

**Huihuinga O Te Kāhui Māori O
Taitokerau**

**Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party
Thursday 9 May 2024 at 1.00 - 3.30pm**

AGENDA

RĀRANGI TAKE

Rārangi Take O Te Kāhui Māori O Taitokerau (Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party Agenda)

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei and via audio visual link
on Thursday 9 May 2024, commencing at 1.00 - 3.30pm

Please note: working parties and working groups carry NO formal decision-making delegations from council. The purpose of the working party/group is to carry out preparatory work and discussions prior to taking matters to the full council for formal consideration and decision-making. Working party/group meetings are open to the public to attend (unless there are specific grounds under LGOIMA for the public to be excluded).

NGĀ MANA WHAKAHAERE (MEMBERSHIP OF THE TE TAITOKERAU MĀORI AND COUNCIL WORKING PARTY)

Heamana Tokorua (Co-Chairs):

Tui Shortland, Councillor and Pita Tipene, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine

Aperahama Witana, Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa

Alan Riwaka, Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Whātua

Amy Macdonald, Councillor

Aperahama Edwards, Ngātiwai Trust Board

Geoff Crawford, Councillor (NRC Chair)

Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust

Geraldine Baker, Kahukuraariki Trust Board

Jack Crow, Councillor

Janelle Beazley, Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi

Joe Carr, Councillor

John Blackwell, Councillor

Juliane Chetham, Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board

Lynette Wharerau, Te Whakaminenga O Te Hikutu Hapu-Whanau

Mahue Greaves, Ngāti Tara

Marty Robinson, Councillor

Michelle Elboz, Ngāti Kuta

Mike Kake, Ngāti Hau

Mira Norris, Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust

Niki Conrad, Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri

Nora Rameka, Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia

Nyze Manuel, Te Rūnanga O Whāingaroa

Peter-Lucas Jones, Councillor

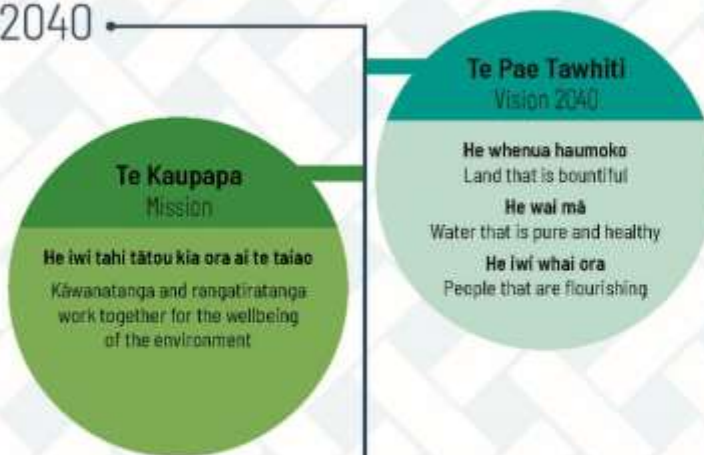
Rick Stolwerk, Councillor

Ripeka Read, Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari Hapū Iwi Trust

Rowan Tautari, Te Whakapiko Hapū

Thomas Hohaia, Te Roroa

Te Taitokerau Māori and council working party Strategic Intent 2021-2040



Capacity and capability

Ngā Whainga - Desired Goals

- 1 Capability:** Tangata whenua are sustained to give effect to their aspirations in council decisions and operations.
- 2 Capacity:** Tangata whenua are adequately resourced to participate in council decisions and operations.
- 3 Partnership:** Tangata whenua and council work in a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership to achieve their shared goals.

Māori representation

Ngā Whainga - Desired Goals

- 4 Te Tiriti o Waitangi:** Is upheld and embraced.
- 5 Decision Making:** Tangata whenua are equitably represented in all council decisions and operations.
- 6 Resourcing:** Tangata whenua are equitably resourced to contribute to council decisions and operations.

Water/marine

Ngā Whainga - Desired Goals

- 7 Mauri:** The mauri of waterways and waterbodies is protected, restored and improved.
- 8 Mātauranga:** Information is gathered and collated to better understand and improve the health of waterways and waterbodies.
- 9 Mana i te wai:** Holistically recognise and provide for tangata whenua who whakapapa to waterways and waterbodies.

Climate crisis

Ngā Whainga - Desired Goals

- 10 Te Ao Māori:** Ensure Te Ao Māori is inherent in mahi relating to climate crisis and its impacts.
- 11 Advocacy:** Ensure tangata whenua have a strong voice in the development of climate crisis policy.
- 12 Implementation:** Provide support and resources to tangata whenua to prepare for and address the effects of climate crisis.

Economic development

Ngā Whainga - Desired Goals

- 13 Whai Rawa:** Restore and boost tangata whenua self reliance and self determination.
- 14 Whai Mana:** Maximise economic opportunities for tangata whenua.
- 15 Whai Oranga:** Economic growth is compatible with the protection and enhancement of ecological, spiritual and cultural values of tangata whenua.

Ngā Tikanga Values

Titiro ki ngā taumata o te moana - Always remain strategic in our approach/intent/view

Mahi tahi tutuki noa - Identifying opportunities, increased collaboration and completion of projects

Me whakatau mā roto i te kōrero - Resolution through conversation

Kaitiakitanga - Dedicated stewardship by tangata whenua of Te Taitokerau

NOTE in the context of He Whakaputanga me Te Tiriti o Waitangi: The significance and meaning of He iwi tahi tātou (we are two people, one nation), as was used by Governor Hobson in 1840 at the signing of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Tangata whenua = whanau, hapū and iwi

Commonly used terms and abbreviations

Appointed member – one of the (up to) twenty-one appointed iwi and hapū members from Te Taitokerau tāngata whenua. Members are appointed in accordance with the [Terms of Reference](#). In addition to appointed members there are nine elected members (councillors)

AP - Annual Plan

TTMAC caucus – is comprised of appointed (tāngata whenua) members

CEO - Chief Executive Officer

CPCA - Community Pest Control Areas

DOC - Department of Conservation

FNDC - Far North District Council

GIS - Geographic Information System

HEMP - Hapū Environmental Management Plan

IEMP - Iwi Environmental Management Plan

ILGACE - Iwi and Local Government Chief Executives Forum

KDC - Kaipara District Council

LAWA – Land, Air, Water Aotearoa

LEA - Local Electoral Act 2001

LGA - Local Government Act 2002

LGNZ - Local Government New Zealand

LIDAR – Light detection and ranging

LTP - Long Term Plan

MBIE – Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

MFE - Ministry for the Environment

MOT - Ministry of Transport

MPI - Ministry for Primary Industries

MTAG - Māori Technical Advisory Group (a sub-group of TTMAC)

NES - National Environmental Standards

NINC - Northland Inc. Limited

NIWA - National Institute of Water and Atmosphere

NPS - National Policy Statement

NPS-FM - National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

RMA - Resource Management Act 1991

RP – Regional Plan

TAG - Technical Advisory Group

TKoT – Te Kahu o Taonui

TTMAC - Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party

TTNEAP – Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan

TOR - Terms of Reference

TPK - Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Maori Development)

TWWAG – Tāngata Whenua Water Advisory Group

WDC - Whangarei District Council

KARAKIA / WHAKATAU

RĪMITI (ITEM)	Page
1.0 NGĀ MAHI WHAKAPAI/HOUSEKEEPING	
2.0 NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ/APOLOGIES	
3.0 NGA WHAKAPUAKANGA/DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
4.0 NGĀ RĪMITI / ITEMS	
4.1 Record of Actions – 28 March 2024	6
4.2 Receipt of Action Sheet	13
4.3 Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions	17
WATER / MARINE	
4.4 Freshwater Monitoring Framework	22
CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY	
4.5 Partnership roadmap to transfer of powers	57
MĀORI RELATIONSHIPS	
4.6 Amendment to Local Government Electoral Legislation (Māori Wards and Constituencies)	61
REPORTS FOR NOTING	
4.7 Working Party Updates	67
4.8 Chief Executive’s Report to Council	69

TITLE: **Record of Actions – 28 March 2024**


From: Sally Bowron, Strategy, Governance and Engagement Team Admin/PA

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 6 May 2024

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Record of Actions of the last meeting (attached) held on 28 March 2024 for review by the meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed record of actions from 28 March 2024 [↓](#) 

Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party
28 March 2024

Tuhituhi o ngā Mahi O Te Kāhui Māori O Taitokerau Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party Record of Actions

Meeting held in the Council Chamber and via audio visual link
36 Water Street, Whangārei on Thursday 28 March 2024, commencing at 11.00am - 3.00pm

Tuhinga (Present):

Co-Chair, NRC (Deputy Chair) Tui Shortland
Co-Chair, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine, Pita Tipene
Councillor Amy Macdonald
Councillor Jack Craw
Councillor John Blackwell
Councillor Marty Robinson
Councillor Rick Stolwerk
Ngāti Kuta, Michelle Elboz
Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board, Sheila Ta, Iwi
Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust, Mira Norris
Te Roroa, Thomas Hohaia
Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Miki Conrad
Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Aperahama Witana
Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, Ruzé Manuel
Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Whāpūhi, Janelle Beazley
Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust, Georgina Connolly
Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Koroua, Ngāti Takapari, Ripeka Read
Te Whakapiki Hapū, Rowan Tautari

I Tae Mai (In Attendance):

Huihuinga i te katoa (Full Meeting)

Kāwhiri Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor
Kāwhiri Tikanga Māori – Cultural Technical Advisor
Kaiāwhina Kaupapa Māori Technical Advisor
PA/Team Admin, Governance and Engagement
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Pou Taumatua, GM Corporate Services
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Huihuinga i te wahanga (Part Meeting)

Aaron Taikato, WDC
Bernadette Aperahama, WDC
David Mitchell, WDC
Dianne Zucchetto, Spatialize
Governance Specialist
Kaiāwhina Tari
Monitoring Manager
Policy and Planning Manager
Policy Specialists, Policy and Planning Team

Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party
28 March 2024

The iwi and hapū caucus commenced at 9.30am with karakia and mihi by Co-Chair Pita Tipene and representative for Te Rarawa, Aperahama Witana.

Secretarial Note: Aperahama Witana was welcomed as the newly appointed representative for Te Rarawa, replacing George Riley whose contribution was acknowledged.

Karakia / Whakataua

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Chair (NRC) Geoff Crawford
Councillor Jor Carr
Councillor Peter-Lucas Jones
Kahukuraariki Trust Board Geraldine Baker
Ngāti Hau, Mike Kake
Ngāti Tara, Mahue Greaves
Ngātiwai Trust Board, Aperahama Edwards
Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia, Nora Rameka
Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Whātua, Alan Riwaka
Te Whakaminenga O Te Hikutu Hapu-Whanau, Lynette Whiterau

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.

Record of Actions – 14 December 2023 (Item 4.1)

It was agreed that the record of actions was an accurate reflection of the meeting.

Agreed action points: Nil

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

The action sheet was received.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions (Item 4.3)

It was noted that this report sometimes doesn't receive enough attention. A 'deep dive' was suggested, as well as updating the traffic light format for clarity.

Agreed action points:

- To use the 11 April workshop to discuss and develop the Tāiki ē kaupapa (not a formal meeting).
- Revise the Tāiki ē report's traffic light ratings to better convey the action's progress.

Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party
28 March 2024

Proposal - Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party review 2024 (Item 4.4)

This report provided context about the strength of the relationship that has been built between council and Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) and proposed a review process, the aim of the review being to identify opportunities for improvement. Key discussion points included:

- There will be no changes to TTMAC until a review has been completed, as agreed by NRC's Chair and TTMAC Co-Chairs
- Any changes to TTMAC and its processes should align with the direction of Tāiki ē
- While the review generated some uncertainty, and councillors were yet to discuss it, it was hoped the review would be approached with open mindedness
- That a working group be established to bring recommendations back to TTMAC, using the governance recommendations from Te Tiriti Health Check as the basis for the review
- Acknowledgement of TTMAC's collective achievements, and a desire for continuation of council's courage to address the current challenges to local government decision-making and mana, particularly regarding the Fast-Track Approvals Bill and changes to Māori wards.
- Ideally, the review working group will meet on 11 April, providing direction to staff, who will work to bring formal recommendations back to 9 May's TTMAC meeting.

Agreed action points:

- That the recommendations for improvement in the Tiriti Health Check (conducted by independent legal firms, Buddle Findlay and Te Aho Legal) serve as the basis for the review.
- That a collaborative working group be established, to ensure thorough consideration of any proposed governance improvements from the Te Tiriti Health Check, including revisiting the Terms of Reference to update and align key aspects to the review's recommendations, such as purpose, functions, membership, accountabilities and reporting responsibilities.
- That the following elected and iwi and/or hapū members form the collaborative working group:
 1. Co-Chair Rita Tipene
 2. Mira Norris
 3. Naze Manuel
 4. Janene Beazley
 5. Chair (NRC) Geoff Crawford
 6. Co-Chair Tui Shortland
 7. Cr Marty Robinson
 8. Cr Peter-Lucas Jones

Long Term Plan 2024 - 2034 Consultation (Item 4.5)

This report updated TTMAC members on the Long Term Plan 2024–2034 (LTP). The LTP was adopted by council on 13 March. Key documents, which form the legal basis for consultation, and dates were shared with TTMAC to assist in promoting the consultation through their communication channels. Key discussion points included:

- Acknowledgement of the mana created by the active outreach work done by the Māori Relationships team to update iwi and hapū contact details

Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party
28 March 2024

- That the proposed change to the emergency services rate needed better messaging to explain council's view that the rate was not a core part of business and should be funded by central government
- Consider advancing Tāiki ē Action 13 – collaborative advocacy to government about the emergency rate, as has been done with Caulerpa
- Consider in the TTMAC review improving resources to support better iwi/hapū participation in the LTP process, potentially through the LTP implementation priority in Tāiki ē.

Agreed action points: Nil

Fast Track Approval Bill (Item 4.6)

The Policy and Planning team presented information about the significant changes proposed by government to fast-track resource consents and how council aimed to support iwi and hapū to provide feedback on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill by:

- providing a summary of staff analysis/key submission points to iwi/hapū
- sharing submissions lodged by the sector
- informing iwi/hapū about other information sources, including template submissions if available, and
- holding an online webinar with iwi/hapū to provide analysis of Bill.

Recognising the significant impact of the Bill, a unified approach to submitting feedback was deemed crucial.

Agreed action points:

Staff to promptly share the analysis package with TTMAC members after the meeting and provide support to iwi and hapū making submissions on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill.

Regional Pest Plan (Item 4.7)

This report advised members that council has endorsed beginning a review of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP), as a new plan is required by 2027. RPMPs provide the council with regulatory tools to enable effective delivery of council-led pest management while ensuring others contribute to important aspects of pest management, for example, by regulating the sale of pest species. The Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party will fully discuss the plan, and TTMAC representatives on the working party will provide regular updates to TTMAC regarding relevant progress.

Agreed action points:

That TTMAC members on the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party provide TTMAC with regular updates regarding progress of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP).

