions;
- g) Undertake such other functions as may be delegated by council from time to time.

2. Planning ~~and Regulatory~~

For council's planning ~~and regulatory~~ activities:

- a) To monitor and review the implementation of the Regional Policy Statement, the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland and Resource Management Act regulations.
- ~~b) To oversee the development and implementation of regulatory strategies.~~
- ~~e)b)~~ To make recommendations to council on any appeals in accordance with council decisions on the proposed plan, plan change or variation.
- ~~e)c)~~ To recommend to council positions and perspectives on proposed legislation (including amendments) and national policy initiatives for incorporation into council submissions as appropriate.
- ~~e) To oversee and monitor the delivery of council's consent and compliance functions.~~

3. Water and land Management

For council's water and land management activities:

- a) Monitor and review council's implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.
- b) Advise and make recommendations to council (and relevant working parties or working groups) on operational strategies related to freshwater or land management.
- c) Monitor and review progress towards council's objectives, the achievement of the performance targets and the delivery of work programmes in the relevant Long-

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Term Plan, Annual Plan and operational strategies associated with council's natural resource management activities

- d) To monitor and review implementation of Nga Taumata o te Moana – our climate change strategy, as the actions relate to council's national resource functions.

4. Reporting

The Chairperson, supported by staff, will report on working party activities and associated recommendations to Council on a quarterly basis.

5. Meeting Frequency

The Natural Resources Working Party is to meet quarterly.

6. No Delegated Authority – Power to Act

The working party has no delegated authority or power to act.

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ID: [DMHUB-33537858-1068](#)

TITLE: Catchment Planning Initiatives

From: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao

Authorised by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 19 March 2024
Group Manager/s:

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

The purpose of this report is to seek council approval to develop a business case to assess options for reducing the impacts of sediment and *E. coli* in the Taumarere Catchment and to improve the quality of the catchment's coastal receiving waters. The target timeframe for an initial strategic is the end of to 2023/2024 financial year. It is noted that this is part of a broader approach to support remediation outcomes across the Bay of Islands' catchment. The Taumarere catchment is therefore the first phase of a broader catchment approach for the Bay of Islands.

The Taumarere catchment is recommended for this initiative on the basis that:

- Early discussions indicate there is a willingness and capacity for Ngati Hine to partner in the initiative. Other hapu who's rohe are within the catchment are yet to be engaged.
- Long term river water quality monitoring (Waiharakeke at Stringers Road) indicates significant issues with sediment and *E. coli*
- There is a good level of information to support the strategic business case including a council investigation into water quality in the catchment in late 2016 (this confirmed issues with freshwater quality and indicated there are opportunities for improvement).
- The catchment contributes a significant proportion of the sediment impacting Bay of Islands (via the Kawakawa River).
- The catchment is a good representative of Northland's freshwater issues and range of land uses / land cover and therefore is an ideal pilot for such catchment planning initiatives.

It is recommended that council funds the Taumarere business case from council's Future Freshwater Improvement Fund budget to a total value of \$100,000, phased over 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years. The proposed project is intended to be undertaken at the same time as the development of an initial strategic business case for the remediation of the Hokianga Harbour (Item 7.6 Council meeting of 27 June 2023).

The extension of the deadline (now December 2027) for notification of the Fresh Water Plan Change and the Government's intention to revise the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) before the end of this term provides the opportunity to increase the focus on catchment planning and practical initiatives to improve water quality outcomes. This proposal is also noted as consistent with Action 8 in the Council draft Freshwater Action Plan.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'Catchment Planning Initiatives' by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and dated 11 March 2024, be received.
2. That council approve development of a business case to address water quality issues in the Taumarere Catchment and to improve the quality of the coastal receiving waters.
3. That council allocate \$100,000 from its Future Freshwater Improvement Fund to the development of a Business Case for the Taumarere catchment, with the first step being an initial strategic business case.
4. That council note the previous resolutions relating to the development of an initial strategic business case for the remediation of the Hokianga Harbour (Item 7.6 Council

meeting of 27 June 2023) and allocating \$300,000 for the development of a Harbour Remediation Business case for the Hokianga harbour catchment.

5. That council confirm initial strategic business cases for both the Hokianga Harbour and Taumarere Catchment are prepared in general accordance with the scope set out in this report and these are to be presented to Council for endorsement before commencing either of the full business cases.
6. That council note the strategic cases for both the Taumarere catchment and Hokianga harbour will require a small portion of the total project budget and that carry forwards of the budget into future years will be required to deliver the full business cases.

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Approve the development of an initial strategic business case for the Taumarere catchment (and associated resourcing).	Targets areas of the region with known water quality concerns / issues and provided a platform to seek co-investment from government partners.	This project will require a substantial commitment of staff time.
2	Undertake a business case for the remediation of another catchment(s)	The only notable advantage of this option is that it will create potential opportunities for other harbour catchments that have greater water quality issues than the Taumaerer.	This option will require staff to revisit the assessment and present further options to council.
3	Do nothing	Less demand on staff / council resources.	This option will mean that opportunities for co-investment and the co-benefits associated with remediation initiatives may not be realised.

The staff's recommended option is Option 1.

Considerations

1. Climate Impact

It is anticipated the business cases will take into account the co-benefits of harbour remediation initiatives in terms of climate change mitigation and resilience to hazards.

2. Environmental Impact

The development of the business case itself will not have an environmental impact. However, it will lay the foundations for a potentially substantial investment towards future catchment scale remediation initiatives.

3. Community views

Community views on the merits of the business case proposals are not known, but council has had feedback from communities through a range of channels (including the Draft Freshwater Plan Change) that the impacts of sediment and faecal contamination are a concern. It is also anticipated the community would be supportive of an approach that seeks to optimise environmental benefits relative to investment.

4. Māori impact statement

It is considered that Māori would be supportive of the potential for greater environmental outcomes that are anticipated through the development of these business cases.

5. Financial implications

The proposed business case for the Hokianga Harbour is to be funded via the Equalisation Reserve. The decision to allocated \$300,000 of Equalisation Reserve was subject to an earlier council resolution at its 26 April 2022 meeting. The Taumarere business case is proposed to be funded by an allocation of \$100,000 from councils Future Freshwater Improvement Fund. There is presently \$108K remaining in this budget. It should be noted that initial Strategic Business Cases would only require a portion of these funding sources with the balance being set aside for development of full business cases (subject to a council decision to progress to this stage).

6. Implementation issues

It is intended to complete the first stage of the business case (the strategic case) within the 23/24 financial year. The strategic case will provide a better indication of the timeframes and resourcing needs for the full business case. As noted, the Hokianga Business case is to be undertaken at the same time. Initiating two projects of this nature at the same time create a risk around resourcing contracts and capacity of partners to participate. This risk is more an issue for the full business given the time and resources that it may require of council and its partners. These risks are best covered off in the strategic case.

7. Significance and engagement

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

8. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

There are no known policy, risk or legislative compliance issues associated with this decision.

Background/Tuhinga

The purpose of this report is to gain council approval to develop a business case to address water quality issues in the Taumarere Catchment and to improve the quality of the coastal receiving waters.

The Hokianga Harbour Business Case:

At the 26 April 2022 council meeting, council made the following resolutions:

1. That council approve the allocation of \$300,000 from the Equalisation Reserve to fund the development of a Harbour Remediation Business Case, to be commenced during the 2023/2024 financial year.
2. That, prior to undertaking the Harbour Remediation Business Case, staff present an options assessment to council in order to gain council approval to confirm which harbour(s) will be subject to the business case and the scope and purpose.

The second resolution was progressed at the June 2023 meeting where council approved the development of an initial Strategic Business Case for remediation of the Hokianga Harbour and that this be funded using part of the \$300,000 allocated to a harbour remediation business case in April 2022. Staff estimate the strategic case will make up between 10%-20% of the total project budget.

It should be noted that harbour remediation requires investigation of options to address contamination from freshwater inputs into the harbour from the wider catchment and is not confined to remediation activities in the harbour itself.

The Taumarere catchment proposal

The development of a strategic business case for improving fresh and coastal water quality (with a core focus on sediment and *E. coli*) in the Taumarere catchment is recommended on the basis that:

- Early discussions indicate there is a willingness and capacity for Ngati Hine to partner in the initiative.
- Long term river water quality monitoring (Waiharakeke at Stringers Road) indicates significant water quality issues (sediment in particular)
- There is a good level of information to support the strategic business case including a council investigation into water quality in the catchment in late 2016 (this confirmed issues with freshwater quality and indicated there are opportunities for improvement).
- The catchment contributes a significant proportion of the contaminant load (especially sediment) impacting the Waikare Inlet.
- The catchment is a good representative of Northland's freshwater issues and range of land uses / land cover and therefore is an ideal pilot for such catchment planning initiatives.

It is recommended that council funds its financial contribution to this initiative using \$100,000 from its Freshwater Improvement Fund. This Future Fresh Water Improvement funding was budgeted for NRC co-investment to meet future Ministry for the Environment grant funding and is funded through the Land and Freshwater Management rate. The Ministry funding has not eventuated leaving budgeted Future FIF funding that is now not required for this purpose.

The initial Strategic Business Case is not expected to require the entire \$100,000 and the balance could be used to support a fuller business case (if progressed). While it is recommended that the primary focus of the initial strategic business case is on options to reduce sediment and *E. coli* and impacts on coastal receiving waters, it is considered pragmatic to assess the merits of addressing other water quality issues that may be of concern in the catchment.

The approach to developing business cases

Business cases provide a solid foundation for future action and confidence that funding and resourcing will be effective in achieving outcomes. However, they can be costly to develop - it is therefore recommended that before council commits to any business case in full, an initial strategic business case is undertaken as a first step for both the Taumarere and Hokianga catchment initiatives (this approach aligns with the Better Business Case model used by Treasury). This would set out the strategic context, existing evidence, and the risks, opportunities and benefits at a high level. It can also serve to better define the scope for the next stages of the business case. It is essentially a 'sense check' and decision point for council and partners prior to committing to a full business case – it is

recommended that the initial strategic business cases be reported back to council and a decision on whether to proceed further be sought at that time.

The scope for the initial strategic business case for the Hokianga Harbour was endorsed by council in June 2023 - the key elements are summarised below:

- The problems (or opportunities) to be addressed and the benefits to be achieved.
- The strategic context, including whether addressing the case for change is well aligned to strategic priorities.
- Undertake an initial assessment of risks and uncertainties.
- Recommendations and actions to support further development of the business case (this could include potential partnership arrangements, options for governance oversight, engagement approaches and requirements for technical support).

Some other factors that are recommended to be taken into account in developing strategic cases include:

- Statutory and policy settings (e.g. Fresh Water Farm Plan Regulations, RMA reforms, three waters reform and changes to the NPS-FM).
- Council's strategic goals / outcomes and Te Tiriti Strategy.
- The Te Tiriti settlement landscape and the strategic aspirations of Hapu / iwi
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation co-benefits.

It is recommended that this approach also be applied to the initial strategic business case for the Taumarere catchment.

It is recommended that any engagement in the development of initial business cases is very targeted and limited to mana whenua partners and key stakeholders (such as relevant central government agencies). Consulting more broadly (e.g. forming catchment groups with representation from a wide range of stakeholders) takes significant time and resource and is not considered essential in the development of initial strategic business cases – the need for and approaches to wider engagement can be assessed as part of the initial business case.

Timeframes

Assuming council endorses these catchment initiatives, it is anticipated that development of an initial strategic business cases could be completed by the conclusion of the 2023/24 financial year if outsourced to external contractors. Note this is highly dependent on the 'readiness' and commitment of partners / key stakeholders.

Conclusion

Sediment is a significant issue in freshwater and coastal receiving environments and is pervasive across Northland. High levels of *E. coli* are also found in most rivers and indicates microbial contamination is widespread. Both these contaminants have impacts on the ability to use of water and resources, recreational values and sediment is a particular concern for freshwater and coastal ecosystems. Measures to mitigate or remedy these impacts can be costly and ineffective if not well targeted – business cases are a means to ensure that efforts and resources are targeted to maximise benefits and the opportunities for co-investment are optimised.

The extension of the deadline (to December 2027) for notification of plan changes to implement the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM), combined with the government intention to revise the NPS-FM provides the opportunity to increase focus on catchment planning and the resourcing for these initiatives – both proposals will assist in the management of key freshwater contaminants of concern in the region and improve the quality of coastal receiving waters.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: **Waikare II unbudgeted capital expenditure.**

From: Jim Lyle, Harbour Master and Maritime Manager

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 18 March 2024

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

This report requests approval for unbudgeted capital expenditure of \$155,000 for the build of the Waikare II. The unplanned expenditure includes survey and administrative expenses that are required for bringing a commercial vessel into service the costs of which were not included in the original build budget, and variations to the contract build that were necessary during the build process.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the report 'Waikare II unbudgeted capital expenditure.' by Jim Lyle, Harbour Master and Maritime Manager and dated 11 March 2024, be received.
2. That the estimated unbudgeted expenditure of \$155,000 + GST is approved.

Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Do not approve unplanned capital expenditure.	Funds remain available for other projects.	Risk of legal dispute with Circa marine. Non delivery of vessel or at least delay in delivery while dispute is managed. Court costs to resolve dispute. Possible removal of key items to reduce costs.
2	Approve unplanned capital expenditure.	Vessel can be completed and delivered. Vessel will be completed with all required equipment.	Overall loan is increased. Overspend to be added to cost of vessel. After adding to the long term loan this will have minimal impact on rates.

The staff's recommendation is option 2, to approve the unplanned capital expenditure which will be managed by using year-end surpluses in the first instance and if there is insufficient surplus of surplus is prioritised elsewhere, then the unbudgeted expenditure will be debt funded as additional capital costs as the alternative.

Considerations

1. Climate Impact

There are no climate impacts associated with this decision.

2. Environmental Impact

There are no environmental issues with this decision.

3. Community views

The community were supportive of the new build during the LTP consultation. The vessel contributes towards the income earned for council through pilotage.

4. Māori impact statement

Council previously consulted on the new vessel build in the annual and Long-Term Plans. There were no specific concerns raised from Māori or Iwi groups in respect of this build. The proposals have no specific impact on Māori.

5. Financial implications

The Waikare II has been purchased using a long-term loan for \$3.295M to cover project costs.

It is anticipated that to complete the project:

As of end of February the project costs totalled	\$3.27M.
The final circa payment	\$159,750.
Expected final costs are now	\$3.45 M

Capex project budget of	<u>\$3.295M</u>
Leaves expected unbudgeted expenditure	\$155,000.

This will be managed using year-end surpluses in the first instance by using year-end surpluses in the first instance and if there is insufficient surplus of surplus is prioritised elsewhere, then the unbudgeted expenditure will be debt funded as additional capital costs as the alternative with minimal impact on rates.