GIS Mapping Tool and Tangata Whenua Database Update (Item 4.8)

This paper sought to further develop the GIS (Geographic Information System) Māori Engagement Tool through collaboration with a technical steering group of iwi and hapū GIS experts. The GIS tool has been a 4-year project developed following feedback from Te Tiriti Health Check. It aims to support better iwi and hapū engagement by providing a clear understanding of iwi and hapū boundaries, and to create a more open and transparent model of data for meaningful interactions with tangata whenua. The project aligns with Tāiki ē Priority Action 20 and could use budget allocated for resource management wānanga. Key discussion points included:

Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party
28 March 2024

- acknowledgement that defining hapū boundaries involves complexity, real-world considerations, and the challenge of integrating available information
- currently the GIS mapping tool serves as an internal source of truth, but it could have wider applications
- the tool needs a narrative to help people understand the intention behind capturing the data and using the tool
- there needs to be a recognised protocol when sharing iwi and hapū data.

Agreed action points:

- That iwi and hapū GIS mapping specialists be contracted to provide expert tangata whenua advice on how the GIS (Geographic Information System) Māori Engagement Tool could be developed to support iwi and hapū capacity and capability.

Future Development Strategy for Whangārei District (Item 4.9)

Representatives from Whangārei District Council (WDC) were in attendance for this paper, which updated members on the development of the Future Development Strategy for the Whangārei District (FDS) and provided an opportunity for members to provide feedback on it. The FDS informs decision-making for the Long-Term Plan and ensures adequate funding is allocated to support future growth in the district. Key points from the robust kōrero included:

- The challenge of the work being done within significant time constraints and limited funding (\$300,000)
- Concerns that WDC dominated the decision-making, which led to feelings of being corralled down a specific path
- It is a significant kaupapa that needed a regional approach and a more balanced working party representation
- The need to consider collective thinking about spatial planning within the broader context of regional development, achieving better alignment between Te Taitokerau councils and exploring the possibility of pushing back to central government
- That an effective way forward by staff for TTMAC to engage regarding the Hapū Aspiration Statement.

Agreed action points:

- Staff to provide information about the FDS hapū hui being held by WDC
- That a meeting be organised for the original four TTMAC representatives, Pita Tipene, Nyze Manuel, Ripeka Read and Mira Norris with WDC staff to provide feedback about the process and strategy.

Update on Freshwater Plan Change and Freshwater Farm Plans (Item 4.10)

This paper informed members about the effect of changes signalled by the new coalition government on implementation of the Freshwater Plan Change (FPC) and Freshwater Farm Plans (FFP). Key discussion points included:

- The uncertainty about government changes, such as possibility of farm plans being required for 50 rather than 20 hectares (hence a light approach to communicating with landowners until government clarifies its intentions)
- Appreciation was expressed for the Policy and Planning team's adaptability and positive approach, and remaining grounded in environmental considerations and community needs

Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party
28 March 2024

- Addressing concerns about losing momentum could involve ensuring adequate Māori technical expertise. This might include examining the roles of TTMAC's Māori Technical Advisory Group, the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group, and kaimahi by the TTMAC Review Working Group. Additionally, exploring alternative models for capacity improvement beyond contract dependency could be beneficial
- There should be sufficient funding through Tāiki ē and Te Mana o Te Wai budgets to engage Māori technical expertise.

Agreed action points: Nil

Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group update (Item 4.11)

Co-Chair Delaraine Armstrong was in attendance to help update members on the work recently completed by the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG), including Feedback on Draft Freshwater Plan Change and the Whakapapa-based Methodologies Report, and to advise of membership changes. It was noted that it's an opportune time to review TWWAG's role and how to continue strengthening the commitment to partner with tangata whenua and build upon TWWAG's recommendations in freshwater management. Key discussion points included:

- Disappointment that the NRC Chair was not present to address his statement regarding removal of Te Mana o Te Wai freshwater principles from the Freshwater Management Plan
- Reiteration that water itself has a voice and without water we have nothing
- Appreciation was expressed for the significant work done by TWWAG, how it might continue and how it may fit with Wānanga Waiora
- That the continuance of the work being done by TWWAG be considered by the TTMAC Review Working Group, and how to manage projects extending beyond the current council or government term.

Agreed action points:

- The reports "Feedback Report" and "Whakapapa-based Methodologies Report" were endorsed by iwi and hapū members of Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC)
- That the TTMAC Review Working Group consider how TWWAG's work might continue within the broader context of providing council with Māori technical advice.
- That Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group be asked to provide a recommendation on the future of the group to the next TTMAC meeting.

Reports from other working parties (Item 4.12)

This report was taken as read.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 4.13)

This report was taken as read.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded with karakia by Aperahama Witana at 2.40pm.

TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Sally Bowron, Strategy, Governance and Engagement Team Admin/PA

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 6 May 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: Action sheet [↓](#) 

Current actions as at 03/05/2024

TTMAC actions 2022 - 2025

Completed actions remain on the action sheet for a month and are then archived.

Traffic lights
Completed
In progress
Stationary, overdue, not started

Abbreviation	Ngā Whainga	
C&C	Capacity and Capability	Capability – Capacity - Partnership
MR	Māori Representation	Te Tiriti o Waitangi - Decision Making - Resourcing
W/M	Water / Marine	Mauri – Mātauranga - Mana i te wai
CC	Climate Crisis	Te Ao Māori – Advocacy - Implementation
ED	Economic Development	Whai Rawa - Whai Mana - Whai Oranga

Meeting date	Action(s)	Tāiki ē reference	Status	C&C	MR	W/M	CC	ED
13/04/23	Mātauranga Māori Monitoring Framework A detailed scope of work to be developed for the Mātauranga Māori Monitoring Framework and brought back to TTMAC for feedback.	Priority 1 Action 7, 8	In progress. Wānanga have been held Ngāti Rehia and Patuharakeke. A paper will be brought to the next formal meeting.	✓		✓		
10/08/23	Re-establish Te Tiriti Health Check working group Re-establish the working group and engage consultants.	Priority 1 Action 1, 2	In progress. Staff are working with the original Te Tiriti Health Check consultants on a project scope in preparation to re-establish the working group.	✓	✓			
10/08/23	Wānanga Waiora Consider holding Wānanga Waiora as an annual event at Matariki.	Priority 1 Action 7, 8	In progress. Seeing how this work aligns with Te Taitokerau Resilience Action Plan and other key mahi.	✓		✓	✓	
14/12/23	Regional Marae Based Meeting Staff will work with the following members regarding hosting of TTMAC marae-based hui: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 April – Te Uri o Hau (Kaipara) 13 June – Ngāti Hine (Taumarere catchment) 8 August – Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari (Ngunguru) 10 October – Patuharakeke (Takahiwai) 12 December – Te Aupōuri (Te Kao) 	N/A	In progress Noting that the 11 April hui was changed to a workshop on Tāiki ē.	✓	✓			

Current actions as at 03/05/2024

Meeting date	Action(s)	Tāiki ē reference	Status	C&C	MR	W/M	CC	ED
14/12/23	Flood adaptation strategy Staff to seek advice from MTAG about the structure and function of a group to provide advice on hapū perspectives on flooding and development of a plan for future engagement with hapū.	Priority 1 Action 28	In progress. This item will be included in the next MTAG agenda (or Māori technical group under any new governance structure changes).	✓	✓		✓	✓
28/03/24	Tāiki ē report on Priority Actions	Priority 1 Action 2	11 April workshop to be used as a deep dive into Tāiki ē. The traffic light format in the report to be updated.	✓	✓			
28/03/24	Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party review 2024 A TTMAC Review Working Group comprising the NRC Chair, TTMAC Co-Chairs, Marty Robinson, Peter-Lucas Jones, Nyze Manuel, Mira Norris and Janelle Beazley consider proposed governance improvements from the Te Tiriti Health Check, including revisiting the Terms of Reference to update and align key aspects to the review's recommendations, such as purpose, functions, membership, accountabilities and reporting responsibilities.	Priority 1 Actions 11, 15	The review group will meet prior to TTMAC's 9 May meeting.	✓	✓			
28/03/24	Fast Track Approval Bill Staff to promptly share the analysis package with TTMAC members after the meeting and provide support to iwi and hapū making submissions on the Fast-Track Approvals Bill.	Priority 1 Action 27	Completed.			✓		
28/03/24	Regional Pest Plan That TTMAC members on the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party provide TTMAC with regular updates regarding progress of the Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP).	Priority 2 Action 19 Priority 3 Action 30	Not started.		✓	✓		
28/03/24	GIS Mapping Tool and Tangata Whenua Database Update Contract iwi and hapū GIS mapping specialists to provide expert tangata whenua advice on how the GIS	Priority 2 Actions 16, 20	Not started.	✓				

Current actions as at 03/05/2024

Meeting date	Action(s)	Tāiki ē reference	Status	C&C	MR	W/M	CC	ED
	Māori Engagement Tool could be developed to support iwi and hapū capacity and capability.							
28/03/24	Future Development Strategy for Whangārei District Organise a meeting for the original four TTMAC representatives, Pita Tīpene, Nyze Manuel, Ripeka Read and Mira Norris to provide feedback.	Priority 2 Action 19	In progress. Staff sent a pānui about the FDS hapū hui held by WDC.		✓			
28/03/24	Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG) update The TTMAC Review Working Group consider how TWWAG's work might continue within the broader context of providing council with Māori technical advice. Likewise, TWWAG to provide a recommendation on the future of the group to the next TTMAC meeting.	Priority 1 Actions 27, 11	In progress. TTMAC Review Working Group meeting on 9 May prior to TTMAC meeting.	✓		✓		

TITLE: Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions

From: Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 6 May 2024

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

At the 23 April 2024 council meeting, the updated final draft of Tāiki ē was adopted unanimously by council. The council minutes recorded that “Appreciation was extended to all involved in the development of the Tāiki ē NRC/TTMAC Te Tiriti Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan which was described as a ‘beautiful document’ and set a clear list of prioritised actions to progress”.

The purpose of this report is to provide a progress report on the 31 current actions in Tāiki ē NRC Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan (Tāiki ē), in council’s commitment to accountability on what is being achieved across the key priorities.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions’ by Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and dated 3 May 2024, be received.

Tuhinga/Background

Tāiki ē (NRC Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan) lists 31 actions and timeframes. The actions have been ranked by priority according to their ability to give effect to Te Kaupapa – Mission.

Priority 1

- the action(s) has the potential to have a significant impact and should be the top priority in terms of work and resourcing.
- Underway – the action(s) is actively being implemented, with further work required OR
- Commence within 12 Months - action has commenced within 12 months of adoption of the Implementation Plan (e.g., by 26 July 2023 and there is a commitment to a completion date.

Priority 2

- the action(s) has the potential to have a moderate impact and should be progressed after High priority actions have commenced.
- Years 1 – 3 – action to be completed within 3 years of adoption of the Implementation plan (e.g., by 30 June 2025).

Priority 3

- action(s) have comparably less impact and should be progressed after High and Medium priority actions have commenced.
- Years 3 – 10+.

Actions are numbered from 1 to 31, with indications of whether budget allocation is required or already in place. This will guide the NRC in seeking funding through the Annual Plan or Long-Term Plan for implementation. If unbudgeted actions do not receive future funding, they will require further discussion with TTMAC to determine next steps.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Tāiki ē Progress Tracker [↓](#) 

Actions	Work item	Priority	Progress	Notes	Budget
Action 01	Te Tiriti Health Check	Priority 1	In progress	Embedded as part of annual workplan. Scope received from Whaia Legal and Buddle Findlay to be progressed via MTAG and reported as agenda item February 2024. Recommendation – see paper TTMAC Review 2024	Budgeted: \$50,000 in 2021/22, and \$25,000 per annum following to carry out an independent 'health check' of council's Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, and \$100,000 a year from 2022/23 for implementation of any findings.
Action 02	Continue developing Tāiki ē	Priority 1	On track	Full document covering all five whaingā adopted at 23 April 2024 council meeting.	Unbudgeted
Action 03	Increase IHEMPs	Priority 1	On track	Continue to work with climate resilience team to support IHEMP's via climate change adaptation fund.	Budgeted: \$20,000 increase of \$10,000 to \$30,000 per year from 2022/23. Target 2024-2034 Long Term Plan 2023/24 - 26 applications were received totalling \$623k for the Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Fund (total \$100k for grants of up to \$25k). Four applications related to preparing IHEMP funded utilising Tāiki ē and IHEMP budgets. • Nga Hapū o Pukepoto • Te Uri o te Aho • Te Kowhai Roading & Urupa Committee • Ngāti Wharekawa
Action 04	Manawahakahono a Rohe agreements	Priority 1	In progress	Te Parawhau formally signed up to multi hapū agreement 29 April 2024. Work still to be done to progress development by other hapū and iwi.	Budgeted: \$30,000 per year from 2021/2022 Years 1 – 3 for (a) to (d) Target 2024-2034 Long Term Plan. Additional NRC FTE may also be required.
Action 05	Māori RMA Hearing Commissioners	Priority 2	On track	Twelve hapū and iwi became accredited RMA commissioners in 2023.	Unbudgeted
Action 06	Hapū training in RMA processes	Priority 2	On track	RMA 101 online training 40 participants in 2023.	Budgeted: RMA Noho \$20,000 per year.
Action 07	Environmental Monitoring Programme	Priority 1	In progress	Working with iwi and hapū to complete funding agreements and plans. See separate paper re (Mātauranga) Māori Freshwater Monitoring Framework.	Budgeted: \$20,000 per year to support environmental monitoring by Tangata Whenua.
Action 08	Hapū freshwater monitoring	Priority 1	In progress	(a) - (c) are to commence within 12 months (d) is to commence in Years 1 – 3 Papers presented at 28 March 2024 TTMAC meeting: Freshwater Farm Plans & Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group.	Budgeted: \$250,000 22/23 ongoing (specific purpose and allocation yet to be confirmed)
Action 09	Regulatory services delivery	Priority 1	In progress	Resource Consent Process Review pending MTAG and key kaitiaki feedback before being progressed through ELT. Review of Compliance Monitoring to be scoped for review in the first half of 2024 annual year.	Unbudgeted
Action 10	Support education providers	Priority 3	In progress	Initial work underway across various providers.	Unbudgeted
Action 11	Tangata whenua resourced to participate	Priority 1	In progress	Commence within 12 months for 10(a). Commence Years 1 – 3 for 10(b). Long Term Plan has identified the current funding for tangata whenua operational activities and Tāiki ē has budget allocated, however there is still a need to consider other models used elsewhere in Aotearoa that can be enhanced in Te Taitokerau. Refer Māori Services Procurement Policy.	Unbudgeted
Action 12	External funding for iwi/hapū	Priority 2	Behind schedule	Te Taitokerau Resilience Action Plan Muriwhenua pilot one example of looking at this. Initial conversations with Regional Leadership Group to source other agency funding for Tāiki ē.	Unbudgeted