(Details of these additional costs and variations are included in the background section of this paper. The vessel is still not finalised, and there may still be some further costs however the vessel is at delivery stage and no major cost items are anticipated.)

6. Implementation issues

There are no implementation issues with this decision.

7. Significance and engagement

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

8. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

Unplanned unbudgeted expenditure of more than \$70,000 requires council approval.

Background/Tuhinga

On 1 February 2022 tenders were received for the Waikare II build with an update that the build would cost \$3.5M, and the Circa tender being the lowest tender at \$3.195M. Council had already approved \$100k for initial design and scoping of the tender.

Capex lending project budget was arranged for \$3.295M to cover the Circa build costs. The project had been consulted on in the long term plan with support from the community.

The Circa tender did not include survey and surveyor costs, which include the costs for certifying a commercial vessel. The surveyor was deliberately kept out of the Circa contract so that NRC maintains an independent check on the build, with them acting for NRC.

Given the economic environment Circa have kept strictly to their build costs, however some items and materials were unavailable, and choices had to be made on replacements. During the key build period the harbourmaster maintained close liaison with the builders with usually a weekly onsite visit.

Any items over and above the tendered build costs were listed as variations. Some variations were made to ensure a higher build quality that would save costs later. These included the silicon antifoul which will save around \$8000 per annum, as well as being environmentally friendly and saving on fuel costs.

The new vessel includes more glass for better visibility, but this also raised concerns around overheat and glare. The glass was upgraded to UV treated, which was more practical than blinds, and the quoted navigation screens were upgraded after concern from the electronics expert they would be difficult to see. Air conditioning was left off the original specs to save costs. Auto pilot was also dropped from the specs.

A fire suppression system had somehow been missed in the original specifications and is obviously needed. And another variation arose after the crane arrived 12 months after ordering, with a huge control pulpit that would have taken up valuable deck space. Circa managed to instal below deck as the crane works fine with the remote control. Other variations included adapting the bilge pumping arrangement to enable pumping from opposite hulls, an important safety feature, and an upgrade to the sound insulation given the hours we spend on the vessel.

The remaining unbudgeted expenditure on the project costs relate to the survey and certification costs.

Surveyor and certification costs	\$21,145
Signage, safety equipment misc	\$15,413
Total Variations Circa	\$113,427

It must be noted that Circa have built a high quality vessel and closely liaised with NRC over any variation to the budget, and managed extremely well in a high inflation period of the build. The resulting vessel is an asset to NRC that will serve the maritime community well for many years maintaining aids to navigation, responding to oil spills and assisting with salvage operations. It will also be earning revenue from pilotage of cruise vessels in the Bay of Islands, with high numbers forecasted for the next few years.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Chair's Report to Council

From: Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

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

Purpose of Report

This report is to receive information from the Chair on strategic issues, meetings/events attended, and correspondence sent for the month of February 2024.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 11 March 2024, be received.

Meetings/events attended

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

- 30 Jan - Met with Hon Simeon Brown, Minister for Transport, in Wellington
- 30 Jan - Met with Hon Andrew Hoggard, Minister for Biosecurity, in Wellington
- 5 Feb - Met with Hon Shane Jones, Minister for Regional Development, in Paihia
- 5 Feb - Attended National Trust Board Dinner
- 13 Feb - Attended 'Chairing the Board' Training in Auckland
- 15 Feb - Meeting with MP Grant McCallum re Caulerpa
- 17 Feb - Opened the Bluegreen's conference in Waitangi
- 21 Feb - Attended Farm Field Day in Jordan Valley and presented on alternate pastures
- 26 Feb - Met with Deputy Controller and Auditor-General Andrew McConnell

Correspondence

During February 2024 I sent out the following correspondence:

Date	Addressed To	Subject
16 Feb 2024	Deloitte	Acknowledging arrangements of the audit engagement and the terms of the consultation document and LTP

19 Feb 2024	Hon Andrew Hoggard – Minister of Biosecurity and Food Safety, Associate Minister of Agriculture and Associate, Minister for the Environment	Matters relating to : - Caulerpa in Omakiwi - Clean Hull Plan - Predator Free 2050
19 Feb 2024	Mayor Vince Cocurullo	Weed Management – Whangarei District Council
19 Feb 2024	Mayor Craig Jepson	Weed Management – Kaipara District Council
19 Feb 2024	Mayor Moko Tepania	Weed Management – Far North District Council
29 Feb 2024	Hon Tama Potaka – Minister of Conservation	Matters relating to - Northlands Deer Eradication Programme - Northlands Vision for PF2050 - Opportunities for greater alignment of Department of Conservation and Northland Regional Council weed and pest management activities

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 19 March
Group Manager/s: 2024

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report ‘Chief Executive’s Report to Council’ by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 11 March 2024, be received.

8.2.1 HIGHLIGHTS

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

The Draft Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) was released for public consultation over the period 16 February – 15 March 2024. Public consultation has been undertaken via a number of in person Have your Say events, an online event and completed on 15 March with an online/in person events at NRC. The Regional Transport Committee (RTC) will commence deliberations on the submissions from the public consultation process in mid-April. The draft RLTP will be presented at the May 2024 council meeting for approval before submitting to NZTA ahead of the deadline of 14 June 2024.

Maritime

Acknowledging the huge mahi from maritime over the summer period. February was the busiest month ever for cruise ships in the Bay of Islands, with 29 overall and 6 days with two ships in at a time. This amounts to around 45,000 passengers plus a large number of crew. Two ships also overnighted.

The new replacement vessel Waikare II was also undergoing sea trials this month, whilst last items are finalised.

Northport also had their first two cruise ships in February, with a third due on 07 March. The month was also busy providing on water support to other NRC teams.

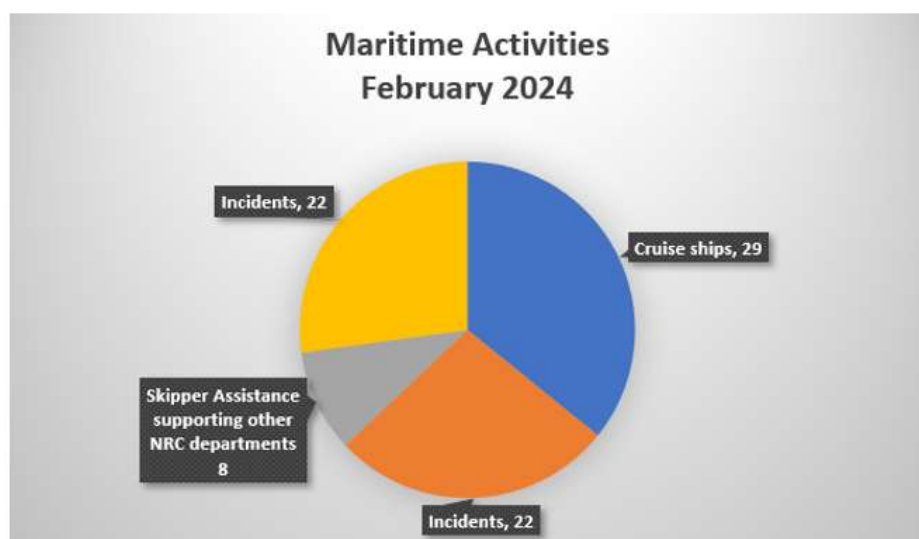


Chart overview of activities undertaken by the Maritime team in February 2024.

Kaipara Moana Remediation

KMR has tabled its most recent 6 Month Report to the Ministry for the Environment. This reflects activity in the half year to 31 December 2023, i.e. at the end of two years of full operational delivery.

The report demonstrates that despite ongoing policy and regulatory uncertainty and economic headwinds, KMR is exceeding the majority of its key performance metrics for the half-year, with two landing under target (fencing; people-hours worked) but within an acceptable range and expected to meet year-end targets by year end. As it is the first year KMR has invested in hill country soil conservation projects, it is unclear at this stage whether we will meet the targets for these two metrics, bearing in mind that KMR is a voluntary programme, winter planting is highly weather-dependent, and the 30 June 2024 year-end falls in the middle of the winter planting.

8.2.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

Fraud Corruption and Dishonesty Statement

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

8.2.3 REGULATORY SERVICES

Current Legal Proceedings

Department	Description	Status
Consent decision appeal	Irrigation of avocado orchards and horticulture crops	The Environment Court has directed that a final set of conditions be provided by 29 March 2024. Where agreement cannot be reached, the Court will decide any differences.
Consent decision appeal	Replacement of consents for Opononi Wastewater Treatment System, Hokianga	Appeal from Ngāti Korokoro Hapū has been acknowledged by the Environment Court. Parties have agreed to Court assisted mediation. Memo of outcome of mediation is to be provided to the Court by 31 May 2024.

Consents in Process

During February 2024, a total of 109 Decisions were issued. These decisions comprised:

Moorings	1
Coastal Permits	35
Land Discharge Permits	8
Land Use Consents	30
Water Permits	11
Water Takes	6
Bore Consents	18

Thirty-three applications were received in February 2024.

Applications more than 12 months old – 29 February 2024

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
APP.006928	Mr J D Palffy	Log extraction from bed of Northern Wairoa River	04/07/2008	S92 hold for cultural effects assessment. Applicant has been advised that this application needs to be resolved or withdrawn.
APP.004835	Far North District Council	Kerikeri urban area stormwater discharges	04/10/2011	S92 hold for information on flooding effects. FNDC awaiting results of new flood model for stormwater system before application can continue to be processed.
APP.037501	Hare Patau Hohepa Tepania	Marine farm at Southern end of 90 Mile Beach (Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē)	03/03/2015	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with Te Hiku about activities on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē.
APP.038180	Whangarei District Council	Comprehensive stormwater network consent for Upper Whangarei Harbour catchments	25/02/2016	S37 extension by applicant. WDC have engaged a consultant to update the application in response to new PRP and legislation before proceeding further. Unlikely to be ready until early 2024.
APP.038601	North Western Mussels Limited	Mussel spat catching farm off the West Coast of 90 Mile Beach (Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē)	15/07/2016	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with Te Hiku about activities on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē.
APP.037958	Oranga Kai Limited Partnership	Groundwater take for an avocado orchard at 6258 Mangakāhia Road, Kaikohe	28/07/2017	Applicant has requested that hearing being organised. Council awaiting final details of consultation with submitters prior to organising a hearing date, which should occur in second half of 2024.
APP.005059	Golden Bay Cement	Stormwater discharges to CMA from a cement manufacturing site, Portland	09/11/2018	Section 128 review. Review of conditions complete. Decision will be issued by end of March 2024.
APP.042595	Glenview Estate Limited	Activities associated with a proposed hydroelectric power station at Knight Road, Kokopu	02/03/2021	Applicant has requested that hearing is placed on hold to allow him to secure concession and fish passage approval from DoC.
APP.007161	Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society Incorporated	Replacement consents for dredging and associated activities in Mangawhai Harbour	10/03/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant. Council in discussions with applicant and DoC regarding consent conditions.
APP.004204	Fonterra Limited	Replacement consent to discharge process wastewater from the Maungaturoto dairy factory into the Ōtamatea River estuary	16/03/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with Te Uri o Hau. CIA has been completed and applicant working though issues with Te Uri o Hau.

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
APP.000932	Far North District Council	Replacement consents for the Kaitāia wastewater treatment plant at Bonnetts Road, Kaitāia	24/08/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant. Applicant has advised council that draft conditions have been agreed to with tangata whenua and have requested that council proceed to publicly notify application.
APP.030602	Far North District Council	Replacement consent for sludge storage facility at Kaitāia - jointly processed with WWTP application	24/08/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua on conditions of consent.
APP.002417	Far North District Council	Renewal of consents for the Kaikohe WWTP	27/08/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow for discussions with tangata whenua on land disposal options and preparation of a CIA.
APP.043079	Teal Shores Limited	Earthworks to construct ponds and bunds at Webb Road, Teal Bay	07/09/2021	S92 hold regarding natural wetlands in the CMA.
APP.037987	Tranquility Retreats Limited	Take water from a bore for the purposes of horticultural irrigation at McManus Road, Houhora	17/09/2021	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting Court decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.043277	R Campbell	Groundwater take for an avocado orchard at 3190 Far North Road, Motutangi	19/11/2021	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting Court decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.043278	Far North Packers Limited	Groundwater take for avocado processing plant at Waiharara, Awanui	19/11/2021	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting Court decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.038410	Sandstone Orchards Limited Partnership	Groundwater take at Srhoj Road, Waiharara for irrigation of avocado orchard development	30/11/2021	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting Court decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.043352	Kauri Mountain Farms Limited	Historic refuse disposal at 469 Kauri Mountain Road, Onerahi	09/12/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow planting plan to be provided to council.
APP.004352	WDC	To discharge treated wastewater to the CMA (Limeburners Creek) at Kioreroa Road, Whangarei	17/12/2021	S37 extension requested by applicant to resolve issues with proposed consent conditions. Applicant has advised amended conditions should be with council early 2024.

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
APP.043384	GS Jacobsen	Retrospective consent for a retaining wall and mooring, and proposed new boardwalk, 118 Waterfront Road, Pukenui	20/01/2022	S92 hold for further information. Council has followed up with applicant regarding progress with response to s92 request. Awaiting response.
APP.043505	Robert Campbell Trust	Short-term groundwater take for irrigation at 134 Big Flat Road, Waiharara	25/02/2022	S37 extension requested by council. Awaiting decision on 24 groundwater consents that have been appealed before processing.
APP.009495	Taipa Water Supply Limited	Replacement consent to take for irrigation and public water supply, Ōruru River	03/05/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua.
APP.043888	Carrington Estate Jade LP	Earthworks for residential subdivision at Matai Bay Road and Whatuwhiwhi Road	30/05/2022	S92 hold for assessment of NPS-FW and "natural inland wetlands".
APP.007205	Far North District Council	Replacement consents for discharges associated with operation of the Kāeo WWTP	27/07/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua.
APP.003796	Doubtless Bay Water Supply Company Limited	Replacement consent to take groundwater for public supply at Taipa	28/07/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua.
APP.001116	Kaipara District Council	Replacement consents for discharges associated with the wastewater treatment plant at State Highway 1, Kaiwaka	29/07/2022	Council finalising decision report. Decision should be issued by end of March 2024.
APP.007399	Far North District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to Hihi Stream, Hihi Beach WWTP	31/08/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua.
APP.044441	Shoresite Properties Limited	Bulk earthworks for subdivision at Sun Valley Drive, Morningside, Whangarei	05/10/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow for discussions with tangata whenua
APP.005055	Northport Limited	Proposed port expansion project to include reclamation and port activities	06/10/2022	Hearing being held which has been adjourned till at least March 2024.
APP.044499	C & R Maria	Earthworks for a proposed 11 lot subdivision at Oruru Road, Taipa	20/10/2022	S92 hold for additional information.
APP.007294	MacBrand Water Co Limited	Renew consent to take water for irrigation at Kerikeri	27/10/2022	S37 extension agreed to by applicant. Council decision to be issued by end of March 2024.
APP.044610	K Archer	MM4 Swing mooring in Windsor Landing, Kerikeri	17/11/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow reconsideration of proposal.