Action 13	Joint advocacy	Priority 1	On track	Paper presented at 9 May TTMAC: Amendment to Local Government Electoral Legislation (Māori Wards and Constituencies)	Within existing resources.
Action 14	Streamline councils' collaboration	Priority 3	Not started	By end June 2024.	Within existing resources.
Action 15	Tangata whenua governance opportunities	Priority 1	On track	LTP proposal for ongoing funding of these positions specifically Tangata Whenua Expert roles. Summary consultation document provided and key dates for submissions.	Within existing resources. TTMAC budgeted for participation and attendance at meetings - \$84,899 per annum.
Action 16	Project delivery	Priority 2	In progress	GIS project to pilot with specific areas of council projects to be identified to assist iwi and hapū relationships and have a shared understanding of the work that happens in the region. GIS project update presented at 28 March 2024 TTMAC meeting.	Unbudgeted
Action 17	Cultural competency framework	Priority 2	In progress	TBC – Updated numbers of staff who have completed Level 1 and Level 2 Cultural competency training.	Within existing resources
Action 18	Scholarship/Intern programme	Priority 2	In progress	New scholarship/internship's for summer 2024-2025 application interviews have been completed. Details of successful applicants can be shared at next TTMAC meeting in July.	Budgeted: 8 scholarships at \$4,000 per annum (4 specifically for Māori)
Action 19	Iwi/hapū engagement policy re LTP, RPS, etc	Priority 2	On track	Policy on advancing partnerships with Māori under review as part of the LTP process. LTP marae-based engagements were held.	Unbudgeted
Action 20	Iwi/hapū contacts database	Priority 2	In progress	GIS project underway as part of the resource consents review/report. Kaiāwhina Kaupapa Māori role specialist/lead/account manager making contact with iwi and hapū to confirm and update contacts database.	Budgeted \$20,000
Action 21	Transfer of powers	Priority 2	In progress	Paper presented at 9 May 2024 TTMAC meeting.	Unbudgeted
Action 22	Māori constituencies	Priority 2	Behind schedule	To be revisited for 2025 LG elections and introduction of new bill.	Budgeted: \$20,000 allocated in governance budget for 22(a)
Action 23	Equitable/safe environment for councillors	Priority 1	On track	NRC in partnership with TTMAC LTP proposal for ongoing funding of Te Reo Māori interpreter services for formal council meetings.	Within existing resources
Action 24	Procurement	Priority 3	In progress	Progressive procurement being considered in partnership with Amotai/Whāriki.	Unbudgeted
Action 25	Council contracts for iwi and hapū	Priority 3	In progress	See also Action 24. Progressive procurement to be explored and benefits for tangata whenua and council under the economic whanga.	Within existing resources.
Action 26	Long Term Plan / Annual Plan	Priority 1	On track	Consultation period completed and recommendations to council are being finalised.	Within existing resources.
Action 27	Freshwater Plan	Priority 1	In progress	Papers being presented: TWWAG updates and progress report Freshwater Farm Plans	Budgeted: Annually \$250,000 is set aside in the current LTP 2021 – 2031 for the Te Mana o Te Wai Fund. Within existing resources.
Action 28	Community resilience to climate crisis	Priority 1	In progress	Draft Te Taitokerau Resilience Plan being developed with various stakeholders and funders for tangata whenua led approaches to build resilience across the motu.	Budgeted and underway within existing resources. Further budget required to fully implement the action.
Action 29	Sustainable economic development	Priority 2	In progress	New action adopted by council 23 April 2024	Unbudgeted Further budget required to fully implement the action.

Action 30	Marine protection and development	Priority 3	Not started	New action adopted by council 23 April 2024.	Budgeted: \$50,000 Further budget required to fully implement the action.
Action 31	KPI framework for Ngā Whainga	Priority 2	Not started	New action adopted by council 23 April 2024	Within existing resources

TITLE: Freshwater Monitoring Framework

From: Jason Donaghy, Natural Resources Monitoring Manager; Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori

Authorised by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 6 May 2024

Group Manager/s:

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

Tāiki ē Action 7, Priority 1

Taking into account the existing tools and models available, develop and fund a culturally appropriate council environmental monitoring programme that:

- a) addresses iwi and hapū interests and concerns in the monitoring of the environment;*
- b) includes the incorporation of mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori and recognition of the role of Tangata Whenua as kaitiaki;*
- c) recognises and provides for any cultural monitoring tools endorsed by iwi and hapū;*
- d) is consistently implemented as a component of NRC environmental monitoring and reporting practices and processes; and*
- e) is reviewed and updated every 3 years for its effectiveness and efficiency.*

Tāiki ē Action 8, Priority 1

Taking into account the existing tools and models available, develop and fund a culturally appropriate programme that enables and supports tangata whenua to undertake their own freshwater monitoring aspirations that:

- a) addresses iwi and hapū interests and concerns in the monitoring of the environment;*
- b) includes the incorporation of mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori and recognition of the role of Tangata Whenua as kaitiaki;*
- c) recognises and provides for any cultural monitoring tools endorsed by iwi and hapū;*
- d) is consistently recognised and incorporated where appropriate as a component of NRC environmental monitoring and reporting practices and processes; and*
- e) is reviewed and updated every 3 years for its effectiveness and efficiency.*

The purpose of this report is to seek Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) endorsement of the approach that rather than council determine a mātauranga Māori monitoring framework, staff propose that we develop a work programme that strengthens our commitment by council to develop and fund culturally appropriate environmental monitoring programmes for tangata whenua to undertake their own monitoring and bring back this programme to TTMAC for endorsement at the next available meeting.

Actions 7 and 8 of Tāiki ē relate to commitment by council to develop and fund culturally appropriate monitoring programmes, both internally and for tāngata whenua to undertake their own monitoring. Delivering on these actions was to be guided by way of a *Mātauranga Māori Freshwater Framework*. The framework approach was endorsed by TTMAC at its September 2022 meeting. To help better define how to give effect to Actions 7 and 8, staff initiated wānanga with council's two (at the time of writing) Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe partners and Ngā Kaitiaki O Ngā Wai Māori. Through these wānanga, it became apparent that developing *Mātauranga* framework for council was premature and is instead something that is best explored as councils relationships with iwi and hapū mature into Te Tiriti based partnerships as anticipated by Tāiki ē.

Actions 7 and 8 are important pathways to council giving effect to its Te Tiriti commitments. They are also a potentially critical pathway to building the capacity, capability and trust between council and tangata whenua to realise a partnership based approach to council functions. Whilst Mātauranga Māori may be incorporated into this mahi, that is something that should be explored and developed on a case by case basis and determined by individual iwi andhapū.

This report also covers the outcome of the work staff have completed alongside Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe partners Ngāti Rehia and Patuharakeke, and Ngā Kaitiaki O Ngā Wai Māori to better define how best to give effect to Actions 7 and 8 of Tāiki ē and provides recommendation to advance this work. Importantly, council has allocated funding support the achievement of Tāiki ē Action 8 (supports tāngata whenua to undertake their own monitoring aspirations). Staff propose to bring criteria back to TTMAC at its next formal meeting to enable that funding to be allocated appropriately in the next financial year.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Freshwater Monitoring Framework' by Jason Donaghy, Natural Resources Monitoring Manager; Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori and dated 30 April 2024, be received.
2. That Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) endorse the recommendations contained under heading 4.0 Recommendations of this report
3. That a work programme detailing timeframes, outcomes and key milestones for giving effect to those recommendations is presented to TTMAC for endorsement at the next formal meeting scheduled for July 2024.
4. That criteria for delivering tangata whenua environmental monitoring funding is brought to TTMAC for endorsement at the next formal meeting scheduled for July 2024.

Tuhinga/Background

The Tāiki ē strategy, adopted by Northland Regional Council (NRC) provides a clear roadmap towards giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations and to make NRC and TTMAC accountable to achieving them.

In May 2023, TTMAC supported engaging with our Mana Whakahono ā rohe (MWAR) partners, Patuharakeke Trust Board and Te Runanga o Ngāti Rēhia to develop the scope for what these programs could look like and provide some recommendations for next steps to be considered and discussed. MWAR agreements recognise that mātauranga māori is a key opportunity for greater recognition of the role of hapū in the management of natural and physical resources.

On July 20, 2023, the staff arranged hui that particularly focussed on freshwater, marking the initial step toward designing a culturally appropriate framework that facilitates and empowers tangata whenua. Ngāti Rēhia, one of the two Mana Whakahono a Rohe partners with the council, hosted the hui. Among the participants were representatives from Patuharakeke Trust Board, Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori, Ngāti Rēhia, Ngāpuhi, and other kaitiaki from Pewhairangi.

A second meeting was held explore the framework in more detail and also enable Patuharakeke rangatahi to participate. The second hui was held on November 22, 2023 hosted by Patuharakeke to discuss the role of council in relation to tikanga and mātauranga, and what council would need to change to change perspectives into regional council's monitoring, policies and programmes. Regional council staff from various teams attended to contribute to the discussions and strengthen understanding.

Reports outlining the process, outcomes and recommendations from the July and November 2023 wānanga are included with this report at Attachments 1 and 2 respectively.

The below is a summary of the recommendations and reflections from the reports of both wānanga.

1.0 Mātauranga Māori monitoring and decision making:

1. A review and evaluation to be taken out on the current tools and models used for cultural health monitoring.
2. Recognising that te ao Māori provides a holistic approach to te taiao, and council internal systems and plans do not currently have the same approach to monitoring.
3. Exploration of accreditation options in order to support and recognise the skills, expertise and mātauranga of kaitiaki in line with other industry accreditation systems (levelling the playing field and valuing kaitiaki as qualified professionals).
4. Examining other frameworks/reports that have been created by other councils that focus on integrating mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori into monitoring and decision making processes. This may include proposing the review of the current council advisory structures and decision-making processes to identify opportunities to increase hapū leadership and genuine partnership.
5. Shift monitoring approaches to recognise interconnections between realms from mountains to the sea. Take a full catchment view rather than water in isolation. Review how council upholds Te Mana o te Wai across all functions.

2.0 Internal capacity and capability at Northland Regional Council

1. Develop wānanga and workshops focused on strengthening council staffs understanding of hapū worldviews, values and priorities. Aim to build council staff capability in appropriately integrating tikanga, kawa and mātauranga rather than fitting mātauranga into existing council frameworks.
2. Assess internal skills, capacity and training needs to inform professional development pathways for council staff regarding te ao Māori worldview, tikanga and customary environmental practices.

3.0 Enabling and supporting Tangata Whenua

1. Facilitate knowledge sharing exchanges between hapū within the region to enable networked capability building. Council should provide practical resourcing to address capacity constraints limiting hapū participation.
2. Champion resourcing of hapū-led restoration initiatives that utilise customary practices e.g. planting by māramataka. Support hapū self-determination of priorities.
3. Develop consistent partnership-centred consenting guidelines enabling early, iterative and transparent engagement with hapū on all applications. Improve consent conditions to align with hapū aspirations.
4. Plan ongoing collaborative hui and site visits to maintain open dialogue and relationship building with a wider representation of hapū beyond governance level.
5. Initiate an investigation within the council to establish a process and explore potential options for the transfer of powers/other co-management and involvement mechanisms, in anticipation of hapū requests regarding desired transfers.

4.0 Recommendations

Staff entered the wānanga discussed in the report for the purpose of developing a scope for the Mātauranga Māori Freshwater Framework. The intention was to use that scope to engage a consultant(s) to prepare the framework itself, which would eventually be adopted by council. However, staff recommend a different approach that draws on the recommendations brought about through wānanga with our Mana Whakahono ā Rohe partner and Ngā Kaitiaki O Ngā Wai Māori.


Many of these recommendations are aligned with other Tāiki ē actions, or are a pathway to realising the outcomes anticipated through those actions (for example transfer of powers). Staff accordingly recommend the following, as a starting point for delivering on Actions 7 and 8 of Tāiki ē:

1. Undertake a review of the current environmental monitoring programme (projects, processes, and tangata whenua involvement) to assess the cultural appropriateness and effectiveness of the programme;
2. Identify gaps from the review and processes that are currently used and create initiatives alongside tangata whenua to create a culturally responsive environmental monitoring programme
3. Review and report on options for partnering with iwi/hapū to undertake monitoring that has traditionally been undertaken by council as a means of building capacity, capability and relationships to advance a partnership based approach to council functions.
4. Review council's current environmental grant funding schemes and identify opportunities to better align with actions 7 and 8 of Tāiki ē.
5. Review internal skills and needs from council staff to inform professional development pathways and increase cultural health and safety so staff are able to evaluate how in their roles they are able to uphold and apply the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
6. Develop an ongoing programme of wānanga between council and hapū focused specifically on practical topics to strengthen knowledge sharing and relationship building further.
7. Develop (or use existing models) to develop wānanga that build council staffs knowledge in a Te Ao Māori world view and integrating tikanga, kawa as well as mātauranga Māori into existing and new council frameworks
8. Develop internal processes and strategies that support a co-design approach to council monitoring projects.

It should be noted that the above recommendations represent a step towards giving effect to Actions 7 and 8. As the work is carried out the programme will evolve and respond as councils work with tangata whenua strengthens. Importantly, the wānanga that gave rise to these recommendations yielded a number of matters that are critical to advancing a Te Tiriti based partnerships with iwi and hapū. These matters are articulated in the recommendations contained in the reports attached to this document. Staff will continue to build on the knowledge, views and recommendations that were shared through these wānanga as we advance this work and the broader actions contained within Tāiki ē.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Hui Summary Report August 2023 [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Hui Summary Report November 2023 [↓](#) 

SUMMARY REPORT:

Hui to scope a monitoring framework

20 July 2023

Whitiora Marae, Te Tii
By Celia Witehira
for Northland Regional Council

Page 1

Summary Report: Hui to scope a monitoring framework

Celia Witehira

Contents

Introduction	3
Purpose	3
Hui Process.....	4
Session 1: Motivation	4
Session 2: Strengths & Challenges	6
What is working.....	6
Challenges	7
Policy and Planning drivers.....	7
Reflections	8
Recommendations	9
Appendix 1: Attendance List	10
Appendix 2: Worksheets on strengths – what is working	11
Appendix 3: National Policy Statement for Freshwater – key sections.....	14
Te Mana o te Wai	14
Tangata Whenua Involvement.....	15
Appendix 4: Recommendations from Ngā Roimata o Ngā Atua: Tears of Ranginui and Papatuanuku - A recommendation report to support the implementation of Te Mana o te Wai in Te Tai Tokerau	16
Appendix 5: Reflections on the hui	20

Introduction

As per Tāike ē, the Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan of the Northland Regional Council, the council staff have received guidance to formulate a monitoring framework rooted in mātauranga Māori.

On July 20, 2023, the council organized a Freshwater Monitoring Framework hui, marking the initial steps toward designing a culturally appropriate framework that facilitates and empowers tangata whenua in freshwater monitoring. Ngāti Rēhia, one of the two Mana Whakahono a Rohe partners with the council, hosted the hui. Among the participants were representatives from Patuharakeke, Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori, Ngāti Rēhia, Ngāpuhi, and other kaitiaki from Pewhairangi (a complete list is provided in appendix 1).

He huahua te kai? A, he wai te kai.
Are preserved pigeons the chief food? No its water¹.

Purpose

This report is a summary of the hui that was held on 20 July 2023. The hui was an opportunity for hapū to guide how mātauranga Māori monitoring practices are able to take effect in council. This meeting provided a valuable opportunity to gain insight into kaitiaki perspectives on monitoring overall.



¹ Whakatauki found in section 11 of the Ngāti Rēhia Hapū Environmental Management Plan, Third Edition 2018

Hui Process

It was important that the hui follows a tikanga based process. A tikanga based process provides for appropriate inclusion, respect and the valuing of the world view of those who are tangata whenua. This is established through the practise of powhiri directed by hau kainga, whakawhanaungatanga and providing space for the hau kainga to share their narrative regarding their whakapapa, connection, and relationship to the whenua. Respecting the local tikanga provides a safe platform for the rest of the hui to continue.