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
APP.044619	Kiripaka Holdings Limited	Earthworks for an 84 lot development at Kiripaka Road, Whangarei	24/11/2022	S37 extension agreed to by applicant to allow discussion and finalisation of consent conditions
APP.044727	Quail Ridge Country Club Limited	Proposed pedestrian bridge across Kerikeri River	24/01/2023	S92 hold for information on flooding effects. Joint application with FNDC. Applicant has requested public notification and FNDC will be lead agency.
APP.006151	G W Cordiner	Replacement consent for boat shed #5 in Hatea River, Whangārei Harbour adjacent to Riverside Drive, Whangārei	23/02/2023	S37 provided by applicant. Applicant has had discussions with tangata whenua and the council regarding conditions. Decision will be issued by end of March 2024.

- 14 were received between 6 and 12 months ago (most awaiting further information from the applicant);
- 81 less than 6 months.

Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

No commissioners were appointed in February 2024.

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

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

Applications Publicly/Limited Notified During Previous Month	1
Progress on Applications Previously Notified	4
Hearings and Decisions	2
Appeals/Objections	2










COMPLIANCE MONITORING













The results of compliance monitoring for the period 1 February to 29 February 2024 (and year-to-date figures) are summarised in the following table and discussed below.









Classification	Total	Full compliance	Low risk non-compliance	Moderate non-compliance	Significant non-compliance	Not exercised during period
Air Discharge	26	25	1	0	0	0
Bore Consent	2	2	0	0	0	0
Coastal Discharge	11	9	1	1	0	0
Coastal Permit	79	77	0	1	0	1
Land Discharge	74	58	10	3	0	3
Land Use Consent	53	40	0	0	0	13
Water Discharge	35	21	11	0	0	3
Water Permit	31	25	0	0	0	6

Classification	Total	Full compliance	Low risk non-compliance	Moderate non-compliance	Significant non-compliance	Not exercised during period
Water Take	86	68	9	7	0	2
Total	397	325	32	12	0	28
Percentage		81.9%	8.1%	3.0%	0%	7.1%
Year to date	4299	3121	452	355	60	311
Percentage		72.6%	10.5%	8.3%	1.4%	7.2%

Municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance/enforcement

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Enforcement Action/Response
Ahipara Expires 2033		<u>Under ANs</u> (reissued in September 2022). New SCUUV unit to improve the discharge has arrived in NZ and FNDC is currently tendering for its installation. E
Russell Expires 30 April 2024		<u>Under AN.</u> Significant non-compliance currently being addressed.
Whatuwhiwi Expires 2025		None currently.
Taipā Expires 2029		None currently.
Kawakawa Expires 2036		None currently.
Rāwene Expired 2023 (replacement consent application received)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Kaitiāia Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed)		<u>Under AN</u> (for reticulation overflows). Ongoing works on reticulation system. Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Kaikohe Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Rangiputa Expires 2032		None currently.

<p>Opononi & Omāpere Expired 2019 (replacement consents granted but late appeal may be accepted)</p>		<p><u>Under AN.</u> Issues addressed in replacement consent.</p>
<p>Paihia Expires 2034</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Hikurangi Expires 2025</p>		<p>Improvements to plant performance currently underway.</p>
<p>Glinks Gully Expires 31 July 2024 (replacement consent application received)</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Maungaturoto Expires 2032</p>		<p><u>Under AN.</u> Improvements made to management of the WWTP.</p>
<p>Kaiwaka Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)</p>		<p>Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.</p>
<p>Kaeo Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Hihi Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Mangawhai Expires 2042</p>		<p><u>Under AN.</u> Wastewater being dosed with odour control chemicals. Irrigation storage dam requires repairs – works underway to address.</p>
<p>Kohukohu Expired 2016 (replacement consents granted but late appeal may be accepted)</p>		<p>None currently. Issues addressed in replacement consent.</p>
<p>Ruakaka Expires 2046</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Te Kopuru Expires 2044</p>		<p>KDC investigating options for improvement.</p>

Dargaville Expires 2043		<u>Under AN.</u> Issues addressed in replacement consent.
Whāngārei City Expired 2022 (replacement consent conditions being finalised)		<u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant. Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Tutukaka Expires 31 May 2024 (replacement consent application expected by end of February)		None currently.
Oakura Expires 2025		None currently.
Waiōtira Expires 2030		None currently.
Waipū Expires 2030		None currently.
Kerikeri Expires 2036		None currently.
Portland Expires 31 May 2024 (replacement consent application expected by end of February)		None currently.
Ngunguru Expires 2035		None currently.
Compliance Status	Colour	
Full compliance		
Low risk non-compliance		
Moderate non-compliance		
Significant non-compliance		

ENFORCEMENT

Abatement Notices, Infringement Notices and Formal Warnings

The following table gives the total numbers of abatement and infringement notices and formal warnings issued in February 2024:

Nature of offence	Abatement notices	Infringement notices	Formal warnings
Discharge from boat maintenance	1	1	
Burning and smoke nuisance	10	3	1

Earthworks/land use	6	2	
Illegal activity in coastal marine area	1	1	
Other water discharge	1		
Illegal use of lakebed or riverbed	2	1	
Sewage discharge	1		
Stormwater discharge		1	
Sediment discharge		1	
Total	22	10	1

Court Cases Update

Appellant/Defendant	Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
	Prosecution District Court Contravention of enforcement orders requiring remedial work.	Final step is for defendant to provide to NRC a Site Validation Report (SVR) and a finalised Ongoing Monitoring Management Plan (OMMP). When the SVR and the OMMP has been certified, the prosecution will be ready for sentencing. On 1/03/24, the Suitably Qualified and Experience Person instructed by defendant confirmed the SVR and the OMMP will be provided soon. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled on a date after 1/05/24.
	Prosecution District Court Earthworks and vegetation clearance in and near natural wetland; and discharge of sediment.	The third jury trial call over was on 26/02/24. Judge granted a further adjournment to call over, to be set by the registrar, to allow time for discussions between the parties on what issues can be agreed in advance of trial. Meeting held with the Crown on 27/03/24 with defendant to discuss the issues that are agreed and disputed and possible settlement.
	Prosecution District Court Discharge of concrete contaminated water to stormwater drain from concrete production and batching plant.	Sentencing hearing on 20/02/24 and decision issued. Judge set starting point at \$70,000 with uplift of 10% for financial position and discount of 10% for improvements, co-operation and remorse and 25% discount for guilty plea. End fine of \$52,500.
	Prosecution District Court Discharge of raw farm dairy effluent to a stream; wastewater washed into stream; and overflow from pond.	All defendants entered not guilty pleas and elected jury trial. Amicus has been appointed for the two unrepresented defendants, Waiting for allocation of pre-trial hearing date.
	Prosecution District Court Earthworks including: construction of tracks, earthworks and vegetation removal in and near wetland; stream crossings; discharge of sediment; and damming and diversions of tributaries.	Call over before Judge on 27/02/24. We are still negotiating wording of summary of facts with the defence lawyer for sentence indication hearing. Court adjourned to 22/04/24 for sentence indication hearing. Joint memorandum to be filed by 28/03/24.
	Appeal against abatement notice & application for stay	Abatement notices issued by NRC and later by WDC. Defendant filed appeal and application for stay. Following discussions between the parties. In

	Environment Court Coastal works.	early December 2023, WDC filed an application for enforcement orders against defendant requiring removal of the boat ramp and the hard protection structure, with NRC joining as section 274 party later in December in support of the WDC application in relation to the hard protection structure. Two-day hearing allocated for 21 and 22 March 2024 in Whangarei.
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8.2.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

LAND MANAGEMENT

Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations Implementation

In February the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) indicated that Minister Andrew Hoggard (Associate Minister for the Environment with responsibility for the Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations) is seeking feedback from across local government and the rural sector on whether improvements and fine tuning should occur to the Regulations. This is informal feedback and is being coordinated by Te Uru Kahika (NRC has not been contacted directly by the Ministry). MfE has no Order in Council will be signed by the Governor General until those amendments to the regulations are known.

In the interim, staff are taking a lite approach to progress preparation for the freshwater farm plan implementation including working on catchment context, challenges and values information and on the development of regional training content. A further workstream is looking at what options are available to enable behaviour change in farm operators so that any actions identified in farm plans have longevity and are of benefit to farm operations. Part of that workstream will be looking at which external parties (e.g., primary sector organisations) have a key role in working with NRC to achieve that outcome.

BIODIVERSITY

CoastCare

CoastCare highlights for February:

- Dune monitoring day at Taipa with Kaitiaki o Tokerau Rangers and Karepori marae
- Lizard shelter checks with Patuharakeke Taiao Unit on Bream Bay dunes
- Ngunguru weeding day: <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/our-northland/story/?id=79086>

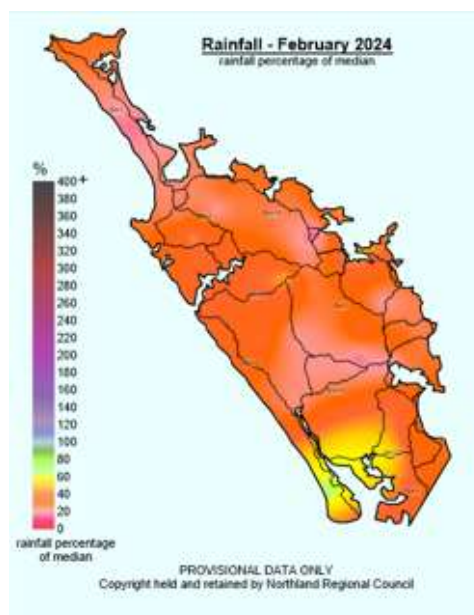
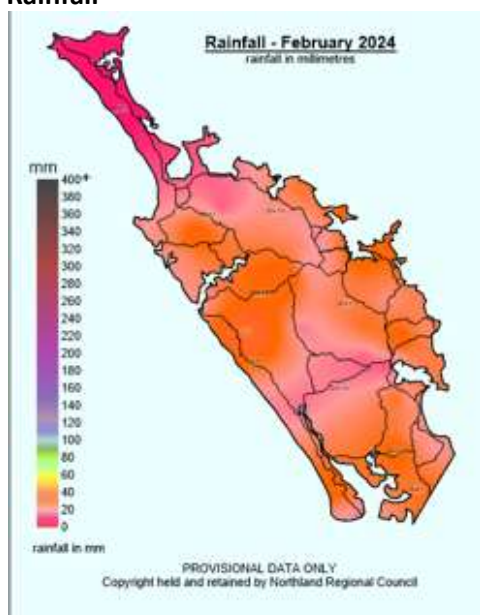
Freshwater

- Workshop on freshwater invertebrate survey methods delivered at Tāika forest and NorthTec with Ngā Kaitikai o Ngā Wai Māori and Ngāti Kahu o Torongāre.

NATURAL RESOURCES

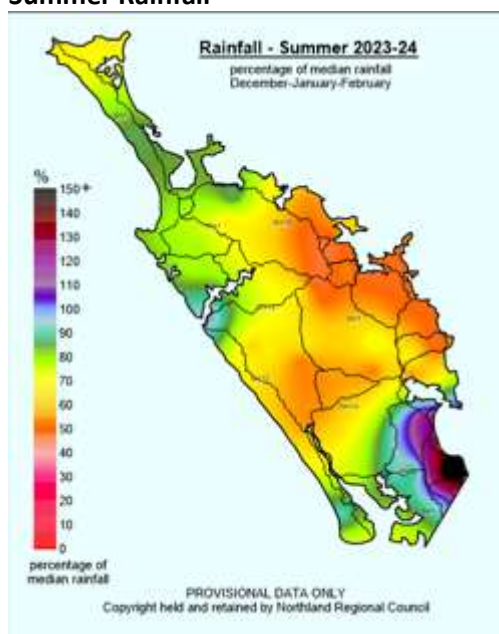
HYDROLOGY

Rainfall



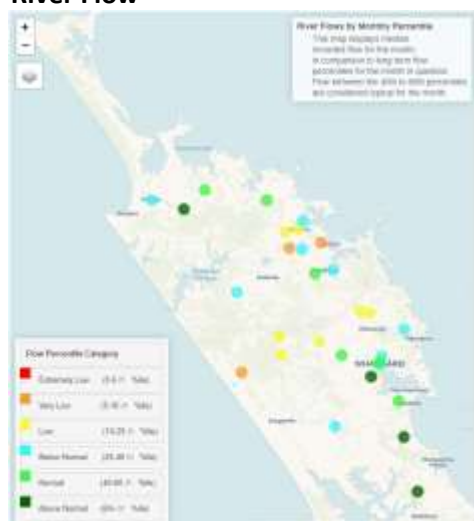
- The Northland region averaged 20mm, about 33% of normal expected rainfall for February.
- The highest monthly total was recorded at the Waimamaku at Wekaweka Road station in south Hokianga with 44mm.
- The Aupōuri Peninsular recorded the least rain with 11.5mm at the Waihopo at Kimberly Road station (near Houhora) and 12.2mm at Cape Rēinga.
- The highest percentage of median rainfall was recorded at the Okoraka at Ngatawhiti Road station on the Poutō Peninsular with 68% and Ruawai with 62%.
- The lowest percentage of median rainfall was 16% in Kerikeri, followed by 18% in both Waipao (inland from Whangārei) and Waihopo (near Houhora) on the Aupōuri Peninsular.

Summer Rainfall



- Over the three months of summer, Northland has averaged about 73% of normal expected rainfall, though there is significant regional variation.
- The far southeast of the region has been the wettest; the wider Mangawhai area has recorded 168% of normal summer rainfall and Bream Bay 100-120%.
- Central Northland, particularly the east coast, has been the driest, with 45% of normal summer rainfall recorded at Opuā, 46% in Kerikeri, and 47% at Ngunguru.

River Flow



- River flow in Northland’s primary monitored catchments shows regional variation that reflects the summer rainfall distribution.
- River flow for February is above normal to normal in most southeastern catchments, in the Far North in the Victoria, south of Kaitiāia and across to Kāeo in the east.
- River flows are primarily Below Normal, Low, and Very Low in central areas from the east coast to the west.

Groundwater



- Groundwater levels in Northland’s primary monitored aquifers also reflect the summer rainfall distribution.
- Groundwater levels were Normal to Above Normal for February in the Far North, and the southeast.
- Groundwater levels are Below Normal in Ruawai and Kaikohe, and Very Low in Russell.

Water Quality Field Operations

- The Annual Freshwater Ecology monitoring programme has been completed for the year. In the 2023/24 monitoring season the team successfully sampled 48 sites across the region, including:
 - Electric fishing (18 sites in nine FMUs)
 - Trap fishing (five sites in four FMUs)
 - Macroinvertebrates (39 sites in 13 FMUs)

Lake Ōmāpere

Science staff met with the Lake Ōmāpere Trust at Kaikohe on 7 March 2024 to discuss environment monitoring in and around Lake Ōmāpere. The Trust identified a number of monitoring projects that it would like to undertake to support building a better understanding around the health of the lake. These included tuna surveys, exotic fish monitoring and eDNA sampling for kokopu. Staff were tasked with investigating how NRC might be able to support some of this work and the Trust advised that they would identify through their priorities for this work and bring these back to staff. Notably the Trust identified that it was important that council has some budget to support the relationship agreement and that this should be reflected in the draft Long Term Plan.

POLICY AND PLANNING

Government Resource Management Reforms

Two new key changes currently underway are the Fast Track Consenting proposal and a proposal to extend the expiry of marine farming consents by 25 years. Detail of both proposals are very sparse. With regard to the marine farming consent extension proposal, staff provided feedback on this proposal on Monday 4 March. Very little time was made available to give feedback and staff acknowledge the implications of the proposal.

With regard to Fast Track Consenting proposal, the lodgement date for this is 19 April 2024. Staff will workshop a draft submission with council and lodge under delegated authority because the submission deadline is before the April council meeting.

Whangarei Future Development Strategy (FDS)

The Future Development Strategy Working group has continued to refine the draft development scenario plus the Strategic Objectives and Outcomes for the FDS document. It is now anticipated that the final draft will be presented to council in late May for approval to begin public consultation.

Plan Change 1 to the Whangarei District Plan

Staff presented evidence at the hearing on Plan Change 1 (PC1) to the Whangarei District Plan. The Council supported the intent of PC1 to reduce the risks of natural hazards in the district through provisions and maps being included in the District Plan. The provisions as notified in Proposed Plan Change 1 were generally consistent with direction on the management of natural hazard risks in the Regional Policy Statement.

8.2.5 BIOSECURITY

PREDATOR FREE

Predator Free Whangārei

The move to the new field depot at Lamb road, Parua Bay has gone well and small finishing jobs remain. This positions the pf2050 team on the doorstep of the important pest barrier zone which will make servicing more time effective. This barrier is a virtual zone positioned between where elimination is occurring, and the zone from which incursion can occur. The proximity of the depot to the Parua Bay village provides scope for greater community awareness and involvement.

Three new field members joined the team, and we are fortunate that all have prior experience and skills, and two have previous connections with the Whangarei Heads area.

The installation of traps and bait stations is almost completed across McLeod's Bay and the farmland through towards the Nook. This will enable an intensive 3-month knock-down to start.

The team have also been preparing for the March install of monitoring devices (cameras, leg-hold traps) on Maunga Manaia. This is aimed at getting a good understanding of the density of possums, rats and mustelids following the pre-Christmas toxin programme, and precedes follow-up knock-down mahi.



New depot at Lamb Road



Field team member servicing a Flipping Timmy trap

Predator Free Pēwhairangi (Bay of Islands)

Purerua-Mataroa Peninsular - Te Ahutai (Ngati Rehia) Project:

Work has concentrated on establishing monitoring lines across the Te Tii block with 2.3km established. Monitoring devices (chew cards and VHS cameras) will be installed in March. Whanau members are well engaged with the Predator Free kaupapa, and time has been spent showing them aspects of the project. Hui with Takou Bay whanau was well received and whanau are keen for monitoring to commence in their Ngahere in March. Monitoring lines cover 88ha of the Te Tii block and setting-up is underway for 322 ha at Takou.

Purerua-Mataroa Peninsular – Kiwi Coast Project:

Kiwi Coast field team members completed wax tag monitoring work across 939ha of the western buffer zone to gauge density, with a 7% BMI (Bite Mark Index) resulting. This information will help decision making for upcoming enhanced pest suppression of the barrier area. Targeted elimination work continues with a combination of camera surveillance for possums and cats, pindone and pestoff installation, and a focus on juvenile possums recently infiltrating land around the western barrier. The projects surveillance monitoring work will be increased in March with attention on wild cats, ahead of 20 Pateke being released later in the month.

Results to date include 939ha under monitoring, 3,043ha in knock-down, 939 ha in mop-up (final stages of knock-down), and 4,595ha in a detect and respond status.

Rakaumangamanga Peninsular:

February has been a month of training for field kaimahi with first aid, controlled substance licencing, kauri protection, chainsaw safety and trap familiarisation being provided to six field staff.

Equipment is on hand for installation across 1,144ha of the peninsular and early March is set for this mahi to commence in Zones 1a and 1b – SE Peninsular. Equipment will need to be flown in via helicopter.

An application has been submitted to DOC for the use of multiple toxins (including brodifacoum) on public conservation land within the project area.

Priority work also includes the upgrade of kaimahi accommodation huts, and a partnership with DOC will see some disused DOC huts utilised for this purpose.

Results to date include commencement of installation and knock-down across 1,144ha, additional land owners permissions for 1,093ha, and ongoing planning for future delivery across 838ha.

PEST PLANTS

The summer months have staff juggling summer delivery work, engagement events, enforcement work and responding to community Biofund and CPCA requests.

Relatively settled weather has meant good conditions for control work to take place for our council-led control species, with work being undertaken on spartina, yellow flag iris, mile-a-minute, firethorn, cathedral bells, Mexican feather grass, bat-wing passion flower and ochra. Control was also undertaken on a new nardoo site (now the only active site known in the region) and a new cathedral bells site. Extended search work around known firethorn sites has also extended the known infestation area.

The Manchurian wild rice project lead has contacted all landowners affected by the reduced programme funding, and has spent additional time undertaking work that would otherwise have been allocated to contractors to compensate for the reduced funding this financial year. Landowners who indicated they may be able to undertake some control themselves have been supplied with herbicide as an interim measure. This additional work has helped to reduce the impact of the reduced funding. However, it will have flow-on effects on some other council work programmes and is not sustainable. Following a request to the Minister to have the decision to reduce funding reviewed, Council staff were heartened to hear that additional funding of \$40,000 would be allocated to offset part of the funding cut.

In addition to Field Days preparation and attendance at the Kaitia A&P show, pest plants staff delivered the pest plants component of Enviroschools events at three far north schools; Ahipara School, Kaingaroa School and Peria School. Pest plant staff also gave a presentation to parks staff at Far North District Council with a focus on helping them to better understand the biosecurity work undertaken by the Regional Council, the rules and their obligations under the Regional Pest Management Plan, and how Regional Council staff can help with training and advice on pest plant matters. Staff are keen to support Far North District Council to facilitate community weed control in parks.

KAURI PROTECTION

Weather conditions for the month of February have been ideal for Kauri Protection work and we have surpassed our quarterly goal for tree monitoring and soil sampling. The newly created "Kauri Workshop" programmes have been well received. One recently run here, at Northland Regional Council Whangarei, with the target audience being team leaders, managers, and supervisors in and around the Biosecurity space. These workshops have the same basic core principles with content being added for a more specific relation to the recipients. We are aiming to have 10 workshops held around Northland before mid-June 2024 including Northland Regional Council staff and other volunteer and support agencies.

Aerial surveillance work being conducted this month included Multi spectral images from both Wilsons Dam and Kauri Mountain area, both sites showing high numbers of Kauri tree, giving us a greater base point for future comparison and reference.

The recently attended Rotorua Forestry Health conference provided some great learnings and input from all whom attended. The highlight being a simulation we completed on a MPI led response to a foreign beetle being found in a pine nursery, this covered all aspects of the response using the CIMS4 response structure.

February has bought an influx of customer enquiries regarding kauri health, with the recent field days in Kaitaia and Dargaville having also contributed to this. We are currently working on several cases varying from legislation and rules, tree health inspections, existing surveys and wandering cattle issues.

Fencing programmes along five sites got underway within Maungaturoto, Whangarei Heads and Ruatangata this month with ten sections of track upgrades along Te Araroa Trail being identified with work to commence and contract awarded for Project work including boardwalk, geoweb, step and gravel track upgrades.



Fencing contractors Kaiwaka



Kauri Mountain drone mapping

8.2.6 GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust – commenced preparation of funding agreement for Mid North Water Scheme
- Northland Inc – co-ordinated information on Northland Inc for inclusion in the respective Long Term Plan (LTP) Supporting Document of the three council shareholders; commenced development of documentation associated with possible Whangarei District Council shareholding; provided financial information to Waikato Regional Council.

MĀORI RELATIONSHIPS TEAM

During 2023, Northland developed the Te Taitokerau Resilience Action Plan. The Plan identified the actions required to build the resilience of communities in the face of natural hazard events. The approach taken to this work put the community experience at the heart of the action plan, particularly those remote communities “at the end of the road”.



While the plan also identified the necessary regionwide actions required to build resilience, the priority was on understanding the challenges faced in remote communities and how community self-

reliance could be enhanced. Resilience of this nature will become increasingly important as climate change drives more frequent natural hazard events. Community self-reliance will need to become a way of life for remote communities. The communities involved in the development of the Te Tai Tokerau Resilience Action Plan identified the following vision statement for what community resilience would look like.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Vision</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">People living safely and well in their homes and on their whenua in the face of increasing natural hazards</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Outcomes</u></p> <p>We will know this vision has been achieved when:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Whānau and communities are prepared for responding to events2. Community connections are strong3. Homes are places that support resilience and self-reliance of whānau4. Whānau can access their homes and whenua5. Whānau are self-sufficient in the face of disruptions to external services and supplies6. Whānau and communities are able to make informed choices about living with natural hazards and climate change impacts

Currently the Māori relationships team are facilitating a number of workshops and wananga across the region to get an understanding of the plans that are being developed by kaitiaki, marae and hapū including linkages with their Iwi hapū environmental management plans that have been developed with an outcome focused on supporting funding and resources through other agencies and philanthropic entities such as Foundation North.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Key mahi

- Long Term Plan – work has continued across the Community Engagement and Māori Engagement teams to prepare for the upcoming public feedback period on our Long Term Plan 2024-2-34.
- Draft Freshwater Plan – engagement and communications activity has continued throughout February to support public input into this plan; the five-month feedback period finishes at the end of March.
- Regional Land Transport Review – engagement and communications activity kicked off during February to support public input into the plan review.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commemorations

This year's commemorations saw a significant turnout of around 80,000 attendees. An engagement plan was developed to support elected members through the week-long commemorations with ministerial engagement to raise the profile of key challenges and priorities for our region and to enhance relationship building with key stakeholders. It was supported by social media and links with LGNZ and FNDC. In addition, council staff from freshwater policy, Civil Defence, rāhui moana, and events were kept busy at our community engagement site. Our successful collaboration with Moana Futures, an organisation dedicated to ocean sustainability and sustainable kai gathering practices, helped draw the crowd to our site. Throughout the day, we engaged with over 500 individuals, and had 85 new signups for our email lists.



Deputy chair Tui Shortland with LGNZ president Sam Broughton at Waitangi



NRC tent at Waitangi commemorations 2024

Our Northland

The February edition of council's quarterly print news feature shone a spotlight on NRC's intern programme, which provides a valuable opportunity for students to gain real life work experience. [Council's quarterly e-news](#) was also published and distributed to around 2400 subscribers.

New story content generated in February included:

- Tackling moth plant together
- Our summer internship programme
- Restoring dunes with the community at Ngunguru
- Poplar planting grants
- Funding to tackle hill country erosion
- Protecting our bitterns

Events

One of our key objectives for our events this season has been to provide an opportunity for the community to ask questions and interact with specialist staff regarding changes to the draft freshwater plan change. We attend some of the smaller-scale events biannually based on business requirements. We consistently assess our event attendance to ensure it remains beneficial for us to participate in the future.

Paparoa Show (3 February)

Staff from various teams, including freshwater policy, land management, biosecurity, and biodiversity, attended the annual event. Positive feedback was received, noting significant community interaction regarding the draft freshwater plan and pest animal trapping. Despite adverse weather conditions towards the end of the show, just under 100 individuals engaged in discussions with staff, contributing to its overall success.

Broadwood Show (17 February)

The Broadwood A&P Show, also known as the North Hokianga A&P Show, is a smaller event that offers a valuable chance to connect with some of our diverse communities. Staff from the freshwater policy and biosecurity pest animal team engaged with around 75 attendees, many of whom were interested in discussing the draft freshwater plan change, the main focus of our presence at the show.

Kaitaia Show (24 February)

The Kaitaia A&P Show, similar in size to the Broadwood Show, provided a chance to engage with our rural community on various topics, including the draft freshwater plan change, kauri protection, biosecurity pest animals and pest plants. Staff were kept busy with lots of interest in the draft freshwater plan change.

Field Days

We had very successful year at Northland Field Days, with our site being awarded ‘Best Outdoor Site’. We will provide a more detailed update next month once all of the social media statistics and email signups have been counted.

Good to go campaign

Over summer from the 20 December 2023 –9 February 2024 we ran a campaign called “Good to Go”, with the main objective to raise awareness and drive traffic to the “[Good to Go – Summer](#)” [hub](#) we created. The online website hub provides a one-stop shop for information for Northlanders and visitors heading into marine and freshwater recreational areas. It includes advice to keep people safe while protecting the environment from pests (e.g., exotic Caulerpa and freshwater gold clam) and reminders of the maritime rules.

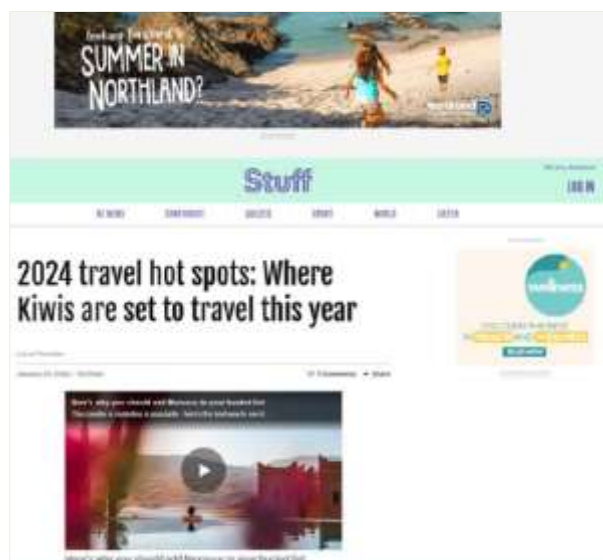


The campaign included an “always on” media strategy – which focused on two streams of google display (behaviour targeting and placement targeting). In addition to our digital advertising, we also used radio advertising, print and in-situ (at events).