The hui was then broken into 2 main facilitated sessions. These sessions two sessions focused on drawing out kōrero from those present on:

- Motivations: Understanding the drivers - what motivates you in environmental monitoring.
- Strengths and challenges: Strengths and frustrations – What is working well in your monitoring practise now & identifying challenges.

These two sessions were followed by a kōrero on the legislative changes and the opportunities arising from them. The hui was concluded with reflections from the day.

Session 1: Motivation

In this session, everyone was split into 4 groups to discuss what their motivations are for freshwater and monitoring. The below word cloud captures the outputs from the 4 groups. The bigger the word, the more times it was reflected in the discussions amongst the groups.

The top 4 drivers identified in this hui were:

- Mokopuna
- Mātauranga
- Kaitiakitanga
- Whakapapa

These drivers were followed closely by:

- Climate change
- Connection
- Mahinga kai
- Tikanga



Session 2: Strengths & Challenges

This session was broken into two parts, firstly capturing what is working through group working and then a wider discussion on the challenges. The groups were asked to note down any challenges that arose during the kōrero on what's working, although the idea was to focus on the positive first. The challenges discussion was only lightly covered as our hui time was cut short.

What is working

Once again, the group was broken into smaller groups to discuss and highlight what has been working. Some of the aspects that were highlighted as working, came with caveats such as:

- Yes, that is happening but there could be more,
- it is not actually how we wanted it but at least it is something, or
- it is working, but also not working.

Some of the main strengths (see appendix 2 for full list) that were identified were:

Wananga - collaborative ones where hapū & kaitiaki can share ideas, build capability & capacity together. E.g Waiora symposium & Tai Tamariki

Acknowledgement of mātauranga & its relevance – shifting the thinking to bring Māori inclusion into decision making.

Action planning/strategic planning – Tangata whenua have more advisory roles in projects and plans and there is support for the development of Iwi and Hapū Environmental Management Plans.

Collaboration – This includes catchment groups with collaborative stakeholders – these groups where hapū are valued members helps to shift mindsets of the landowners and local community groups. Collective hapū and kaitiaki groups with the same vision and aspiration working together for the benefit of te taiao. Collaboration can bring in leverage with funding too.

Te mana o ngā hapū – There are knowledge holders within our respective hapū, hapū are the ones with the answers, the key is to find ways and opportunities to bring that kōrero to the forefront. It is no longer acceptable to just work with iwi and this is becoming better understood by agencies. Hapū (noting that all hapū are at differing stages) are building their knowledge to be able to supply technical support to each other and agencies.

Pūtea/funding – There is more funding to assist hapū to build their monitoring capacity and capability. This includes providing the tools to carry out the mahi. The funding is not perfect as it does, at times force hapū to compete against each other to receive the funding, focus on external objectives rather than their own, or restrict how it can be utilised.

Willingness – There is a willingness by staff within agencies to work more collaboratively with hapū, how this is done appropriately still requires a lot of work.

Summary Report: Hui to scope a monitoring framework

Celia Witehira

Challenges

This aspect of the hui was discussed briefly as part of the sharing back session on strengths – what is working. The hui was cut short, which meant that the group as a whole, was unable to unpack the challenges and how they can be overcome. The key themes from the little discussion that was had are all interrelated and need to be reviewed further for potential solutions:

Pūtea / funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Siloed • Doesn't flow • Short term • Not enough • Reporting hoops • Administrative burden
Relationship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transactional • Decision making at regulatory levels • High level of staff changes makes it hard to maintain relationships • Needs clear guidelines on who to talk to from the different agencies • Transfers of powers needs to be investigated to establish actual potential • Te Tiriti needs to be embodied in all agencies and all teams • Lack of empathy by agencies not addressing or acknowledging the impacts of land alienation on tangata whenua and the generational trauma this has created. It is not the role of hapū to educate staff within the agencies.
Equity for tangata whenua	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No equity lens applied • No support to address equity issues for tangata whenua
Profit from te taiao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economics always prioritised over the environment • The environment is seen as a 'resource' to be used for human benefit only. This is contrary to the environment existing for its own right, having its own mana and mauri to flourish for itself.
Compliance is limited	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring not working
Council/Government drivers determine timing and priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government timeframes excludes the capacity and capability of hapū to engage in the process. This takes time and resources to establish. • Te Ao Māori tikanga and kawa are not included in how timeframes are set.

Policy and Planning drivers

During the hui, a small portion was dedicated to briefly outlining the policy direction concerning freshwater. The primary legal guideline for freshwater management is the National Policy Statement for

Freshwater (NPSFM). This statement contains clear guidelines for involving tangata whenua in freshwater decision-making, with a specific focus on monitoring outlined in clause 3.4(1)(d). This clause (appendix 3) mandates local authorities to actively engage tangata whenua in developing and implementing mātauranga Māori and other monitoring practices. Furthermore, the NPSFM introduces the concept of Te Mana o te Wai (appendix 3) as a core principle, emphasizing the significance of water and the requirement to manage it in a way that upholds Te Mana o te Wai.

The council is currently in the process of crafting a Regional Freshwater Plan Change to adhere to the stipulations of the NPSFM. To aid in this endeavor, a Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG) was established in collaboration with Te Taitokerau Māori and Council working Party (TTMAC). The purpose of TWWAG is to offer feedback, support, analysis, and advice to TTMAC and the council during the development of the draft Freshwater Plan Change. Among the reports produced by TWWAG, the stage 2 report titled "Ngā Roimata o Ngā Atua: The Tears of Ranginui and Papatuanuku" provides recommendations (appendix 4) to facilitate the implementation of Te Mana o te Wai in Te Taitokerau, including suggestions for tangata whenua involvement in monitoring.

TTMAC is responsible for overseeing the implementation of Tāiki ē, which encompasses two specific actions related to monitoring:

7. Develop and fund a culturally appropriate council environmental monitoring program, considering existing tools and models.
8. Develop and fund a culturally appropriate program that empowers and supports tangata whenua in pursuing their own aspirations for freshwater monitoring, considering existing tools and models.

The policies and plans highlighted above serve as directives for council staff to devise an all-encompassing monitoring framework. This framework should hold significance for and resonate with tangata whenua, involving their input in the development and execution, by tangata whenua and for tangata whenua. Additionally, the framework should address the challenges previously identified.

Note: Of those present, Nora Rameka is a member of TTMAC and Celia Witehira is a member of TWWAG.

Reflections

The reflection session allowed everyone to share their overall thoughts on the hui, the full list of reflections can be found in appendix 5. It was acknowledged many times that this hui is the start of the kōrero to develop a framework, other noteworthy points raised during reflection were:

- The framework needs to be built from the ground; the narrative is not in councils it is hapū.
- Māori values are the foundation of any cultural monitoring framework, our kōrero tuku iho and whakapapa are our why and what we would monitor. Our tools are things such as the maramataka, rahui etc.
- Businesses need to be brought to help fund the kaupapa, they have a role to play in protecting and enhancing our wai.

- Remove the gatekeeping from programmes and projects of the council. Provide the resources and get out of the way to let it happen.
- Our mātauranga is being collected and taken, acknowledge us and our position within society.
- There is a difference between tangata whenua and mana whenua. Any framework needs to recognise and allow for the uniqueness of individual local ahi kaa.

Recommendations

The council needs to undertake additional work before a preliminary draft framework for monitoring can be established. The recent hui provided clear guidance on successful aspects, which should be acknowledged and celebrated. To further enhance the development of a monitoring framework, the following recommendations are offered:

- Organise a second follow-up hui to delve into the issues, explore potential solutions, and provide additional insights for a potential framework. If feasible, involve Patuharakeke rangatahi.
- Evaluate the tools currently in use for cultural monitoring.
- Examine frameworks and reports from other councils that focus on integrating mātauranga and te ao Māori into monitoring and decision-making processes.
- Coordinate efforts with the work being done by TWWAG in terms of methodologies and attribute states, where applicable.
- Initiate an investigation within the council to establish a process and explore potential options for the transfer of powers, in anticipation of hapū requests regarding desired transfers.

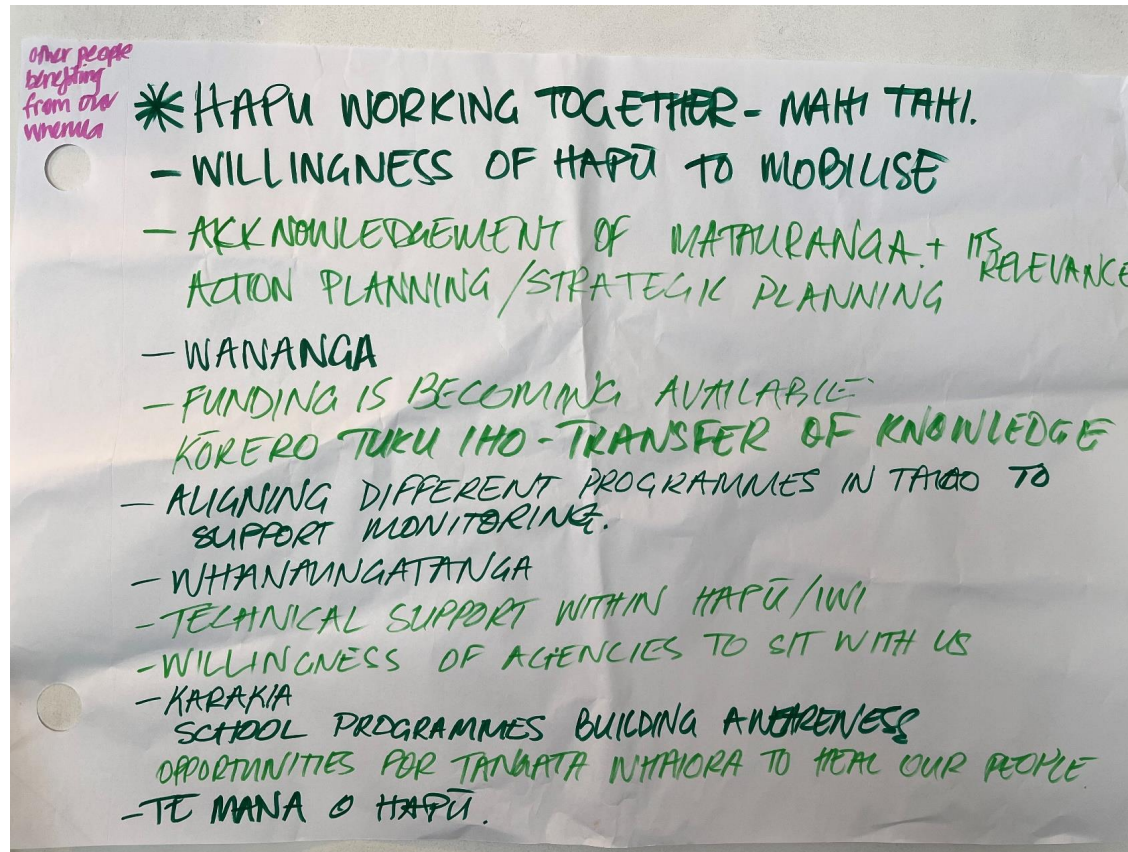
Appendix 1: Attendance List

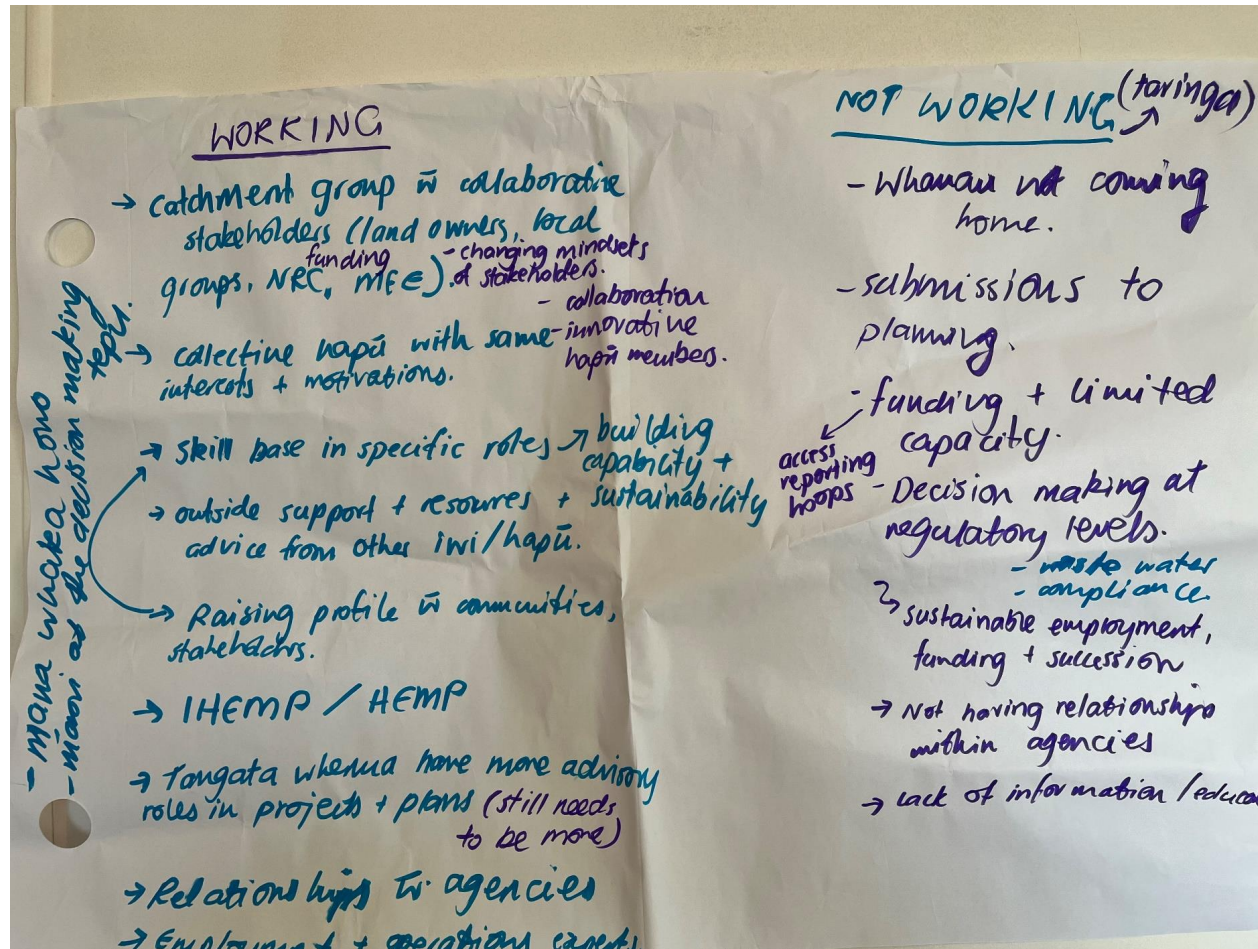
Attendees

Waitai Tua - TRONR
Phil Grimshaw – Te Kahui Taonui
Whati Rameka - TRONR
Hugh Rihari – Ngāti Torehina
Horo Herewini – hau kainga
Hana Munro – hau kainga
Allan Munro – hau kainga
Mieke Kapa – hau kainga
Hona Edwards - NKONWM
Hori Kingi - NKONWM
Tania Pene - TRION
Pairangi Kopa – Kaitiaki Kauri, TRION
Anne Hohaia – hau kainga
Ani Rudolf – Kaitiaki Kauri
Julian hansen - NRC
Jeannie Poutai - NKONWM
Chantez Connor Kingi - NKONWM
April Nordstrom - NRC
Rio Greening – Ngāti Korohue
Bailey Nikora - NRC
Roselie Nigel - NRC
Simon Webb – NRC
Steve – Patuharakeke
Ari Carrington – Patuharakeke
Robert Nathan - NRC
Jason Donaghy – NRC
Mereana (June) Heihei – hau kainga
Ngāhuia – hau kainga
Jo Civil – Ngāti Hineira
Merepainga Rihari – hau kainga
Nora Rameka - TRONR
Celia Witehira - TRONR
Miranda Cassidy – Independent Facilitator