The following are some highlights from the campaign performance:

- Over 2.6m impressions and 14k clicks.
- 0.54% click-through rate and \$0.34 cost per click.
- 11k sessions on the Good to Go Summer landing page with an average session duration of 2m 36s.

The average session duration is a particularly impressive result, as it indicates that we reached a highly relevant audience who found the website content very engaging.



Tū i te ora Scholarship

Applications for the Tū i te ora Scholarship were set to close on Sunday 25 February but were extended by two weeks to Sunday 10 March. This was to allow extra time for entries as many tertiary students were only just starting or returning to study at the end of February.

As part of the promotion of the scholarships, we featured videos of our current recipients. talking about their experience. You can read their stories here:

- [Jack Panoho](#) – biosecurity recipient
- [Stephanie Membrey](#) – biodiversity recipient
- [Te Karira Ruakere-Norris](#) - Māori relationships recipient

51 applications were received – a record number for us. These will now be reviewed and shortlisted applicants invite to interview.

Digital engagement

The most popular organic content was a [media release about the new extension to CityLink Tikipunga via Te Kamo route](#) Impressions: 12,920 | Engagement: 774 | Engagement rate: 6% (Engagement – number of people who ‘reacted’, clicked, viewed, commented or shared the post. Engagement rate – how engaged people are with NRC content. Industry benchmark = 1% - 5%.)

Web Audit Report

NRC is a member of ALGIM (Association of Local Government Information Management) who provide digital transformation expertise to the local government sector. As part of this, ALGIM release an annual report on the performance of the NRC website.

Below is a summary of the 2023 web audit results:

- From the full assessment of all local government, NRC ranking is 7th out of 80 organisations
- Our overall score was 83%. National average is 72.4% (anything over 80% is excellent)
- Achieved rating of Excellent website experience provided
- We are the top ranked regional council website (by quite some way)

- We had the highest technical ranking of all councils nationally (including 100% in best practices and SEO)

Key Performance Indicators	Jan-24	Feb-24
WEB		
# Visits to the NRC website	49,900	45,249
E-payments made	10	13
# subscribed web alerts (cumulative)	1,340	1,348
# subscribed to eNewsletters (cumulative)	5,492	5,431
SOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)		
# NRC Facebook followers	13,088	12,196
# NRC Overall Facebook Reach	118,908	361,398
# NRC Engaged Daily Users	8,312	16,202
# CDEM Facebook fans	37,820	36,233
# CDEM Overall Facebook Reach	24,144	39,203
# CDEM Engaged Daily Users	**N/A	1,774
# Instagram followers	1,743	1,756
# LinkedIn followers	2,694	2,734

Top three website pages:

- [Pest Control Hub](#)
- [Good to Go](#)
- [Environmental data hub](#)

Media liaison

In total, six Northland Regional Council media releases were created and distributed to media throughout Te Taitokerau during February. Topics included:

- Free wild food treats back for field days
- Tū i te ora Scholarship deadline extended
- Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021-2027 review
- New extension to CityLink Tikipunga via Te Kamo route
- Environmental Leaders Fund unveils climate conscious winners
- Government funding welcomed in battle against Caulerpa

A number of media enquiries were also received and responded to. Combined, this activity helped generate 109 items mentioning Northland Regional Council as reported by media monitoring agency Fuseworks.

- Top five sources of Te Taitokerau coverage: Northern Advocate (28), Northland Age (12), Radio NZ (9), Radio NZ audio (6), New Zealand Herald (6)
- Content types were split as follows:



Enviroschools

Kaitia Kindergarten celebrates Enviroschools Silver

Kaitaia’s Mission Place Kindergarten celebrated becoming a Silver Enviroschool on 23 February. Kindergarten tamariki are growing vegetables to share with local community; they compost, recycle and are now enjoying a natural outdoor play area. Next, the kindergarten plans to install a water tank and start a seed sharing library.



Above: The Enviroschools celebration took place at Mission Place Kindergarten’s Whānau Night.



Above right: Mission Place Kindergarten tamariki enjoy their natural play and learning areas.



Right: Mission Place Kindergarten tamariki gather kai to share with their community.

New education events

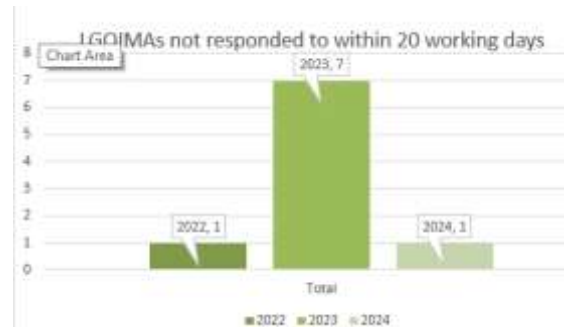
Preparation is underway for two new education events which will take place in March: a Marine Pests Teachers’ workshop and a Caretakers’ workshop. [More details are on our website.](#)

Facilitating Enviroschools communities

Despite being a team member down, during February, Enviroschools Facilitators visited or held specific online interactions with over 40 enviroschools’ communities.

Local government official information (LGOIMA) requests

We received 28 LGOIMA requests in January 2024, compared with 16 in January 2023. This is consistent with the upward trend for requests each year.



8.2.7 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

RIVERS

Awanui Scheme Upgrade

Continuation of Lower Whangatane Stopbank construction. Currently moving approximately 1000m³ of material per day, using a combination of reclaimed material from old stopbanks and imported from local quarry overburden.

Successful installation of culvert crossing designed specifically for the stopbank.



Excavation of Old Stopbank



Density Testing on Imported Material



Density Testing on Imported Material

Otiria-Moerewa Flood Mitigation Spillway and Bridge:

The base of the spillway between the transition and Stage 1 under the new bridge has been undercut and replaced with limerock spalls. Both the base and stopbanks have been mown and rolled. Access for construction to the Ngawati land has been granted by the owners and KCL have commenced construction of the stopbank and spillway entrance (final phase). Blessing for the start of Phase 3 held on Saturday 24th of February. This is the final stage of the project and expected to be completed before end of earthworks season.



Spillway transition under Pokapu Bridge (upstream looking down)



Spillway transition under Pokapu Bridge (downstream looking up)

CLIMATE ACTION AND NATURAL HAZARDS

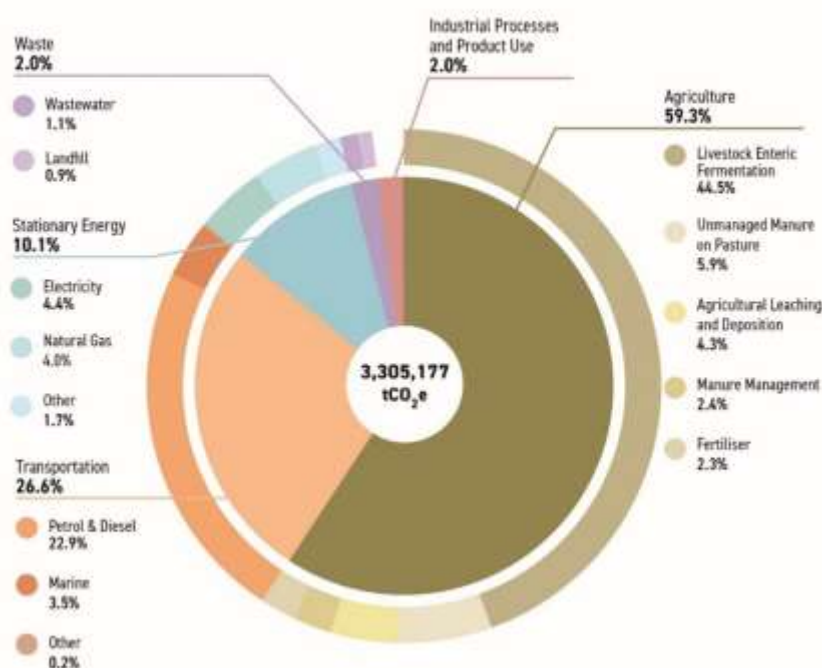
The cross organisational group Climate Connect held their first meeting in February. It is made up of key staff that will meet regularly with a focus on leadership, connection, collaboration and accountability to drive implementation of the climate programme.

Zero Carbon

Regional

In December last year the first regional emissions profile for Northland using the Global Protocol for Community-Scale (GPC) Greenhouse Gas Emissions methodology was completed for the 21/22 FY. A snapshot of the results is shown below:

Te Tai Tokerau emissions breakdown 2022



The [full report](#) can be found on our website. The regional emissions profile gives us a good understanding of where we can focus our support to reduce emissions. Collaboration is going to be imperative to drive multi-sector coordination, encourage the transition to a lower emissions future and maximise opportunities across all economic sectors.

Organisational

We recently had our own organisational greenhouse gas inventory verified for the FY22/23 period and regained our Toitū certification. Our [emissions reduction plan graphic](#) is complete and is up on our website. From July 2025, all scope 3 sources will need to be incorporated in our inventory and will therefore have to be reduced in line with our emissions reduction targets.

TRANSPORT

Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS)

The Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS), released on 4 March 2024, outlines the Government's priorities and funding for land transport in New Zealand. A key feature of draft GPS is a focus on maintaining and developing the state highway network. Notably, the GPS identifies development of a four-lane Highway between Whangarei and Auckland with the Government prioritising an alternative to the Brynderwyns, Whangarei to Port Marsden and Warkworth to Wellsford stages. Aligning the Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) with the GPS is crucial for securing

Government funding. While minor adjustments are needed, the document generally conforms to the Draft GPS.

Passenger Transport

CityLink - Extension to Route 3 Tikipunga (via Kamo)

On Monday 12 February the new extension to Route 3 went live. The bus will go down Corks Road, Wairau Drive, Lake Drive and back on to Wairau Drive, with four new bus stops on the route. There will be three off-peak services each weekday and all-day Saturday.

Rose Street bus terminus – Liaison offices

The implementation of the Liaison offices at the Rose Street office started in February. All bus enquires and Bee card enquires for passengers will be managed from this office moving forward, for CityLink and all Buslink services.

Total Mobility Scheme (TM)

Trips and clients are still increasing overall for the scheme. In Whangarei, there are 1396 active clients resulting in 3594 trips for February. In the Far North, 255 clients, resulted in 189 trips for February.

NTA staff supported the Whaikaha Health and Disability Expo in Kaikohe 23rd February to create awareness around the Total Mobility scheme in the Far North.

Bream Bay Link Public Engagement – Exploring Future Options

The Whangārei Public Transport Working Party (WPTWP) has approved public engagement to assess transport options for Kaiwaka, Mangawhai, Waipū, Ruakākā, One Tree Point, and Maungaturoto to Whangārei. Currently, a two-part survey is in development and will be distributed through physical mailouts and online. Part one aims to enhance the Kaiwaka to Whangārei bus service (Bream Bay Link) by adding a Tuesday service from One Tree Point and Maungaturoto. Part two focuses on future passenger transport options.

Showcasing CityLink Bike Racks and Instructional Video

In collaboration with Road Safety, we provided one of our CityLink buses for a Bike workshop at Pohe Island bike park, offering the public hands-on practice with loading and unloading bikes from the bus rack. During this event, we created promotional videos featuring the well-known More FM Radio DJ, Toast. Arwen from Bike Northland and Tony, a bus driver from Ritchies Transport, featured in our informative instructional video, encouraging the public to utilize bike racks on CityLink buses and help save the planet. These promotional videos in partnership with MORE FM will be released over the next month.



Regional Road Safety Update

A fatigue stop was held at Uretiti for north bound traffic

Northland Field Days

Council transport staff partnered with Auckland Transport, NZTA Waka Kotahi, ACC and Tasman Council at the Northland Field Days to deliver a range of interactive experiences educating people about fatigue, seatbelt use, vehicle safety ratings, driver licensing and driving while drunk or otherwise impaired.

The stand was extremely busy, and it was fantastic to see so many people engaging with road safety education – the majority (from a survey taken at the tent) stated that they viewed road safety and the organisations who promote it differently and would look to change their road user behaviour after visiting our stand.

Highlights were:

- The seat belt demonstration drawing a crowd. Such a simple but effective tool to show the importance of wearing your seatbelt.
- Getting 69 suggestions from the public on where to take a break/rest to avoid fatigue if travelling in Northland.
- People trying out the impairment goggles and discovering how difficult tasks become when impaired.
- Encouraging people to guess and then check their own vehicle safety ratings.
- A mother sharing that she had changed her mind about buying her teenager a Honda Fit, after discovering it was only a 2-star safety rating.



Aotearoa Bike Challenge

Council transport staff and Bike Northland teamed up to promote the Aotearoa Bike Challenge, which ran all of February. This event is aimed at encouraging more people to give bike riding a go, whether it be for commuting or joy. We had considerably higher uptake in Northland compared to 2023.

We delivered:

- Two dedicated bike maintenance workshops.
- Three drop in skills and maintenance sessions.
- One full day bike event at Marsden Cove Marina Markets which included a Share the Road demo (where people can sit up in the cab of a truck and better understand blind spots/visibility).
- Two coffee voucher giveaways for morning commuters on bikes.
- Organised staff rides for Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council.

At one of our drop-in sessions, we organised to have a bus parked up down at the Pohe Island Bike Park, so that people could practise getting their bikes on and off the rack. Online commentary was positive for this aspect of the event, and we even had one parent bring her two teenaged children down to practise putting their bikes on. We also worked with Northland Regional Council to film an instructional video, so we'll be able to demonstrate more widely how this service works for members of the public.

Emergency Management

No emergency events requiring Civil Defence response in the past month.

CDEM Group and Coordinating Executive Group quarterly meetings held on 5 March.

Agreement by CEG members to adopt a consistent approach and remuneration to key appointment of Controllers, Recovery Managers and Welfare Managers across the Northland region.

FENZ have committed to the Multi Agency Centre and progress is being made on establishing a governance structure to oversee the project.

Strong demand still exists for community response group and marae preparedness planning. A national exercise, Ru Whenua is planned to be held over 3 days in June 2024. The exercise focuses on an Alpine Fault scenario.

8.2.8 KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION

6 Month Report

KMR has tabled its most recent 6 Month Report to the Ministry for the Environment. This reflects activity in the half year to 31 December 2023, i.e. at the end of two years of full operational delivery.

The report demonstrates that despite ongoing policy and regulatory uncertainty and economic headwinds, KMR is exceeding the majority of its key performance metrics for the half-year, with two landing under target (fencing; people-hours worked) but within an acceptable range and expected to meet year-end targets by year end. The two KPIs which are sitting well under target at 31 December 2023 (areas of works covered by Plan; hill country afforestation/space planting) reflect that soil conservation measures were only introduced by KMR in September 2023, and Winter 2024 planting has not yet begun. As it is the first year KMR has invested in hill country soil conservation projects, it is unclear at this stage whether we will meet the targets for these two metrics, bearing in mind that KMR is a voluntary programme, winter planting is highly weather-dependent, and the 30 June 2024 year-end falls in the middle of the winter planting.

The table below summarises the 6 month report metrics:

Focus Area	Metric	Six-month actual	Six-month target	Total year target
Sediment reduction activities	Number of new Farm Environment Plans completed (total)	76	90	180
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sediment Reduction Plans (SRP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52 new SRP approved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tiaki FEPs or grant agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 new Fonterra FEP or grant agreements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90
	Number of projects by returning landowners	44 return landowners undertaking projects	35	70
	= Total FEPs and return projects:	120 plans/projects	125	250
	Area (ha) of works covered by completed Farm Environment Plans	10,607 ha	22,500	45,000
Freshwater restoration	Number of plants planted in riparian, lake, or wetlands areas	398,618 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 265,448 signed off as completed from winter 2023 133,170 committed for winter 2024 	300,000	600,000
	Area (ha) of riparian, lake, or wetlands planting completed	80ha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53ha signed off as completed from winter 2023 27ha committed for winter 2024 	60	120
	Length (km) of new fencing constructed	144.8km	175	350

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 43.9km signed off as completed 100.9km committed 		
Other soil conservation measures	Area (ha) of afforestation, space planting or biodiversity planting not in riparian, lake, or wetlands margins completed or contracted	39ha <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14ha signed off as completed from winter 2023 25ha committed for winter 2024 	100	200
Nature based employment	Number of people-hours worked in each reporting period	39,717 hours of work completed, with an additional 27,742 hours committed to in contracts with landowners*	40,000 (26 FTE)	80,000 (51 FTE)
	Number of people undertaking training in each reporting period**	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 people trained as KMR Field Advisors 13 KMR Field Advisors attended NZARM training 	15	30

Engagement and Influence

KMR's Briefing to incoming Ministers and other key decision-makers has been well received, with positive feedback about KMR's alignment to new government priorities. Our presentation to the recent Blue-Greens Forum was also well received, with many in the room commenting on the value of the KMR investment, and the benefits it brings to many communities, local businesses and the taiao itself.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

TITLE: Receipt of Committee Minutes

From: Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

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

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:


- Regional Transport Committee - 13 February 2024
- Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board - 16 February 2024
- Joint Regional Economic Development Committee - 23 February 2024
- Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee – 26 February 2024
- Audit Risk and Finance Committee - 28 February 2024 and
- Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 5 March 2024


be received.


Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

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

Attachment 2: Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board [↓](#) 

Attachment 3: Joint Regional Economic Development Committee [↓](#) 

Attachment 4: Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee [↓](#) 

Attachment 5: Audit Risk and Finance Committee [↓](#) 

Attachment 6: Civil Defence Emergency Management Group [↓](#) 

Regional Transport Committee
13 February 2024

Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the NRC Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 13 February 2024, commencing at 11.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, NRC Councillor Joe Carr
Deputy Chairperson, NRC Councillor John Blackwell
FNDC Councillor Steve McNally
WDC Councillor Simon Reid
KDC Councillor Ash Nayyar
Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships Steve Mutton
KiwiRail Programme Director Northland, Eric Hennephof

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
NRC Policy Specialist, Michael Payne
NRC Governance Specialist, Gavin Dawson
NRC Secretariat, Erica Wyatt
NRC Policy and Planning Administrator, Rachael King
NTA General Manager, Calvin Thomas
NTA Transport Manager, Chris Powell
NTA Representative, Jeff Devine
NTA Representative, Nicole Cauty
NTA Representative, Kayla Gunson
NTA Representative, Elizabeth Stacy
Automobile Association Representative, Tracey Rissetto
Waka Kotahi, Martin Taylor (*online*)
Waka Kotahi, Gavin Smith (*online*)
Waka Kotahi, Craig Crawford (*online*)
FNDC Councillor, Ann Court (*alternate*)
WDC CE, Simon Weston
WDC Councillor, Phil Halse (*alternate*)
Member of the Public, Steve Cornwall

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11.00am.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

There were no apologies.

Regional Transport Committee
13 February 2024

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 - 04 December 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Erica Wyatt, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Reid / Nayyar)

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 4 December 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Erica Wyatt, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (McNally / Mutton)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - Funding Uptake Report (Item 6.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Blackwell / Nayyar)

That the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - Funding Uptake Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Action:

- Secretariat will circulate an out of meeting report once councils have had their funding uptake reports finalised.
- Councillor Nayyar would like to have the reasons for the Kaipara and Far North Transport Choice Projects being stopped in writing. A response was verbally provided from NTA during the meeting and will be followed up with an email response.
- In future, consistent with NZ Treasury directive, future reporting will move from a focus on defining performance purely in terms of expenditure and outputs to one that incorporates quality of delivery and results.

Regional Transport Committee
13 February 2024

2024/27 Regional Speed Management Plan – Impact of Government Announcement on the 2024/27 Regional Speed Limit Plan and Associate Consultation (Item 8.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Blackwell / Mutton)

That the report '2024/27 Regional Speed Management Plan – Impact of Government Announcement on the 2024/27 Regional Speed Limit Plan and Associate Consultation' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Report taken as read.

2021/27 RLTP Key Performance Indicators Achievement Update (Item 8.2)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (McNally / Reid)

That the report '2021/27 RLTP Key Performance Indicators Achievement Update' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Action:

- The Committee requires more time to better understand the set Key Performance Indicators (KPI's). A deep dive workshop is to be organised.

Northland Road Safety Activity Update (Item 8.3)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance; Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Mutton / Blackwell)

That the report 'Northland Road Safety Activity Update' by Northland Transportation Alliance staff dated 14 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes: Report taken as read.

An update on figures since report was distributed: 45 deaths compared to 40 in 2023. Eight in Northland compared to seven in 2023.

Committee would like to acknowledge Ann-Marie Fitchett (NZ Police) and her team for the work put in to exceeding their targets.

Regional Transport Committee
13 February 2024

Official Information Request to NZTA: SH1 South Side of the Brynderwyns (Item 8.4)

Report from Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Blackwell / Carr)

1. That the report 'Official Information Request to NZTA: SH1 South Side of the Brynderwyns' by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience and dated 25 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Moved: (Carr / Reid)

2. NZTA are to have completed an independent peer review of their intended imminent Brynderwyns work and arrange a walkover of the three proposed routes with RTC members and a Geotech expert. This is to be treated with urgency and preferably prior to the Brynderwyn closures on 26 February.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Amendments were made to include resolution 2, following conversation of the Joint Committee members.

The committee requested that they hold an elected member only time, with no staff present to discuss this matter.

A WSP/Fulton Hogan report on the Brynderwyns was distributed to committee members. This will be attached to the outgoing minutes.

Due to major concerns of under slips the two lanes will be pushed further into the hill leaving the existing northern lane for construction equipment to use. This option is to last between 5-10 years allowing time to scope a safer and more resilient route.

Until the release of the Government Policy Statement (GPS) and funding is secured to develop the business case for an alternative route, no further work can be done.

Community feedback on the proposed closure of the Brynderwyns to carry out this work was received from holding webinars and sending out surveys. A Steering Group was also formed and included community leaders, the mayor, local businesses including tourism and Northland Inc, hapu/iwi and others.

Formal reporting by the RTC to NRC and the 3 Northland RCA TLAs (Item 8.5)

Report from Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendations

Moved: (Nayyar / Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Formal reporting by the RTC to NRC and the 3 Northland RCA TLAs' by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience and dated 30 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Moved: (Carr / McNally)

2. That the Chair of the RTC compiles a draft report to the Northland Councils advising on the following matters:

Regional Transport Committee
13 February 2024

- a. The Southside of the Brynderwyns including the need for an OIA request from NZTA,
- b. Matters pertaining to the NTA/ Northland councils 'CEO's' Aldridge Review.

Carried

Action:

- The chair will circulate the draft to RTC members for their consideration and response before delivery to the respective councils.

Review of Northland Transportation Services - Update (Item 8.6)

Report from Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Blackwell / McNally)

That the report 'Review of Northland Transportation Services – Update' by Louisa Gritt, Group Manager – Community Resilience and dated 31 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: First draft is on track and is to be delivered at the end of February 2024 and will remain on track for final delivery in March 2024.

Due to limited funds into this review, there is a query around the credibility of the report.

Action:

- NRC to circulate to the committee members the 17A plus Review Terms of Reference (which includes thirteen more points of reference).

NZTA update (Item 8.7)

Report from Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Reid / Blackwell)

That the report 'NZTA update' by Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau and dated 30 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Report taken as read.

Focus is on Mangamuka Gorge opening end of 2024.

Kaeo bridge opening brought forward to late February.

Action:

- Hyperlinks in the NZTA update attachments to be recirculated to committee members.
- NZTA to circulate to committee members a list of the areas where reseal and revamps are occurring.

Regional Transport Committee
13 February 2024

KiwiRail update (Item 6.8)

Report from Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Secretarial note: Verbal update given.

Unfortunately, there were technical difficulties at today's meeting and the committee were unable to watch the video from KiwiRail. It can be watched at the following link. f.io/udOdtVr9 –

Action:

- NZTA to confirm the land already purchased for the 4-lane highway between Whangarei and Marsden is protected and will not be for sale.

Committee members priorities and updates (Item 8.9)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Reid / Blackwell)

1. That the report 'Committee members priorities and updates' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance and dated 14 December 2023, be received.
2. The supplementary verbal updates provided by Regional Transport Committee members be received.

Carried

Public Consultation Programme for Draft RLTP (Item 7.1)

Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Transportation Alliance; Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator

Recommendation(s)

Moved: (Ash / Reid)

1. That the report 'Public Consultation Programme for Draft RLTP' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager – Northland Transportation Alliance; Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 21 December 2023, be received.

Carried

Moved: (Carr / Nayyar)

2. That the Regional Land Transport Committee approve the dates for the Public Consultation on the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 – Three Year Review

Carried

Secretarial note: Resolution 2 moved with provision of new dates for the Far North to ensure Cr. Court and Cr. McNally can attend.

There is concern the proposed dates and times are during office hours which limits community numbers attending, especially those in full time work. Historically this has not been an issue. With the opportunity to submit online this will help capture those who are unable to attend in person.

NTA staff will be in attendance at Dargaville Field Days alongside Cr. Nayyar.

Regional Transport Committee
13 February 2024

Cr. Nayyar, Cr. Carr and Cr. Blackwell will be in attendance at the proposed 'Have Your Say Events' (HYSE) for their districts. Steve Mutton will be available to take any phone calls during these events.

Rawene hall was unavailable due to renovations. Opononi session will be held at the Opononi War Memorial Hall.

An extra HYSE will be arranged at NRC with an online option available. Date to be confirmed with committee members.

All RTC members were encouraged to attend all 'Have Your Say' sessions across the region.

Action:

- NRC to liaise with Cr. Court and Cr. McNally new HYSE dates.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm.

Unconfirmed

Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board
16 February 2024

Ngā Minitī O Te Poari O Te Oneroa-A-Tōhē Te Oneroa-A-Tōhē Board Minutes

Meeting held in the Banquet Room, Te Ahu Centre
cnr State Highway 1 & Matthews Ave, Kaitaia
on Friday 16 February 2024, commencing at 10.00am

Tuhinga (Present):

Chairperson, Lisa McNab	Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa
Graeme Neho	Ngāti Kuri Trust Board
Deputy Chair, Hilda Halkyard-Harawira	Far North District Council
Wallace Rivers	NgaiTakoto

I Tae Mai (In Attendance):

Huihuinga i te katoa (Full Meeting)

George Riley	Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa
Auriole Ruka	NRC GM - Governance and Engagement
Don McKenzie	NRC GM - Biosecurity
Kim Peita	NRC Kaiwhakahaere Hononga Māori
Meloney Tupou	NRC Kaiāwhina Tari
Robert Nathan	NRC Kaiārahi Tikanga Māori
Sandra Harris	NRC PA Environmental Services
Theresa Burkhardt	FNDC Policy Planner (<i>via audio visual link</i>)
Rachel Ropiha	MfE Kaiwhakatere (<i>via audio visual link</i>)
Casey Gannon	FNDC (<i>via audio visual link</i>)
Lawrence Wharerau	FNDC (<i>via audio visual link</i>)
Kerry Shanta	Te Araroa Northland Trust
Sergeant Nigel Turnbull	NZ Police Force
Elizabeth Stacey	Northland Transport Alliance
John Stewart	Snapper Bonanza representative
Dave Collard	Snapper Bonanza representative

Huihuinga i te wāhanga (Part Meeting)

Mayor Moko Tepania	Far North District Council
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The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.07am.

Whakamoemiti Tīmatanga: Graeme Neho

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 1.0)

Moved (Halkyard-Harawira/Rivers)

That the apologies from Waitai Petera, FNDC Mayor Moko Tepania and NRC CEO Jonathan Gibbard for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board
16 February 2024

Nga whakapuakanga (Declarations of Conflicts of Interest)

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

Confirmation of Minutes - 17 November 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin and Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager

Moved (Reily/Halkyard-Harawira)

That the minutes of the Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board meeting held on 17 November 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Item 4.1 deferred and tabled after 5.1.

Appointment of Chair (Item 5.1)

Report from Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager

Moved (Halkyard-Harawira/Rivers)

1. That the report 'Appointment of Chair' by Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and dated 9 February 2024, be received.
2. That Lisa McNab is appointed as Chairperson of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board.

Carried

Financial Report (Item 5.2)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Jones/Neho)

That the report 'Financial Report' by Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin and dated 24 January 2024, be received.

Carried

Speed Limit Signage Update (Item 5.3)

Report from Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager

That the report 'Speed Limit Signage Update' by Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and dated 9 February 2024, be received.

Secretarial Note: Board acknowledged that iwi have the mandate. NRC Secretariat to provide consistent update regarding Speed Signs to the Northland Age.

Mayor Moko Tepania joined online at 10.59am

Response to new Speed Limits (Item 5.4)

Report from Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakaheere - GM Governance and Engagement

Moved (Halkyard-Harawira/Rivers)

Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board
16 February 2024

1. That the report 'Speed Limit Update and Options' by Elizabeth Stacey, Road Safety and Traffic Engineer, and dated 9 February 2024, be received.
2. That the Board endorse the recommendation by NTA to erect the signage for transition from 60 to 30kmp on 90 mile beach.
3. That the Technical Steering Group progress the erection of signage working with the board as to where the signage will be erected.

Carried.

Secretarial note: Resolution 2 and 3 included and carried by board. Regulatory speed signs funding confirmed with NTA. Confirmation of attendees to signage to liaise with NTA. Location of signs and schedules with Fulton Hogan to be confirmed for gazetting of new data to be completed.