TRONR – Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia
NKONWM – Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori
TRION – Te Rūnanga a Iwi o Ngāpuhi
NRC – Northland Regional Council

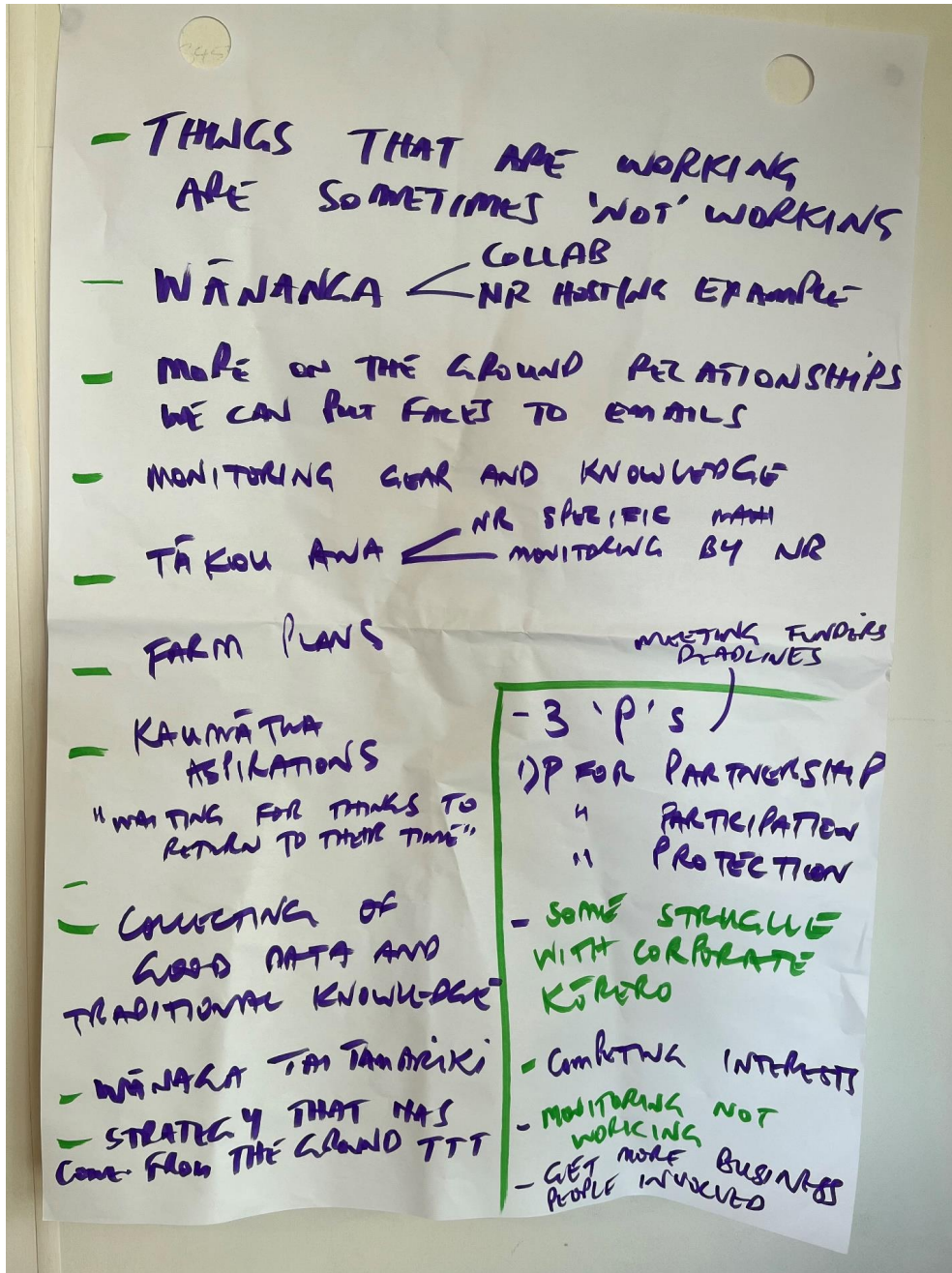
Appendix 2: Worksheets on strengths – what is working





Summary Report: Hui to scope a monitoring framework

Celia Witehira



Appendix 3: National Policy Statement for Freshwater – key sections

Te Mana o te Wai

1.3 Fundamental concept – Te Mana o te Wai

Concept

- (1) Te Mana o te Wai is a concept that refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment. It protects the mauri of the wai. Te Mana o te Wai is about restoring and preserving the balance between the water, the wider environment, and the community.
- (2) Te Mana o te Wai is relevant to all freshwater management and not just to the specific aspects of freshwater management referred to in this National Policy Statement.

Framework

- (3) Te Mana o te Wai encompasses 6 principles relating to the roles of tangata whenua and other New Zealanders in the management of freshwater, and these principles inform this National Policy Statement and its implementation.
- (4) The 6 principles are:
 - (a) Mana whakahaere: the power, authority, and obligations of tangata whenua to make decisions that maintain, protect, and sustain the health and well-being of, and their relationship with, freshwater
 - (b) Kaitiakitanga: the obligations of tangata whenua to preserve, restore, enhance, and sustainably use freshwater for the benefit of present and future generations
 - (c) Manaakitanga: the process by which tangata whenua show respect, generosity, and care for freshwater and for others
 - (d) Governance: the responsibility of those with authority for making decisions about freshwater to do so in a way that prioritises the health and well-being of freshwater now and into the future
 - (e) Stewardship: the obligations of all New Zealanders to manage freshwater in a way that ensures it sustains present and future generations
 - (f) Care and respect: the responsibility of all New Zealanders to care for freshwater in providing for the health of the nation.
- (5) There is a hierarchy of obligations in Te Mana o te Wai that prioritises:
 - (a) first, the health and well-being of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems
 - (b) second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water)

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

Tangata Whenua Involvement

3.4 Tangata whenua involvement

- (1) Every local authority must actively involve tangata whenua (to the extent they wish to be involved) in freshwater management (including decision-making processes), including in all the following:
 - (a) identifying the local approach to giving effect to Te Mana o te Wai
 - (b) making or changing regional policy statements and regional and district plans so far as they relate to freshwater management
 - (c) implementing the NOF (see subclause (2)) 14 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020
 - (d) developing and implementing mātauranga Māori and other monitoring.
- (2) In particular, and without limiting subclause (1), for the purpose of implementing the NOF, every regional council must work collaboratively with, and enable, tangata whenua to:
 - (a) identify any Māori freshwater values (in addition to mahinga kai) that apply to any FMU or part of an FMU in the region; and
 - (b) be actively involved (to the extent they wish to be involved) in decision-making processes relating to Māori freshwater values at each subsequent step of the NOF process.
- (3) Every regional council must work with tangata whenua to investigate the use of mechanisms available under the Act, to involve tangata whenua in freshwater management, such as:
 - (a) transfers or delegations of power under section 33 of the Act
 - (b) joint management agreements under section 36B of the Act
 - (c) mana whakahono a rohe (iwi participation arrangements) under subpart 2 of Part 5 of the Act.
- (4) To avoid doubt, nothing in this National Policy Statement permits or requires a local authority to act in a manner that is, or make decisions that are, inconsistent with any relevant iwi participation legislation or any directions or visions under that legislation.

Appendix 4: Recommendations from Ngā Roimata o Ngā Atua: Tears of Ranginui and Papatuanuku - A recommendation report to support the implementation of Te Mana o te Wai in Te Tai Tokerau

The following recommendations are proposed as part of this report in order to give effect to Te Mana me te Mauri o te Wai in Te Tai Tokerau:

Tangata whenua provisions and text

1. The proposed tangata whenua provisions presented in Part 3 of this report are included in the Freshwater Planning Instrument (FPI) for Te Tai Tokerau (Northland) to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPSFM);
2. The Te Mana me te Mauri o te Wai Statement for Te Tai Tokerau with inclusion of Te Hurihanga Wai is incorporated in the FPI; and,
3. The provisions guide the impact of human behaviour and treatment of wai.
4. The definition of Te Mana me te Mauri o te Wai includes all water; including water in pipes, tanks and cisterns.

Empowering Mana Whakahaere

5. Review existing Freshwater Management Units (FMUs) with tangata whenua who have an existing relationship or are mana whakahaere over those units;
6. Vision, values, limits, allocation, flows, current state of attributes must be developed with relevant haukāinga as part of this process;
7. Northland Regional Council (NRC) must enable tangata whenua to wānanga and develop their own work programmes to develop future FMUs in their respective takiwā and rohe;
8. Tangata whenua develop through wānanga, and hui appropriate processes and criteria based on their mātauranga and tikanga for developing new visions, values and subsequent provisions to meet NPSFM and FMU requirements;
9. Tangata whenua who are mandated entities and recognised are resourced by NRC to develop and identify freshwater values to guide freshwater decision-making processes in their rohe and takiwā;
10. Haukāinga are included in the decision-making process with respect to how the FMU is defined in their respective area(s);
11. Develop action plans and implementation plans in partnership with tangata whenua;
12. Develop mātauranga guidelines with mana whenua to identify where tikanga Māori practices should occur over wai – such as rāhui to enhance and manage mauri;
13. Develop work programme with tangata whenua to develop future FMUs;

14. Te Hurihanga Wai applies to all freshwater and the concept is also included in a different form in the three waters process when working to give effect to Te Mana me te Mauri o te Wai in multiple forms;
15. Review existing resource consents against limit and flows defined in future FMUs established by tangata whenua; and
16. Develop consenting pathway guidance in partnership with tangata whenua that is distributed before pre-application meetings initiated by applicants.

Communication and engagement

17. Engagement and communication of the FPI with councillors, communities and the general public is required.

Implementation and next steps

18. Case studies should be considered and tested as part of the next steps and how they apply to tangata whenua;
19. Monitoring of freshwater should occur by tangata whenua to determine target attribute states and baselines and NRC must resource this;
20. NRC must investigate² and implement within two years, as required by section 3.4(3) of the NPSFM the use of existing mechanisms available under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) to involve tangata whenua in freshwater decision making such as through:
 - a. the transfer of powers under s.33;
 - b. joint management agreements under s.36B;
 - c. Mana Whakahono a Rohe Agreements under s.58M;
 - d. cultural impact assessments as enabled under s.88(2)(b) of RMA;
21. NRC must establish and resource an independent Māori technical group to undertake the transactional process to improve and assist in the interpretation of the processing of resource consent applications;
22. Tangata whenua and NRC collaboratively review consents and permits on a three yearly basis to ensure that the use of water authorised by these consents remain consistent with environmental outcomes sought by the FPI, and efficient use of the freshwater resource and gives effect to Te Mana me te Mauri o te Wai, either:
 - a. on a three yearly basis to require the adoption of the best practicable option to remove or reduce any adverse effect on the environment; or,
 - b. at any time to address any identified effects on cultural values that were not identified by tangata whenua and which were subsequently identified and agreed through any regional planning process or set in the objectives, policies and standards of the FPI, or,

- c. at any time to deal with any unanticipated adverse effect on the environment which may arise from the exercise of a consent; or,
- d. at any time to deal with any new FWWPs.

Data and information management

- 23. Data and information gathered through FMUs remains the intellectual property of tangata whenua;
- 24. A Geographic Information System (GIS) portal with freshwater overlays for tangata whenua is developed to assist with freshwater decision making;
- 25. Information protocols are developed in partnership by NRC and tangata whenua to ensure data and information gathered is used appropriately and sensitive information is protected; and,
- 26. NRC data is made readily available for tangata whenua to inform freshwater decision making.

Non-regulatory methods and other actions

- 27. Education campaigns, resources and training opportunities are provided by NRC and developed in partnership with tangata whenua;
- 28. New processes, methods and tools that assist with the implementation of the NPSFM and in particular tangata whenua provisions are prioritised and developed; and,
- 29. Tangata whenua are resourced by NRC through the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) or subsequent legislation to actively and meaningfully take part in freshwater decision-making processes.

The following non-regulatory methods and other actions are recommended to assist with the implementation of the tangata whenua provisions drafted above:

- 30. Additional resourcing should be provided to tangata whenua representatives in order for effective decision making to occur. Resourcing could provide for, but not be limited to:
 - a. attending hui / meetings
 - b. preparing cultural value or impact assessments, and,
 - c. undertaking cultural monitoring of freshwater bodies.
- 1. Adequate access to freshwater data and information to inform decision making by tangata whenua.
- 2. Development of information protocols with tangata whenua to ensure sensitive information is appropriately gathered and stored in an accessible facility, agreed to by them and in accordance with tikanga Māori.
- 3. Development of new systems, processes and tools to assist with the implementation of the proposed provisions developed with TWWAG. This includes:

- a. Compulsory training programme on tangata whenua values for NRC staff and decision makers implementing provisions of the proposed Regional Plan for Northland
- b. New cadet and internships for rangatahi and taitamariki interested in freshwater monitoring
- c. Development of GIS tools readily accessible to tangata whenua so the environment is understood and digitally mapped with the most up to date data to ensure robust and well considered decision making occurs for freshwater monitoring. This might include:
 - Extent of existing wetlands, lakes, aquifers, rivers, ephemeral water, and artificial water bodies;
 - water processes and interactions between groundwater surface water and coastal waters;
 - classifications of wai
 - sites or areas of significance or value to tangata whenua
4. Training and education and resourcing for tangata whenua freshwater monitoring and enforcement roles.
5. Investigate how scattering of ashes in freshwater/coastal areas are regulated by NRC.
6. Enhanced and more stringent monitoring and enforcement into breaches of this plan. This may include the introduction of a graduated response model in to reported incidents.
7. Where possible partner up with tangata whenua kaitiaki officers and NRC compliance staff to investigate possible breaches.
8. Access to NRC owned land where kaitiaki can monitor freshwater bodies.
9. Encourage access for tangata whenua onto private land for freshwater monitoring over culturally significant water ways.
10. Councils develop methods to enable tangata whenua access to wai sites through easements, private agreement, conditions of subdivision, conditions of consent.

Appendix 5: Reflections on the hui

Below are the final reflection comments by the attendees at the hui on the day.