Secretarial Note: Snapper Bonanza tabled as General Business. Snapper Bonanza presented their competition with information being distributed to competitors. The board informed the importance of tikanga during competition including not leaving fish on the beach and respecting the Taiao. The Board requested all local areas to be named correctly, Member Neho to provide names to Snapper Bonanza. .

Workplan - 2024 (Item 5.5)

Report from Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager

Moved (Lucas-Jones/Rivers)

1. That the report 'Workplan - 2024' by Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and dated 9 February 2024, be received.
2. That the board approve the priority action items for inclusion in the TOATB 2024 workplan.
3. That the board approve the TOATB 2024 workplan.
4. That the Board agree to monthly meetings of the Technical Steering Group.
5. That the Iwi representatives of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Beach Board confirm/reconfirm the following Technical Steering Group members:
 - a. Te Aupōuri: _____
 - b. Ngati Kuri: _____
 - c. Te Rarawa: _____
 - d. NgaiTakoto: _____
6. Where vacancies exist on the Technical Steering Group, the Board delegate to the respective Iwi representative, authority to appoint a member to the Technical Steering Group for their Iwi.
7. That the Board delegate to the Chair, authority to approve of the Technical Steering Group meeting schedule for 2024.

Carried.

Secretarial Note: Item 5.5 deferred and tabled after Snapper Bonanza presentation.

Recommendation 1, 2 and 4 carried. Note number 2 is a repeat of number 3.

Recommendation 5, 6 and 7 are yet to be reviewed by iwi members. Terms of Reference for clarity of role and function of Technical Steering Group be developed with NRC, FNDC and George Reily for submission to board members.

Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board
16 February 2024

Vehicles on Beaches Restricted Areas (Item 5.6)

Report from Michael Payne, Policy Specialist

Moved (Halkyard-Harawira/Rivers)

That the report 'Vehicles on Beaches Restricted Areas' by Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and dated 9 February 2024, be received.

Carried.

Secretarial Note: Board supporting NRC to advance change to towards the current NRC plan.

Whakamoemiti Whakamutunga: The meeting concluded at 1.16pm Whakamoemiti by Graeme Neho.

UNCONFIRMED

Joint Regional Economic Development Committee
23 February 2024

Joint Regional Economic Development Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Friday 23 February 2024, commencing at 10.00am

Tuhinga/Present:

Councillor John Vujcich (Far North District Council)(Chair)
Councillor Penetaui Kleskovic (Far North District Council)
Mayor Craig Jepson (Kaipara District Council)
Deputy Mayor Jonathan Larsen(Kaipara District Council)
Deputy Chair Tui Shortland (Northland Regional Council)
Chair Geoff Crawford (Northland Regional Council)
Jason Marris (Chief Executive, Kaipara District Council and regional
economic development portfolio lead)

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Mayor Vince Cocurullo (Whangarei District Council)
Councillor Phil Halse (Whangarei District Council)
Darryl Jones (Economist, Northland Regional Council)
Avinash Govind (Economic Policy Advisor, Northland Regional Council)
Gavin Dawson (Governance Specialist, Northland Regional Council)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.02 am.

NRC Deputy Chair Tui Shortland opened the meeting with a Karakia.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Vujcich/Shortland)

That the apology from Councillor Kleskovic for lateness be accepted.

Carried

Nga Whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflict of interest (Item 3)

Nil.

Joint Regional Economic Development Committee
23 February 2024

Confirmation of Minutes - 30 November 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Vujcich/Crawford)

That the minutes of the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee meeting held on 30 November 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Carried

Productivity Commission - Presentation on learnings for local government by Dr Ganesh Nana (Item 5.1)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Shortland/Jepson)

That the report 'Productivity Commission - Presentation on learnings for local government by Dr Ganesh Nana' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 8 February 2024, be received.

Carried

(Secretarial note: Cr Kleskovic entered the meeting at 10.17 am).

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Crawford/ Kleskovic)

That the report 'Receipt of Action Sheet' by Darryl Jones, Economist and dated 8 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Northland Inc Limited: Statement of Intent 2024-2027 - Draft received from Northland Inc (Item 5.3)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Shortland/Crawford)

That the report 'Northland Inc Limited: Statement of Intent 2024-2027 - Draft received from Northland Inc' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 8 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Joint Regional Economic Development Committee
23 February 2024

Te Rerenga: Taitokerau Northland Economic Wellbeing Pathway - Additional funding for completion (Item 5.4)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor

Recommendation(s)

Moved (Larsen/Jepson)

1. That the report 'Te Rerenga: Taitokerau Northland Economic Wellbeing Pathway - Additional funding for completion' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 8 February 2024, be received.
2. That \$10,000 (excluding GST) be allocated as Project Development funding from the Investment and Growth Reserve to Northland Inc Limited to finalise the economic development strategy for Northland.

Carried

(Secretarial note: for clarification, the economic development strategy for Northland in the resolution refers to the Te Rerenga document).

Joint delivery of economic development: Documents required for Whangarei District Council participation (Item 5.5)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Jepson/Shortland)

That the report 'Joint delivery of economic development: Documents required for Whangarei District Council participation' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 8 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Northland Inc Limited: Update on activities (Item 5.6)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Larsen/Crawford)

That the report 'Northland Inc Limited: Update on activities' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 8 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Joint Regional Economic Development Committee
23 February 2024

Annual Economic Update for the year ended March 2023 (Item 5.7)

Report from Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved (Jepson/Crawford)

That the report 'Annual Economic Update for the year ended March 2023' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Avinash Govind, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 8 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.11 pm.

Cr Kleskovic closed the meeting with a Karakia.

Unconfirmed

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee
26 February 2024

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee Minutes

Rā Date:	Monday 26 February 2024
Tāima Time:	9.30am
Tauwāhi Location:	Online Link
Tuhinga Present	Tame Te Rangi (Chair), Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua Amy Macdonald (Deputy Chair), Northland Regional Council Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau (<i>joined 10.28am</i>) Greg Sayers, Auckland Council Jack Crow, Northland Regional Council Jane Sherard, Ngā Maunga Whakahii o Kaipara John Blackwell, Northland Regional Council Michelle Carmichael, Auckland Council Taiāwhio Wati, Te Uri o Hau Virginia Warriner, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua
I Tae Mae In Attendance	Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki, KMR Ben Hope, Ringa-Pārongo, KMR Lisette Rawson, Amo-Rauora Kōawa, KMR Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support, KMR Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi, KMR Duncan Kervell, KMR Contractor Ilka Pelzer, Kaitātari Matua, MfE (Observer) Brooke Waterson, Wai Tātai, Auckland Council (Observer)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.40am.

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee
26 February 2024

Karakia Timatanga and Whakatau (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā | Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved Crow/Warriner

1. That the apologies from Councillor Kerrin Leoni and Member Cherie Povey for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Ngā 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- October and November 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Blackwell/Sayers)

That the Joint Committee;

1. Confirm the minutes of the Kaipara Moana Remediation meeting held on 30 October 2023, as a true and correct record.
2. Note the minutes of the Kaipara Moana Remediation meeting held on 27 November 2023.

Carried

Joint Committee Forward Workplan (Item 5.1)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Sherard/Craw)

1. That the 'Joint Committee Forward Workplan' be received.

Carried

Secretarial note:

Member Crow indicated support for more Field Trips. Pou Tātaki confirmed early planning aims to take the Joint Committee to a Navigator Project for the first field trip in April 2024.

Joint Committee Action Tracker (Item 5.2)

Report from Sophie Bone, PA to Pou Tātaki and Governance Support

Moved (Sherard/Warriner)

1. That the 'Joint Committee Action Tracker' be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

Mana Whenua Relations Lead Willie Wright provided a brief update on the Kōrero Tuku Iho Project as noted in the Action Tracker.

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee
26 February 2024

Draft Six Month Report (2023-2024) (Item 6.1)

Report from Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi

Moved (Macdonald/Sherard)

That the Joint Committee;

1. Receive the report 'Kaipara Moana Remediation Programme Draft Six Month Report (2023-2024)' by Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi and dated 26 February 2024.
2. Approve in principle the 'Draft Six Month report' document (Appendix One).
Delegate the power to the Chair and Deputy Chair to approve a final draft of the Six Month Report for provision to the Ministry for the Environment, with the Pou Tātaki also delegated to make minor editorial changes prior to submission if required.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

Member Carmichael suggested KMR local work and procurement via KMR supplier accreditation, local job creation from project outsourcing, and local capability development from flagship (Navigator) projects might also be appropriate to include in the Capability Development section.

The Pou Tātaki responded that a wider view was appropriate and that KMR would also include a reference to KMR's commitment to the Amotai supplier diversity initiative.

Member Carmichael welcomed references in the report to supporting the local economy and asked if the report was explicit enough in terms of highlighting KMR alignment to new government priorities. The Member also suggested some content in the Engagement and Partnership section might sit better in the Marketing section.

The Pou Tātaki responded that staff would take a look at these suggestions, as KMR was highly aligned to government priorities but this may not be sufficiently visible. By necessity, budget reporting comment reflected the source of the budget.

Kaipara Moana Remediation GIS Layers (Item 6.2)

Report from Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi and Duncan Kervell, KMR Contractor

Moved (Blackwell/Carmichael)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report titled 'Kaipara Moana Remediation GIS Layers' by Stephanie Versteeg and Duncan Kervell dated 26 February 2024.
2. Note that as a highly technical programme that relies on mapping of projects to unlock our co-funding, KMR relies on accurate mapping information, including of the catchment itself.
3. Note the attached revised map of the catchment (Attachment 1) in which KMR operates.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

Member Blackwell asked what 'paddock-scale accuracy' meant in practice given the diversity of paddock size. Duncan Kervell described the level of detail this might offer, i.e. enough detail to identify small slope class changes on farm (i.e. the equivalent of a sub ¼ hectare scale) but acknowledged that this was a colloquial term.

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee
26 February 2024

The Pou Tātaki confirmed that KMR would ensure consistent use of terminology in its mapping language, drawing on accepted naming conventions in the mapping community. A more usual term was 'sub-paddock scale', but KMR would check this usage with NRC GIS practitioners.

Member Sherard asked if KMR's mapping was potentially duplicating other activity, and if there was potential for confusion with other mapping or datasets. She also asked if this layer would be made available to others beyond KMR. Stephanie Versteeg confirmed that the catchment boundary layer was currently used only by KMR Field Advisors and reviewers, and did not risk duplication.

The Pou Tātaki clarified that the MoU signatories co-own the KMR datasets and can access and use them for relevant purposes, on request.

Member Crow asked for confirmation that the mapping layer would not create any data sovereignty questions. The Pou Tātaki clarified that this was highly unlikely given the nature of the data, and Stephanie Versteeg confirmed that KMR would continue to maintain a watching brief on this matter.

Member Blackwell suggested the catchment boundary was an important tool for demonstrating the scale of the catchment at the public events, and the Pou Tātaki agreed, noting that a key use of the boundary map was to engage landowners in the catchment and ensure they were aware of the funding support KMR could offer them

Rephasing Procedures (Item 6.3)

Report from Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki and Stephanie Versteeg, Amo-Rautaki Pākihi

Moved (Craw/Sherard)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the 'Rephasing Procedures' report by Justine Daw and Stephanie Versteeg dated 26 January 2024.
2. Note that the KMR Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the Ministry for the Environment and Member Parties acknowledged the KMR programme was intended to run for ten years.
3. Note the 'time-only extension' of the KMR programme that the Crown has granted to KMR through to 8 February 2031.
4. Note the signed documentation (Attachment 1) which was used to implement the 'time-only' extension, a minor change under the KMR Deed of Funding.

Carried

Pou Tātaki Report (Item 6.4)

Report from Justine Daw, Pou Tātaki

Moved (Warriner/Connelly)

That the Joint Committee:

1. Receive the report 'Pou Tātaki Report', by Justine Daw dated 26 February 2024.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

Member Warriner asked if other Members had conflicts of interest.

The Pou Tātaki clarified that KMR held, updated and monitored all Member conflicts of interests in the usual way under the Local Government Act. The table presented in the Pou Tātaki Report related

Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee
26 February 2024

only to current KMR grant (LAMIA) related interests. Previously, other Members had had grant interests. All grant-related interests were carefully monitored and reported to ensure transparency and that KMR did not breach LAMIA requirements relating to Member grant interests.

The Pou Tātaki reminded Members that while many of them automatically have interests in KMR grant applications due to their role representing their iwi/hapū, the OAG had ruled that not all interests were material from a LAMIA perspective. However, for transparency's sake, KMR still reported all grant interests. She offered to speak to individual Members as needed if any further clarification was required.

Karakia Mutunga

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 10.48am.

Audit Risk and Finance Committee
28 February 2024

Audit Risk and Finance Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Wednesday 28 February 2024, commencing at 9.30am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Councillor Peter-Lucas Jones
Councillor John Blackwell
Councillor Joe Carr
Councillor Jack Crow
Councillor Geoff Crawford (Ex-Officio)
Independent Tangata Whenua Member, George Riley
Independent Tangata Whenua Member, Dee-Ann Wolferstan
Independent Risk Advisor, Steve Watene

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

Tumuai – Chief Executive, Jonathan Gibbard
Pou Taumatua - GM Corporate Services, Bruce Howse
Personal Assistant to GM Corporate Services, Margaret Knight

Part Meeting

Pou Whakaritenga – GM Regulatory Services, Colin Dall
Governance Specialist, Gavin Dawson
Pou tiaki Hapori - GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt
Property Manager, Phil Heatley
People & Culture Manager, Beryl Steele
Audit and Assurance Lead, Mandy Tepania

The Chair declared the meeting open at 9.30am and commenced proceedings with a karakia.

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Craw/Carr)

That the apologies from Councillor Blackwell and Independent Consultant, Jonathan Eriksen for non-attendance be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Dee-Ann Wolferstan and George Riley tendered their apologies for delayed arrival.

Audit Risk and Finance Committee
28 February 2024

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 - 29 November 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Margaret Knight, PA to Group Manager Corporate Services

Moved (Carr/Crawford)

That the minutes of the Audit & Risk Subcommittee held on 29 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Moved (Craw/Crawford)

That the minutes of the Investment & Property Subcommittee meeting held on 29 November 2023 be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Secretarial Note: This being the inaugural meeting of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, a merging of the Audit & Risk and Investment & Property Subcommittees, the minutes from those previous meetings were officially approved.

Secretarial Note: Dee-Ann Wolferstan joined the meeting at 9.35am.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Margaret Knight, PA to Group Manager Corporate Services

Moved (Carr/Crawford)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: This being the inaugural meeting of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, a merging of the Audit & Risk and Investment & Property Subcommittees, the historical actions will be covered off by this Committee.