- Inside the government processes wānanga are part of the operating procedures.
- Systems change – probable right now. New environmental legislations coming. Part of a team looking to develop a taiao portal for ngā hapū – wanting to co-design with hapū as it needs to sit with hapū. What can effective change look like.
- Wānanga and taking it around the motu to other hapū. Ideas have come from all four corners of our region, this is just the start. Ahi Kaa see what is wrong the answers are held by our hapū and Ahi Kaa. Today was just the start.
- This framework needs to be built from the ground, the narrative is not councils it is hapū.
- Water always finds a way through, as Māori we see ourselves as water therefore we will always find a way through.
- Incentive to move along with the Wai board in Te Tii and to move that on.
- Good ideas were brought forward. Looking forward to next steps
- Enjoyed the day.
- Funding – each seasons shows something different, planning is important. Taha moana and awa in Takou. Educational materials that share our kōrero and how to be good kaitiaki. These resources should start from kohanga reo level pukapuka all the way through.
- Puna – Te Tii is reliant on rain water currently, we do have a puna and we need to have access to that.
- Why are we blessed with having water, we have it here. Its a blessing to share our kōrero and emotions on wai.
- Constant and regular wānanga
- Kōrero Tuku Iho
- Use of karakia and the power of karakia to help set the favourable conditions do the mahi.
- Boat for going on moana and a truck. So we are given the tools to help us practise our kaitiakitanga.
- Empathy for us as tangata whenua and what we have lost through land alienation.
- Together is the way to move it forward – council are the supporters here and relationships are important.
- Remove the gate keeping from programmes and projects of council. Provide the resources and get out of the way to let it happen.
- Road wash away from flooding – looking at fundraising to get our road back to our whare along the beach front of Te Tii.
- Committee action group – formed to address issues within our community. Will bring this kaupapa into our committee.
- Sharing knowledge and kōrero.
- Kaupapa
- Trying to increase funding for tangata whenua activities
- Businesses need to be brought in to help fund kaupapa
- Māori conversations with Māori things next to it and the pūtea coming through to support that.

- Taiao is whakapapa – our tupuna had struggles, we still have similar struggles today. This village is struggling with water.
- We have learnt the pakeha way and received the pakeha tohu to allow us to get the pūtea to be kaitiaki in paid roles that council recognise. This only flows for another 10 months.
- Trust, where is the trust from council – equity, we should be at the table equally making the decision.
- Our mātauranga is being collected and taken, acknowledge us and our position within society.
- Hapū are ready to take control – council said they are ready, lets do it.
- Couragous conversations are the transfers of powers and this being realised.
- Planning is important.
- Taiao is our rongoa because of our whakapapa to our natural world.
- This country was build on Māori whenua – we should have the pūtea to do what we want in our way. This needs to be recognised within council. Mana o te Hapū.
- Let us sit at the decision tables and empower us with statutory ture to monitor our environment because we are the one out there doing it. Tangata whenua are the biggest resource for enviornment.
- Honesty – dont want this to be another talk fest.
- Tangata whenua are here forever, we are not going anywhere. Staff changes, councillors change, Ministers change, us as hapū we are still here.
- Our kōrero tuku iho hold our monitoring tools and the reasons why.
- Māori values are the foundation of any cultural monitoring framework, our kōrero tuku iho adn whakapapa highlights is our why and our what we may monitor. Our tools are things such as the maramataka, rahui etc.
- Outcomes are important and actions.
- These wānanga reinforce the same challanges although there seems to be some hope. There is optimisum though realistic on what is happening. Seeing Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori get to where they are now as paid kaitiaki even if it is only contractual based.
- Processes and tikanga – Pairangi role is with kaitiaki providing that for TRION.
- Draft of ideas and concepts that could feed into a framework come out to the rest of us and doesnt stay just within council.
- Aspirations for freshwater
- A healthy whenua, a healthy awa, a healthy taiao = healthy people
- Difference between tangata whenua and mana whenua and the uniqueness of at local levels and ahi kaa.

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Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023

Introduction

A hui was held on November 22, 2023 hosted by Patuharakeke to discuss the development of a mātauranga monitoring framework to guide the approach for integrating mātauranga and tikanga perspectives into Northland Regional Council's (regional council) monitoring, policies and programmes.

The hui involved Mana Whakahono a Rohe partners and Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori representatives actively involved in environmental mahi. Regional council staff from various teams attended to contribute to the discussions and strengthen understanding.

Whakatauranga

Purpose: To engage in collaborative discussions to co-design a mātauranga Māori monitoring framework.

Objective: To understand, from a tangata whenua perspective:

1. Expectations of the role regional council can play in enabling the inclusion of mātauranga Māori into monitoring frameworks.
2. How strengthening community resilience and relationships builds capability for the adoption of mātauranga frameworks.
3. Key considerations hapū identify that need to be incorporated into the monitoring framework design process and output.

Outcome: An improved awareness for regional council of the vital components and considerations required in a monitoring framework. This understanding will guide development of pathways and protocols enabling the integration of hapū mātauranga alongside regional council's Western scientific monitoring programmes and data.

Mihi and whakawhanaungatanga

The hui opened with mihi whakatauranga and kōrero from Patuharakeke on the immense impacts on their ability to provide customary kai from within their rohe. As mana whenua, Patuharakeke then led whakawhanaungatanga to connect and strengthen relationships at the hui. Patuharakeke are undergoing a cultural revival centred on revitalising their traditional knowledge and practices about tohora (whales), utilising the skeleton of Rangimarie, a deceased female tohora, for this relationship building process.

Everyone was organised into groups to assemble parts of the skeleton from head to tail, while Patuharakeke representatives shared fundamental meanings and mātauranga associated with each section for participants to reflect on. Guiding others to learn about Patuharakeke perspectives on tohora through this interactive activity enabled a unique tangata whenua approach to enhancing collective understanding.

By linking knowledge shared with their own experiences, participants established deeper connections with Patuharakeke worldviews, values and principles regarding reciprocal relationships with te taiao.



Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023



Session 1

Following an overview summarising work undertaken previously, participants engaged in focused group-based discussions. This included an update summarising the key discussion points documented from the initial monitoring framework hui held by Ngāti Rēhia in August 2023. Regional council also outlined components of the draft Freshwater Plan Change (DFWPC) related to greater recognition of tangata whenua values and priorities outlined in the hierarchy of obligations under Te Mana o te Wai.

Two distinct discussion topics exploring expectations of regional council's role were deliberated on:

- Conceptualising Te Taiao from a Kaupapa Māori perspective
- Supporting Resilient and Responsive Communities: Expectations and opportunities

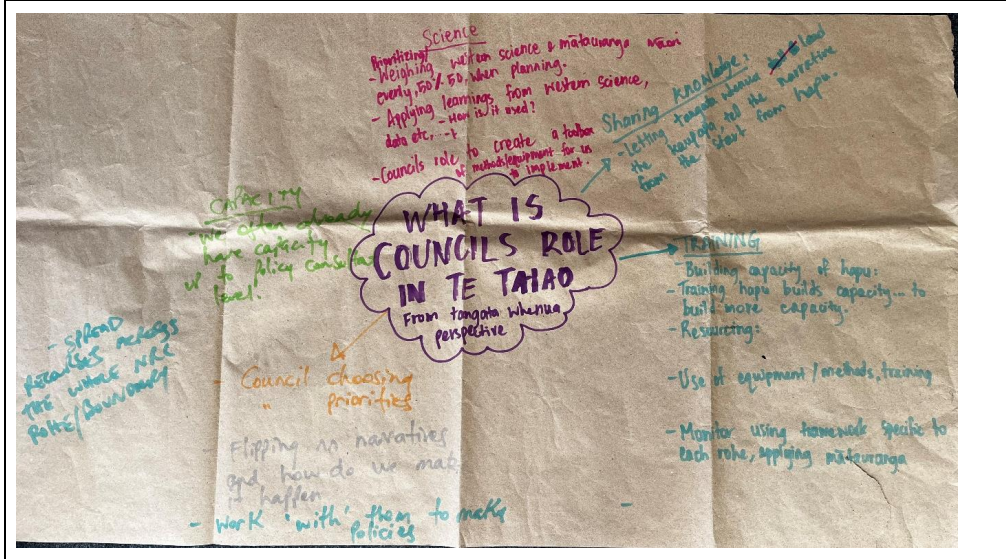
The intent was to build constructively on past progress made between hapū and regional council. Allowing time for collaborative exploration of how to align priorities and actions with tangata whenua worldviews. This reflective dialogue supported clarifying mutual expectations and identifying initial steps to progress an enduring partnership-centered approach.

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Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023



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Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023

Community Resilience (Forward Planning)

Flood protection (Maintaining our Tikanga) to Dep. Māori

- # Access to Marae in Flood
 - # Road access - the water levels
 - Rain levels.
- # Civil defense team - within rohe.
 - # Patuharakeke - not sure if they have one.
 - # Waitohu Whangarei have to meet to make ground as their
 - # Ngati Hau - have a rohe - No Civil Defense Team.
 - But they have Marae & the Community Hall.
- # Pipiwai - Has roper now.
- # Ngati Kahu o Toromare - we don't have one.
- # ~~Current~~ No Māori across rohe
- # Equip - if No Power.
 - Pānā - Solar
 - Ngāti - hau - Generator.
 - Pipiwai - Solar "No" battery's.
 - First kit all haul.
- Transport - No rohe has any as bus service.
- Communication** - Being rescued with IT
Kaunimata/Kauia / Whakaha Whanau
Kāi Whānau
- Resources** - pro active -
Tangata Whenua rely on themselves most times
No just for Māori our Pakeha Whenua that live
in our rohe that we missed out

Key Themes Discussed

Several key themes outlining expectations and considerations for regional council adopting a mātauranga framework were explored through group discussions and presentations:

Engaging Hapū:

- Need to involve representatives directly engaged in environmental mahi rather than just governance level or those in regional council roles. Enables practical insights.
- Build understanding of differences in hapū and regional council worldviews, principles and systems through respect, compassion and aroha.

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Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023

<p>Strengthening Foundations of the Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Base the framework firmly around ngā tikanga Māori rather than fitting mātauranga into existing regional council approaches. • Address hesitancy around changing status quo and power dynamics. Build trust and willingness to share decision-making. <p>Enhancing Capability and Knowledge Sharing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions around regional council capability to genuinely integrate mātauranga and upskill staff raised. • Hapū willing to share knowledge on topics like planting native species for customary uses. • Regional council should facilitate greater hapū interconnections. Provide resources enabling hapū to undertake monitoring. <p>Evolve Monitoring Perspectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring should cover realms from mountains to the sea rather than just focus on water in isolation. • Includes reviewing how regional council upholds duties under Te Mana o te Wai. Mātauranga lens should apply across system. • Aim for relationships to continue irrespective of changes in personnel through robust framework. 			
<p>Session 2</p>			
<p>Through collaborative discussion, participants examined opportunities for regional council to acknowledge and incorporate tikanga frameworks to guide positive transformations. Recognising tikanga as an integral foundation informing appropriate conduct in te ao Māori, which could yield shifts towards more ethical and culturally aligned regional council operations.</p> <p>With tikanga as the foundation, the kōrero unlocked conceptual distinctions between the layers of tikanga, mātauranga and practical implementation. This supported beginning to populate what specific elements might fit within each category based on the deeply intertwined nature of these Māori cultural concepts.</p>			
	Tikanga	Mātauranga	Operation
Community resilience	Council to recognise the tikanga of Manaaki	Tangata whenua to utilise mātauranga to deliver activity	
Environmental services	kaitiakitanga	Knowledge sharing	
	Manakitanga	Shared resources, enabling tangata whenua	
	Mana whakahaere	Setting the whole programme	
	Whanaungatanga / whakapapa	Utilising experts across the rohe,	Impact of advisory groups on kaitiakitanga,



Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023

	whakapapa connections to each other and te taiao	Te Ao Māori relationships
<p>The table outlines initial thoughts on how regional council adoption of key tikanga could enable appropriate support for tangata whenua leadership through kaitiaki programmes. For instance, regional council upholding tikanga such as manaakitanga and kaitiakitanga would provide a platform for tangata whenua delivery of cultural monitoring activities. While the operationalisation level considers impacts on existing regional council advisory structures and capabilities to recognise te ao Māori relationships.</p> <p>Ongoing wānanga would enable further co-design of framework components mapping the connections between tikanga, mātauranga and practical application in improving regional council's interactions with hapū and te taiao.</p>		
<p>Session 3</p>		
<p>Patuharakeke hosted the participants at a local kauri reserve and reservoir exemplifying their initiatives to restore connections between rangatahi, marae and te taiao. This special site enables Patuharakeke to apply cultural monitoring approaches grounded in mātauranga that nurture kaitiaki roles. Blending both transmission of traditional knowledge alongside fostering rangatahi participation sustains relationships vital for kaitiaki responsibilities.</p>		
		

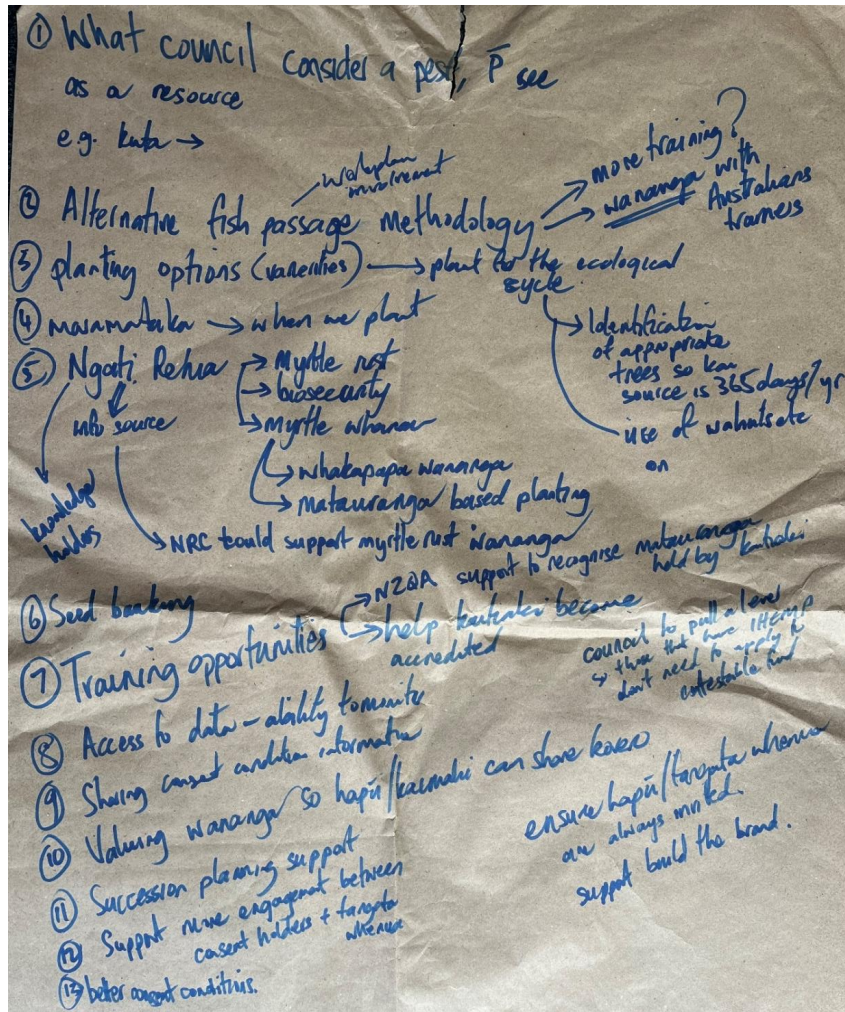
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Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023

The visit emphasized Patuharakeke aspirations to sustain intergenerational knowledge sharing focused on customary species kaitiakitanga and oranga interconnections. Conversation with the different hapū in attendance unlocked over fifteen pathways where regional council could provide practical tautoko – spanning wānanga facilitation, accreditation processes, consenting condition improvements and resourcing for maramataka aligned restoration initiatives. Fundamentally this centres on regional council championing capacity building platforms enabling hapū mana motuhake through realising kaitiakitanga on their terms.



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Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023

Key Outcomes and Next Steps

The hui reinforced the need for council to enable greater hapū involvement and leadership in co-designing monitoring approaches. This requires addressing constraints around resourcing and capacity faced by many hapū. Exploring options for accreditation pathways and integrating mātauranga components into council's training programmes aims to build capability for partnership into the future.

Ongoing wānanga between council and hapū focused specifically on practical topics would strengthen knowledge sharing and relationship building further. Council providing tautoko for inter-hapū exchanges is another area requiring development.

Overall, there is a firm direction focused on embedding tikanga and mātauranga foundations into council's perspectives on freshwater and ecosystem monitoring to reform views and responses. This will evolve through enduring collaborative effort between hapū and council.

Recommendations

The following recommendations have been developed to guide tangible actions focused on embedding the tikanga and mātauranga foundations necessary to transform council's partnership with hapū. Continuing the collaborative momentum initiated through this hui, council should progress these actions alongside hapū representatives. With endorsement from Tai Tokerau Māori Advisory Committee members, council's executive leadership need to champion these recommendations to enable the institutional shifts required for realising enduring partnerships between hapū and council. Ultimately resulting in a culturally aligned monitoring framework(s) evolved together rather than imposed.

- Develop wānanga and workshops focused on strengthening understanding of hapū worldviews, values and priorities. Aim to build regional council staff capability in appropriately integrating tikanga and mātauranga rather than fitting mātauranga into existing regional council frameworks.
- Review current council advisory structures and decision-making processes to identify opportunities to increase hapū leadership and genuine partnership. This may require addressing institutional hesitancy to power sharing.
- Conduct an assessment of internal skills, capacity and training needs to inform professional development pathways for council staff regarding te ao Māori worldview, tikanga and customary environmental practices.
- Explore accreditation options.
- Facilitate knowledge sharing exchanges between hapū within the region to enable networked capability building. Regional council should provide practical resourcing to address capacity constraints limiting hapū participation.
- Shift monitoring approaches to recognise interconnections between realms from mountains to the sea. Take a full catchment view rather than water in isolation. Review how council upholds Te Mana o te Wai across all functions. (This aligns with DFWPC policy D.4.34).
- Include Legal personhood as a policy in draft regional plan, to provide for Te Mana o Te Wai requirements. (currently outlined in the draft action plan for the DFWPC).

CELIA WITEHIRA
CONSULTANCY



Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023

- Champion resourcing of hapū-led restoration initiatives that utilise customary practices e.g. planting by maramataka. Support hapū motuhake of priorities. (This aligns with DFWPC Policy D.4. 32).
- Develop consistent partnership-centred consenting guidelines enabling early, iterative and transparent engagement with hapū on all applications. Improve consent conditions to align with hapū aspirations. (aligns with multiple sections of DFWPC)
- Plan ongoing collaborative hui and site visits to maintain open dialogue and relationship building with a wider representation of hapū beyond governance level.

CELIA WITEHIRA
CONSULTANCY



Mātauranga Freshwater Monitoring Hui Summary

Northland Regional Council
22 November 2023

Appendix 1

Attendees:

Ari Carrington - Patuharakeke
April Norstrom and her son Tawhiri – NRC
Sonny Henare - NKONWM
Hani Kingi - NKONWM
Hoori Kingi – NKONWM
Jeanny Poutai - NKONWM
Chantez Connor-Kingi - NRC
Jason Donaghy - NRC
Warren Morunga - NRC
Baylee Nikora - NRC
Julian Hansen - NRC
Wilfred Peterson - NRC
Maahina Rewiti-Ihaia – Ngāti Rēhia
Celia Witehira - Ngāti Rēhia
Robert Nathan – NRC
Sheila Taylor – Patuharakeke
Hollie Kirihipa – Patuharakeke
Manaia Tuhoro - Patuharakeke

TITLE: Partnership roadmap to transfer of powers

From: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement; Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao; Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on 6 May 2024

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

Tāiki ē Action 21, Priority 2

Investigate and identify opportunities for the transfer or delegation of decision-making powers or operations (e.g., pursuant to section 33 of the Resource Management Act 1991) in areas of interest / concern to iwi and hapū, by:

- a. Identifying actions needed by NRC to implement the transfer or delegation and how these will be implemented; and*
- b. Providing assistance (e.g., staff assistance or funding support to engage an independent facilitator) to the iwi or hapū that are seeking the transfer or delegation.*

Action 21 of Tāiki ē sets out a priority for council to investigate and identify opportunities for the transfer or delegation of decision making or operational functions in areas of interest to iwi and hapū. That action signals the growing interest of iwi and hapū to partner with council in performance of its various roles and functions.

There are a number of options available for greater participation by Māori in council functions – these range from council support for training, capacity building, and contracts for services; through to statutory transfer of functions, powers and duties to iwi authorities under Section 33 of the Resource Management Act 1991, or Joint Management Agreements under s36B. Formal transfer of powers under s33 RMA is an important end-goal, but it is a complex process that takes time and in many instances may not be necessary to advance partnership arrangements with council's Te Tiriti Partners. It is therefore best viewed as a long term goal, one that can be realised by working together on pathways that lead towards transfer of functions kaupapa over time.

This report sets out a conceptual 'roadmap' to build the capacity of both council and iwi and hapū to partner in the delivery of council roles and functions, including the potential for formal arrangements such as delegations and transfer of powers in the longer term. Feedback and suggestions / recommendations from the working party are sought on the partnership 'roadmap' approach and the key elements outlined.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Partnership roadmap to transfer of powers' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement; Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao; Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor and dated 30 April 2024, be received.
2. That the concept of a 'roadmap' for progressing towards formal delegations and transfers of functions and powers is endorsed by the Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC).

3. That staff present an action plan for reporting on milestones, outcomes and case studies associated with giving effect to the roadmap at the next available TTMAC meeting.

Tuhinga/Background

There is growing interest from iwi and hapū to partner with council in performing its various roles and functions under a range of legislation such as the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), the Biosecurity Act 1993 (BSA), and the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 (CDEM). This interest also extends to participation by iwi and hapū in council's day-to-day operational programmes. The appetite for greater participation has been evident through:

- The development of the Tāiki ē strategy
- Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements
- Aspirations in Iwi / Hapū Environmental Management Plans (IHEMPs)
- Feedback on the draft Freshwater Plan Change and Action Plan
- Feedback on the Long Term Plan
- Māori involvement / contributions to biosecurity, biodiversity and freshwater projects
- Various wānanga and events and forums (e.g. Wānanga Wai Ora Symposium, mātauranga Māori monitoring framework)
- Advice from the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG)

There is also a direction for greater participation by iwi and hapū in the management of natural and physical resources through central government policy (e.g. National Policy Statements for Freshwater Management and Indigenous Biodiversity). Treaty settlements also contain obligations / arrangements for Māori in the exercise of council functions (e.g. Te Oneroa a Tōhē Board).

It is also important to recognise that there are widely varying capacities and abilities across the region, with some hapū and iwi organisations already actively engaged in council-contracted work such as environmental monitoring, with trained and qualified staff with the necessary tools and equipment, whilst for others being more actively involved in council's mahi at an operational level is an aspiration and will need committed training, funding and technical support.

Council recognises the benefits of a partnership-based approach to delivering its functions and greater participation by Māori in operational activities generally. Benefits include:

- Better / more responsive monitoring regime (in terms of both geographic spread and broader information base to inform resource management decisions)
- Greater efficiencies / cost savings
- More capacity and expertise within Te Taitokerau
- Ability to draw on greater historical and place-based knowledge
- Enabling mātauranga Māori and indigenous value systems to add to council's western science-based system
- Respecting He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi (and demonstrating council's actions to implement its obligations under related legislation).

Council is taking steps to progress greater Māori participation – examples include:

- Commitments in Tāiki ē Action 7 (development of a culturally appropriate environmental monitoring programme) and Action 8 (development and funding of a culturally appropriate

programme that enables and supports tāngata whenua to undertake their own freshwater monitoring)

- Commitments in Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements (E.g. Section 7 Ngā āheinga aroturuki - Monitoring opportunities)
- Partnership approaches to delivering place-based biosecurity programmes / incursion responses, monitoring fish passage and opportunities for participation in biodiversity initiatives (e.g. dune lake management plans and the rāhui tapu areas in the Bay of Islands and Mimiwhangata).
- Establishment of the Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund.
- Establishment of the Iwi / Hapū Environmental Management Plan fund.
- Establishment of the Tangata Whenua Climate Adaptation Fund to support tangata whenua entities to lead climate adaptation planning and flax-roots initiatives to build climate resilience.
- Provisions in the draft Freshwater Plan Change and Action Plan (whilst of no statutory weight, the draft freshwater planning instrument includes examples of increased participation in freshwater decision-making and management)

The above examples give an indication of the steps council is taking to increase participation of iwi and hapū in council decision making and many of these are in response to the strategic direction or specific actions set out in Tāiki ē. While council has made good progress, it is recognised that more purposeful steps need to be taken to advance Action 21 of Tāiki ē – which relates to transfer of decision making and operational functions.

Formal transfer of powers under s33 RMA is an important end goal, however it is procedurally complex and therefore unlikely to be practicable in the short term. Council must undertake a Special Consultative Procedure under s83 of the Local Government Act 2002 and meet the tests in s33(3)(c) RMA. The transfer of powers and functions typically also comes with specialist obligations and duties (for example data collection and handling protocols, reporting requirements, or warrants under the RMA). Transfer of powers under s33 RMA is also limited to iwi authorities and not available to hapū. However, joint management agreements under s36B can include iwi authorities or groups that represent hapū, and do not require a Special Consultative Procedure, so may be a more practicable medium-term option. There may be instances where transfer of powers or functions is practicable in the shorter term, but this is likely to be limited (either in scope or scale).

Nevertheless, there are steps that can be taken in the short term to support Māori aspirations, with a view to evolving the capacity and partnerships required to support more formal arrangements. A 'roadmap' approach is recommended to ensure that the capacity, expertise and capability needed is developed and resourced (for council and Māori) to support longer-term formal arrangements.

A high-level conceptual 'roadmap' to build the capacity of both council and Māori to partner in the delivery of council roles and functions is set out below:

Short term (1 – 3 yrs)

- Building on council support for training and capacity building for Māori in priority areas of council functions (including a review of current environmental grant funding schemes to identify opportunities to better align with actions 7 and 8 of Tāiki ē)
- Building council staff understanding of how their role and work can respect tikanga, kawa and mātauranga and knowledge of Te Ao Māori worldview, values and customary environmental practices by collaborating with tangata whenua

- Data sovereignty and handling arrangements / protocols (e.g. for mātauranga Māori monitoring data, sites/areas of significance)
- Undertake a review of the current environmental monitoring programme to assess its cultural appropriateness and effectiveness
- Two-way secondments for council and Māori organisations / entities to increase expertise of staff and strengthen relationships and understanding
- Council contracting the services of Māori organisations / entities in relation to specific projects (e.g. fish passage, biosecurity monitoring, SoE monitoring)
- Co-design of projects/work programmes.

Medium term (4 – 10 yrs)

- Council contracting the ongoing / permanent services of Māori organisations / entities (e.g. State of the Environment monitoring or biosecurity functions)
- Co-design of wider programmes with specific roles and service-level agreements with Māori
- Joint Management Agreements (e.g. resource management and / or biosecurity functions).

Longer term (10 yrs +)

- Formal delegation of roles / responsibilities (e.g. under s34A RMA, and/ or through Joint Management Agreements under s36B).
- Transfer of functions and powers under s33 RMA.

The 'roadmap' draws on various sources of advice, including wānanga / hui with Mana Whakahono ā Rohe partners, feedback on the draft freshwater plan change and action plan (a key theme was support for tangata whenua involvement in decision-making and monitoring, including use of service contracts), Long Term Plan submissions, aspirations in IHEMPs, wānanga on the mātauranga Māori monitoring framework, and various events and forums (e.g. Wānanga Wai Ora Symposium).

Feedback from the working party on the 'roadmap' approach and key elements outlined above would be greatly appreciated.

If the working party is supportive of the 'roadmap' approach, then next steps would include developing a more detailed work plan setting out an analysis of the options/mechanisms for Māori participation in council's operational mahi and the various 'steps' along the way, for TTMAC endorsement at its next meeting.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: **Amendment to Local Government Electoral Legislation (Māori Wards and Constituencies)**

From: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement; Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist; Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on 6 May 2024

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

Tāiki ē Action 13, Priority 1

Undertake joint advocacy to central government on agreed priorities and interests, including on new legislation and initiatives such as the Future of Local Government Reforms, by:

- a) Establishing the agreed priorities areas with TTMAC (e.g., water/ marine, climate crisis and economic development);*
- b) Developing and implementing an agreed process with TTMAC to effectively and efficiently respond and advocate on behalf of Te Taitokerau on the agree priority areas identified in (a).*

Tāiki ē Action 22, Priority 2

Ensure the successful ongoing implementation of Māori Constituencies by:

- a) Promoting and raising awareness of Māori seats and encouraging Māori to stand for local government; and*
- b) Engaging with iwi and hapū to undertake a review of Māori Constituencies within the first triennium following implementation to measure success and the representativeness of the Constituencies.*

**Changed from Priority 1 to Priority 2 by TTMAC (28 March 2024) and council (23 April 2024)*

The Government has signalled that it intends to make changes to the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) to reverse amendments made by the previous government in 2021 (Attachment 1). The 2021 amendments were made to improve Māori representation in local government by removing the use of binding polls in relation to council decisions to establish Māori constituencies.

The Bill to amend the LEA has yet to be introduced to Parliament; however, given the short time periods currently being provided to make submissions, and the potential for this period to fall between council meetings, council's position was sought early to inform the development of any potential future council submission on the Bill.

At the formal council meeting held on 23 April 2024 by a unanimous vote, council endorsed a high-level position that they oppose the signalled changes to the LEA. Council endorsement of this position will enable staff to draft a submission immediately after the Bill is made available for submission, which is critical given consultation timeframes are likely to be very short.

In summary, the purpose of this report is to seek TTMAC endorsement of council's approach and position and get direction on the following pātai:

- how TTMAC iwi and hapū representatives would like to be presented information about the changes being proposed by the Government to LEA regarding Māori constituencies,
- important issues and specific challenges for iwi and hapū in Te Taitokerau regarding this,
- how council can support iwi and hapū to be informed about the submission process and share through the relevant networks,

- TTMAC iwi and hapū representatives' views on the high-level council position and other key points council could consider in developing its submission on the Bill.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Amendment to Local Government Electoral Legislation (Māori Wards and Constituencies)' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement; Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist; Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor and dated 30 April 2024, be received.
2. That Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) iwi and hapū representatives provide advice on how they would like to be informed about the changes proposed to the Local Electoral Act 2001 and the associated challenges for iwi and hapū in Te Taitokerau.
3. That TTMAC iwi and hapū representatives advise how council can support iwi and hapū to be informed about the Bill and submission process.
4. TTMAC iwi and hapū representatives provide advice on the high-level council position and other key points council could consider in developing its submission on the Bill.