29 November 2023 Meeting Actions Update (Item 6.1)

Report from Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services

Moved (Carr/Craw)

That the report '29 November 2023 Meeting Actions Update' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: George Riley joined the meeting at 10.00am.

Audit Risk and Finance Committee
28 February 2024

Secretarial Note:

- *AI Policy to be discussed further as part of Item 6.9 of the agenda.*
- *CEO and GM Corporate Services to review policy around monitoring of emails and disclaimers as part of staff and councillor email signatures.*
- *Fraud, corruption and dishonesty staff awareness training, run by an independent, is scheduled this year that would incorporate how to report whistleblowing.*
- *An amendment to the Fraud, Corruption and Dishonesty Control Policy should include the procedure should the FLO be subject to scrutiny.*

Internal Audit Schedule (Item 6.2)

Report from Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead

Moved (Craw/Wolferstan)

That the report 'Internal Audit Schedule' by Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Noted we had an insurance review done 2-3 years ago, the committee agreed that Item 6.4 would be sufficient to not have to undertake an additional review.*
- *Add staff member name(s) to the internal audit schedule items for those items they are responsible for.*

Litigation Schedule Half Yearly Report July-December 2023 (Item 6.3)

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

Moved (Wolferstan/Crawford)

That the report 'Litigation Schedule Half Yearly Report July-December 2023' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note:

- *Further information in support of the litigation schedule was previously circulated to committee members and tabled for consideration at the meeting.*
- *The financial report provided to council to be included as a standard item to the agenda going forward.*
- *The litigation schedule to have an additional budget column.*
- *GM Corporate Services to circulate to members a briefing note articulating how the budget for litigation is worked out and will provide historical data of 2-3 years to see how the nominal budget zeros off at the end of the year to see how that budget has worked.*
- *CEO had received a number of questions around NRC's delegations manual and will provide a proposal for governance to have greater oversight of our regulatory services roles and*

Audit Risk and Finance Committee
28 February 2024

functions. The proposal will be distributed to committee next week and will form part of the role and function of this committee

Secretarial Note: Dee-Ann Wolferstan declared an interest she was on the review of the solicitor-general's prosecution guidelines.

Insurance Update (Item 6.4)

Report from Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services

Moved (Carr/Crawford)

That the report 'Insurance Update' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Dee-Ann Wolferstan declared she has been a professional advisor for insurance.

Secretarial Note:

- *The committee considered the merits of moving some of the policies to self insurance. The committee pointed out that NRC needed to be aware of their responsibilities to staff as this could be a potential risk if the committee recommended to council to cut the insurance that is part of an employment agreement.*
- *GM Corporate Services to request AON to provide a 10-year breakdown of what NRC have spent and claims paid out and any criminal litigations that have been heard outside of the insurance policy that would cause us to say we need that insurance.*

Risk Management Activity Update (Item 6.5)

Report from Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead

Moved (Riley/Carr)

That the report 'Risk Management Activity Update' by Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *Since the agenda had been distributed the GM Community Resilience had reviewed the 'flood infrastructure failure' risk and the residual rating had moved from a 5 to 10. Central to this movement is the difficulty NRC were having to recruit an asset manager which is a key role to managing this risk.*
- *Niagara wreck risk is now captured under 'oil spill' risk to support standard protocols. The Harbourmaster had provided an in-depth brief at the last committee meeting. GM Community Resilience to send response plans to Cllr Crawford for his meeting with the Minister.*
- *A new control around liability insurance has been added on the back of the Soil Conservation Act and the Rivers Act which states in s 148 that if the owner occupier of any land or property gives notice in writing to any board warning that any dams, site or reservoirs maintained by the board that require it to strengthen or repair the same within a reasonable time after*

Audit Risk and Finance Committee
28 February 2024

delivery of the notice fails to take proper and reasonable action shall be made good by the board. Controls have been initiated to make sure there is a more robust customer inquiry process making sure that these sort of things are followed up specifically within the natural hazards and flood inquiries teams.

- *Staff to keep the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee updated on Edgumbe class action.*
- *Cllr Carr flagged the Kauri Dam as an issue NRC should put a lens across.*
- *Noted NRC had a duty of care to their employees when dealing with aggressive people and needed to ensure training, awareness and support were available.*
- *GM Corporate Services to email the Eriksen report to the committee and noted that the SIPO had recently been independently reviewed and endorsed by the committee and approved by council.*
- *Fast Track legislation could have a significant impact on NRC. NRC leadership need to make sure the risk assessment and risk profiling is up to date with the current political environment and political direction and feedback to the committee.*
- *Cllr Jones felt that the 'treaty settlement' risk should be owned by every GM rather than one person.*
- *A simple dashboard including who owns the risk/mitigation.*

Fraud Corruption & Dishonesty Risk Report (Item 6.6)

Report from Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead

Moved (Craw/Crawford)

That the report 'Fraud Corruption & Dishonesty Risk Report' by Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: Committee thanked management team for the control systems which showed risks relatively low in comparative to other organisations of this size.

Risk Deep Dive Report - Cyber Security (Item 6.7)

Report from Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead

Moved (Wolferstan/Carr)

That the report 'Risk Deep Dive Report - Cyber Security' by Mandy Tepania, Audit and Assurance Lead and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note: GM Corporate Services to review the Business Continuity Plan which sits across the Disaster Recovery Plan and bring back to the next Audit, Risk and Finance Committee.

Health and Safety Quarterly report (Item 6.8)

Report from Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager

Moved (Wolferstan/Riley)

Audit Risk and Finance Committee
28 February 2024

That the report 'Health and Safety Quarterly report' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Beryl Steele, Human Resources Manager and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *GM Corporate Services to report back to the committee NRC's health and safety critical risks to understand NRC's current position and actions they are taking to address these risks.*

AI Policy (Item 6.9)

Report from Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services

Moved (Watene/Carr)

That the report 'AI Policy' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 16 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- *The Committee would like the draft AI policy to be reviewed by legal counsel.*
- *The policy should consider Treaty Settlement Acts, data sovereignty and legislative compliance.*

Kaupapa ā Roto/Business with Public Excluded (Item 7.0)

Moved (Crawford/Riley)

1. That the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider confidential matters.

Carried

Moved (Carr/Craw)

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
7.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 29 November 2023	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii).
7.2	Receipt of Confidential Action Sheet	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect the

Audit Risk and Finance Committee
28 February 2024

		privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(a).
7.3	Update on Council's Current Redevelopments and Other Property Matters	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).

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

.Carried

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The chair closed the meeting at 1.00pm with a karakia.

UNCONFIRMED

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting
5 March 2024

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting held in the NRC Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Tuesday 5 March 2024, commencing at 11.30am

Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, FNDC Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford
WDC Mayor Vincent Cocurullo (*arrived 11.42am*)
FENZ Representative, Wipari Henwood
KDC Councillor, Gordon Lambeth
NZ Police Representative, Justin Rogers
Councillor Geoff Crawford, (*online*)
FNDC Representative, Ruben Garcia

I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

Full Meeting

NCDEM – Group Manager, Graeme MacDonald
NCDEM – EM Specialist (Response), Jenny Calder
NCDEM – EM Specialist (Far North), Bill Hutchinson
NCDEM – EM Specialist (Far North), Sarah Boniface
NCDEM – EM Specialist (Whangārei) Tony Devanney
NCDEM – EM Specialist (Recovery), Mark Trüdinger
NCDEM – EM Specialist (Kaipara), Laura Exton
NCDEM – EM Specialist (Tsunami Projects), Brendon Gray
NCDEM – EM Specialist (Communications), Zach Woods
NCDEM – EM Iwi Engagement Advisor, Papanui Polamalu
NRC Secretariat – Erica Wyatt
NRC Governance Specialist, Gavin Dawson
NEMA Representative – Lily Foulds (*online*)
Department of Corrections – Gerry McGregor (*online*)

Part Meeting

WDC Representative, Victoria Harwood (*left 12.13pm*)

The Chair declared the meeting open at 11.30am.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Cr. Kelly Stratford

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Moved (Stratford / Henwood)

That the apologies from Mayor Vince Cocurullo for arriving late be received.

Carried

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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 - 5 December 2023 (Item 4.1)

Report from Erica Wyatt, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Lambeth / Stratford)

That the minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management meeting held on 5 December 2023, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

Carried

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)

Report from Erica Wyatt, Personal Assistant - General Manager Community Resilience

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Henwood / Lambeth)

That the action sheet be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Action number 9 can be removed; this was discussed at the CEG meeting today and resolved with moving CEG meeting 4-5 weeks prior to each scheduled CDEM meeting.

NEMA update (Item 6.1)

Report from Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Lambeth / Stratford)

That the update from Mike Gillooly, NEMA, dated 5 March 2024 be received.

Carried

Secretarial notes:

The Emergency Management Bill has been delayed to the end of 2024.

The Resilience fund has a reduced budget and even though the application for the Multi Agency Centre has been received the priority sits elsewhere.

The Red Cross Hazard app will be decommissioned in June, NEMA are aware of the gap this will leave however a timeline for replacement will depend on funding.

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Northland CDEM Group plan 2021 - 2026 report on objectives and actions. (Item 7.1)

Report from Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Stratford / Cocurullo)

That the report 'Northland CDEM Group plan 2021 - 2026 report on objectives and actions' by Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager and dated 22 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Report taken as read.

Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group (Item 7.2)

Report from Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager

Ngā mahi tūtohutia | Recommendation(s)

Moved: (Stratford / Henwood)

1. That the report 'Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group' by Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager and dated 22 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Report taken as read.

CEG agreed to a formal process which will be consistent across all four councils and includes remuneration to current appointments. These positions will not be multipurpose, the roles and responsibilities will be separated and decided on at each council.

Discussions are currently taking place regarding Mariameno Kapa-Kingi's CEG membership position and should be resolved before the next CEG meeting.

Emergency Managers report to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (Item 8.1)

Report from Graeme MacDonald, Emergency Manager

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Stratford / Cocurullo)

That the report 'Emergency Managers report to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group' by Graeme MacDonald, dated 22 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Report taken as read.

Activations and response: *No activations this year. El Nino starting to impact the region; stock conditions are holding but are reducing and silage is being harvested. Farmers are overall in good spirits. NRC are developing a risk assessment on a monthly basis, next one due in 2 weeks. Members would like to acknowledge Jenny's work with task force kiwi and the humanitarian aid she has given in Morocco and the Gold Coast so far this year.*

Far North: *Last year events highlighted a need for community resilience and marae preparedness. Funding has become available and has been received with huge appreciation from the community. The team are now able to do pro-active work rather than reactive work in the community.*

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Members would like to acknowledge both Sarah and Bill for their work in the community.

Kaipara: *Building some great relationships with local agencies. As a community led initiative, the Holy Trinity Church dedicated a plaque to the First Response Workers a year on from cyclone Gabrielle.*

Whangārei District: *Completed training for 29 council staff.*

Māori Engagement: *Tsunami Siren hui was positive however, the location of at least one of the sirens will need to be moved. Cr. Stratford would like to be updated in the Waitangi relationship space.*

Welfare Coordination: *Upcoming professional development for six community led centres will be rolled out next month, along with three training sessions for local welfare managers as a training pathway. CDEM are engaged with the Salvation Army, and they do attend the welfare coordination meetings.*

Lifelines: *Building a strong relationship with Foodstuffs. Northpower and Top Energy are doing everything possible to increase their resilience during emergencies. RLTP is out for consultation, Cr Stratford and CDEM manger to make a submission from a 'lifeline' point of view. A draft will be circulated to all members for feedback prior to final submission. Emergency Management, Recovery Support Advisor will advise the lifelines group of the submission and suggest they too make a submission.*

CDEM communications: *Not as many weather engagement posts due to low level of emergencies. There was a large amount of media attention around the anniversary of Gabrielle. Comms coming up for the biannual tsunami testing.*

Tsunami Project: *The last shipment of sirens are currently in Singapore and are on their way to NZ.*

Professional Development and Exercises: *A reminder for staff who enrol in training to turn up as the costs are covered by the CDEM group regardless of attendance. CDEM Forum at Seminoff stadium will be on 1 May, the more who attend the better prepared communities will be for future events.*

Multi Agency Coordination Centre: *FENZ and NRC CE will be meeting tomorrow to discuss legalities, ownership structure, expectations of local authorities, location of staff and the ongoing costs etc. The current Minister is supportive and is currently seeking advice from his officials. Cr Stratford will discuss the MACC at the upcoming ministerial meetings.*

Marae Preparedness & Community Response Groups Update (Item 8.2)

Report from Sarah Boniface, Emergency Management Specialist; Evania Arani, Emergency Management Specialist; Damian Rio, Emergency Management Specialist; Tony Devanney, Emergency Management Specialist and Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

Moved: (Stratford / Rogers)

That the report 'Marae Preparedness & Community Response Groups Update' by Sarah Boniface, Emergency Management Specialist; Evania Arani, Emergency Management Specialist; Damian Rio, Emergency Management Specialist; Tony Devanney, Emergency Management Specialist and Laura Exton, Emergency Management Specialist – Kaipara and

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dated 22 February 2024, be received.

Carried

Secretarial note: Report taken as read.

As a priority, conversations are taking place around emergency plans for upcoming Waitangi Day celebrations. There were approximately 60,000 people this year and it is likely to increase. A plan is required should a natural event like a Tsunami occur.

Secretarial note: Update from the following organisations.

NZ Police: Waiting on the appointment of a District Commander; Dene Begbie is point of contact until the position is filled.

FENZ: Alerts still sitting at 'High' even with the current rain.

WDC: Alternates have not been included in the CDEM invites. Secretariat will ensure this is rectified and invites sent to alternates for future meetings.

Karakia Whakamutunga

Cr. Kelly Stratford

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.35pm

TITLE: Working Party Updates

From: Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: date 19 March 2024

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Working Party Updates' be received.

Kāeo River Working Group (Chair Cr. Marty Robinson)

The Kāeo River Working Group met on 7 March. The topics for discussion included:

- Recent Heavy Rainfall Events
- Stage 2 Kaeo Modelling Results
- Works Completed in the Catchment

Following discussion, The Kāeo River Working Group provided advice on the following next steps:

- *To proceed with Stage 2 modelling*
- The overgrown grass verge by the bus stop (Omanu Road) is a health and safety hazard, particularly for the children catching the school bus. Visibility for vehicles is a huge concern and needs to be cleared. FNDC to follow up.
- *Terms of Reference to be reviewed and presented at the next meeting on 17 October.*

TITLE: Business with the Public Excluded

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.

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 - 27 February 2024	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	Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.
10.3	Investment Asset Considerations	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).
10.4	Sale Price for a Council Held Asset Class	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).
10.5	Demolition for Property Redevelopment	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is

		necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).
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3. That the Independent Financial Advisors be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded.
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Considerations

1. Significance and Engagement

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

2. 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.

3. Other Considerations

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