Background/Tuhinga

In October 2020, Northland Regional Council voted to establish Māori constituencies for the 2022 regional council elections. Following a representation review in 2021, two Māori constituencies (Te Raki Māori) were created for the 2022 regional council elections. These arrangements were made in accordance with the provisions of the Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA). The LEA sets out the framework and processes for local body representation arrangements and elections, including overarching representation and participation principles.

The LEA was amended in 2021 by the Local Electoral (Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act – this amendment was designed to improve Māori representation in local government by:

- Removing the use of binding polls to overturn a council's decision to establish Māori constituencies;
- Removing the ability for councils to initiate binding polls on whether to establish Māori constituencies; and
- Providing a transitional period in which local authorities could establish Māori constituencies for the 2022 elections.

The Government has recently signalled it intends to make changes to the Local Electoral Act 2001. The changes signalled by Government would effectively reverse the 2021 amendments. The proposed changes to the LEA are described in a letter from Minister of Local Government Simeon Brown to local government Mayors and Chairs (**Attachment 1**).

The signalled Bill has significant implications for Te Taitokerau given around 35% of our population identify as Māori and that more generally across New Zealand there have been widespread shortfalls in Māori representation on councils. For example, Northland Regional Council, before the 2022 elections, did not have any Māori representation for the previous 3 council terms (a nine-year period).

Prior to the 2021 amendment, only two councils had established Māori constituencies (seven council decisions were overturned by polls), whereas since that amendment was passed, some 45 of the 78 councils in New Zealand have already established Māori constituencies or have resolved to do so.

While the Bill to amend the LEA has yet to be introduced to Parliament, this report seeks confirmation of the council position in relation to these potential changes to inform the drafting of a council submission on the Bill. Direction on the content of a submission is needed because timeframes for submissions on the Bill are likely to be very short and may lead to council not being able to consider a draft submission at a formal meeting.

The key submission points sought for council endorsement are summarised in italics below. It should be noted that, once the Bill is introduced, analysis by staff will likely result in further submission points being developed. The full submission will either be brought to council for adoption before it is lodged, or staff will follow the procedure set out in the Delegations Manual, which includes a process for council to provide feedback on the draft submission (but outside of a formal meeting).


Council opposes the signalled changes to the LEA on the basis that:

- *Māori constituencies are not a race-based selection, but rather a Te Tiriti/Treaty and legislative outcome both appropriate and necessary to deliver equity.*
- *Binding polls unfairly give the majority the right to make decisions on a matter affecting the rights of a Māori minority (in most districts/regions). This is further exacerbated by typically low Māori voting numbers.*
- *Māori seats exist at a national level where Māori who register on the Māori roll can vote for Māori Members of Parliament. Establishment of Māori constituencies at a regional level enables the same approach for Māori representation on council. Māori who register on the Māori roll are only able to vote for those who stand in the Māori constituencies.*
- *The binding poll requirements ignore the 2010 Waitangi Tribunal finding that the Crown must ensure that its Te Tiriti/ Treaty obligations are upheld, even when it delegates functions to local government, including the equitable rights of Māori with other citizens when participating in democratic electoral processes.*
- *The reintroduction of a binding polling system will impose a higher procedural standard for Māori wards / constituencies than is required for general wards / constituencies, which is contrary to natural justice and democratic principles.*
- *Reversion to a polling system will likely result in reduced Māori roles in decision-making functions in councils. Council decision-making on issues of importance to Māori will likely be negatively affected, and Māori voices will likely be heard less. For councils without Māori elected members, Māori roles will be limited to participation, engagement and consultation.*
- *Reversion to a polling system will make it more difficult for councils to meet legislative requirements to facilitate Māori participation and representation.*
- *Decisions on representation and relationships should be made via a deliberative, balanced and considered dialogue – not through a binary choice offered by a poll.*
- *The polls process is expensive, particularly if standalone. Estimated cost for a standalone Northland poll in 2025 would be \$420,000 + GST, while a poll conducted in conjunction with the 2025 local elections would likely cost between \$14,000 and \$28,000 + GST.*

In summary, status quo arrangements under the LEA are appropriate, and it is unclear what problems the proposed amendments are trying to correct. The requirement to hold binding polls on Māori wards and constituencies, upon petition by 5% of electors, represents a major barrier to establishing and retaining Māori constituencies. For Northland, 5% of the specified number of

electors would be 6,585 signatures based on the 2022 triennial election, and this figure will change again by the time of the 2025 election.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: MoLG to councils with established Māori wards [↓](#) 

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



By email

Dear Mayors and Chairs,

How Cabinet decisions relating to 2025 Local Elections will affect councils with established Māori wards

I am writing to give you an update on the Government's progress implementing coalition agreements on changes to the legislation for Māori wards and constituencies. This letter also outlines the proposed timing for changes, and the next steps and options for your council.

Reinstatement of the pre-2021 binding poll provisions

The Government will introduce a Bill in the next few months to restore binding polls on the establishment of Māori wards (and constituencies). The intention is that the changes will be enacted by the end of July 2024. There will be an opportunity to make submissions to select committee on this Bill.

From the next term of local government, councils will be able to initiate binding polls on Māori wards. Electors will also be able to petition their council to hold a binding poll. The policy settings for binding polls will be restored to as they were prior to 2021, including the 5% threshold for petitions calling for a binding poll.

Transitional arrangements and options for your council

The Bill will also include transitional arrangements for councils, such as yours, that established Māori wards since 2021 without an opportunity for a binding poll. This is to deliver on the coalition agreements to require these councils to hold polls at the 2025 local elections. The Government is conscious that many councils have unique local circumstances and so the Bill will include options for how your council manages the transition.

Your council is one of a group that established Māori wards or constituencies for the first time at the 2022 local elections. Government policy is that you will have the option to either:

- Option 1 - resolve this year to disestablish the Māori wards or constituencies by council resolution (to take effect at the 2025 local elections); or
- Option 2 - hold a binding poll on the question of Māori wards/constituencies at the 2025 local elections (to take effect at the 2028 local elections).

If your council resolves this year to disestablish the Māori wards/constituencies (Option 1) you will need to complete a shortened representation review process by the beginning of April 2025 (Option 1A). The shortened process will be provided for in the Bill.

If completing a shortened representation review process will be challenging for your council, there may also be an alternative implementation option (Option 1B). Option 1B would mean reverting back to your most recent representation arrangements, from before the Māori wards/constituencies were established, for the purposes of the 2025 local elections. This option is still under development and my officials will be happy to discuss it with you. Under either of 1A or 1B your council would be required to complete a standard representation review prior to the 2028 local elections.

If your council prefers the default option of holding a binding poll at the 2025 local elections (Option 2), and the poll result is against Māori wards/constituencies, your council will then need to follow the standard representation review process before the 2028 local elections.

Local elections timeframes

The Bill will also make changes to some of the statutory timeframes for the 2025 local elections and future elections and polls, including increasing the voting period from 22.5 to 32.5 days. The postal delivery period for voting papers will increase to 14 days in response to advice from NZ Post that they will not be able to meet current statutory timeframes. This will seek to ensure that NZ Post can deliver voting papers to all electors within legislated timeframes. My officials can provide more information on the proposed timing changes if you wish.

Contacts for more information

Officials from the Department of Internal Affairs and the Local Government Commission will be available to discuss these options and provide advice and support on how your council will be affected.

For questions about the Bill, and the changes to Māori ward processes (including transitional arrangements) and election timelines, please contact: Rowan Burns, Policy Manager, Governance and Democracy Team, Department of Internal Affairs, rowan.burns@dia.govt.nz, 027 302 5426.

For questions about how to manage representation review processes, please contact the Local Government Commission. You can contact the Commission by email at info@LGC.govt.nz, or by phone at (04) 460 2228.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

TITLE: Working Party Updates

From: Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on date 18 April 2024

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The Working Party updates is provided for members information so they can get a broad view of other governance activity across council.

Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party (Chair Geoff Crawford)

The Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party met on 20 March 2024. The topics for discussion included:

- Biosecurity Operational Plan 2024-2025
- Dune Lakes Protection Update
- Gold Clam
- Marine Biosecurity Update

Following discussion, the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party provided advice on the following next steps:

- Discussed the model of looking at cost benefit analysis of every pest in the regional pest management plan and the approach for inclusion or exclusion of pests on that plan
- Noted that the use of drones does carry a high compliance and accreditation cost which NRC can't afford and those services are better outsourced
- Discussed the movement of weeds around the lakes by wildlife and the perceived and actual impacts of that movement
- *Direction: 1. Elected Members to attend a KDC briefing to express concern about possible incursions at Taharoa Domain*
- *Direction: 2. Staff to investigate how the Taitokerau Resilience Plan can be used to achieve better environmental outcomes*
- Noted the difficulty of locating populations of fan worm in low viability and they attach to anything. Work ongoing to deal with this around the region
- Noted that programme is being fast tracked with central government funding and continue to work towards positive outcomes to capture Caulerpa in one tonne bags

Natural Resources Working Party (Chair Cr. Tui Shortland)

The Natural Resources Working Party met on 20 March 2024. The topics for discussion included:

- Vehicles on Beaches
- Fish Passage Action Plan
- Freshwater Farm Plan Regulations Implementation
- Resource Management Reforms

Following discussion, the Natural Resources Working Party provided advice on the following next steps:

- Explained the jurisdiction of NRC on beaches and how that links with other local and central government agencies and noted that it requires co-ordination of all agencies on education and enforcement
- Emphasised the need for good planning to ensure that the relevant government agency is paying for future mid to long term works that may result
- Noted that meeting central government regulations and policy is important
- *Direction: continue as presented in principle and include in a GMs briefing and decide next steps.*
- Emphasised that a clear and measured approach to dealing with the whole issue is needed. Discussions are ongoing and matter will be raised as information becomes available
- Emphasised that there is clarity needed from officials and programme delivery based on legislation/regulations

Kerikeri-Waipapa River Working Group (Chair Joe Carr)

The Kerikeri-Waipapa River Working Group met on 21 March 2024. The topics for discussion included:

- The Riley Upper Kerikeri storage/detention dam

Following discussion, the Kerikeri-Waipapa River Working Group provided advice on the following next steps:

- Further discussions needed to discuss/incorporate concepts to evaluate suggestions. There is no current budget to complete modelling.
- concepts to be presented to NRC's CE, Community Resilience GM, and Kerikeri-Waipapa Working Group Chair.

Joint WDC – NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party (Chair Jack Crow)

The Joint WDC – NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party met on 2 April 2024. The topics for discussion included:

- Operational Report

Following discussion, Joint WDC – NRC Whangarei Public Transport Working Party provided advice on the following next steps:

- NTA to present the figures at the next meeting on how many driver positions have been filled, how long is it taking to full positions, how many drivers are still needed, how are Ritchies prioritising Whangarei, what are the issues with recruiting drivers, where is Whangārei sitting nationally and locally?

TITLE: Chief Executive’s Report to Council

From: Christy Weightman, Executive Personal Assistant to the CEO

Authorised by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, on 17 April
Group Manager/s: 2024

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The Chief Executive Officer’s monthly report to council is provided for members information so they can get a broad view of activity across council.

0.1 HIGHLIGHTS

PARTNERSHIPS

March saw the inaugural High Value Area (HVA) Day held at the Northland Cricket Association. NRC staff work within all six HVA projects, yet there is often not a lot of interaction between the parties. The HVA Day was an opportunity for people involved in the different projects to meet, network, and discuss their achievements and challenges. A striking highlight was how very different each of the six HVAs are in terms of governance structures and how workstreams are delivered; however, the goal to protect native flora and fauna through the suppression of pest species is evidently aligned throughout. We were also very fortunate to have University of Waikato Emeritus Professor, Carolyn (Kim) King, internationally recognised for her work on small mammals, present some of her research on mustelid biology and management. This was very inspiring and highlighted how difficult it can be to trap stoats and ferrets on a landscape-scale.



NRC Chair, Geoff Crawford, opening the inaugural ‘HVA Day’

Northland Agricultural Field Days (29 February – 2 March)

Council had a successful three days with the site buzzing with discussions and korero between staff and members of the public. After a hiatus post-Covid our wild food giveaway was back, as we partnered with NorthTec | Te Pūkenga Level 4 cookery students to create the delectable venison bruschetta.



National MP Grant McCullum enjoys a taste of the venison bruschetta.

The culinary offering, along with other engaging displays, aimed to educate and entertain visitors while highlighting the council's commitment to environmental conservation and community engagement meant we were kept busy with approx. 2500 people coming through the site.

We also had positive engagement on our social channels:

- Impressions: Number of times our content was displayed to users 13,745
- Engagements: Number of reactions, comments and shares 1,898
- Engagement Rate (per Impression): The number of times users engaged with our content as a percentage of impressions. This indicates how engaged people were with our content. Industry standard is between 1-5%. 13.8%
- Top [Post- Day 2- a winning day](#)
- EDM sign-ups – 91.

Our display focused on freshwater management, pest control strategies, biodiversity conservation, and climate action initiatives.



The marketing and events team with the winning trophy.

As previously mentioned, council's efforts were recognized with the award for Best Outdoor Site, a testament to the collaboration and mahi from all staff involved.

Nature Based Solutions MFE Feasibility Study

We have been engaging with the communities in the Upper Kawakawa Catchment (Motatau, Matawaia, Maromaku and Waiomio) to discuss the funding and objectives from this project. We are identifying the road sections that are most flood prone, we will then model options for bunding solutions that can enhance the wetlands while providing benefit to the road. Capitalising on the existing wetlands to slow the flow of the water and improve water quality.



Motatau Marae Meeting



Waiomio Marae Meeting

0.2 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.

Finance

The CEO has approved up to \$2,200 of unbudgeted expenditure to fund a legal review of council's Artificial Intelligence Policy, following an action from the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee that the policy be reviewed by legal counsel and consider Treaty Settlement Acts, data sovereignty and legislative compliance.

Property

Preceding the demolition of buildings on a large council owned leasehold property, all known Class A (asbestos material that are powdery or can become dust from being crushed when dry) asbestos works have now been undertaken. The Tenant owns the buildings for demolishment and is the party to the contract, not council. Most, but not all, demolition works have been under council consultant observation. Hence, council's Health and Safety team are in contact with the Tenant's in-house team to seek assurances that appropriate oversight and safe practices are occurring on site.

The CEO has approved unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$25,000 + GST of OPEX for initial investigations into the future potential of the site once the buildings are demolished, the land remediated, and the Tenant exits.

The CEO has issued a trespass notice to individuals occupying the gardens of a council owned Whangārei CBD investment property. Council's tenants were being intimidated and the property's gardens damaged with the erection of a tent. The Property Team sought Whangārei District Council (WDC) advice before issuing the notice as it has been an ongoing issue along the length of this street, and WDC have been working closely with Police on solutions.

0.3 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 12 April 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. Mediation date has not yet been set.
Consent decision appeal	Site development works for a subdivision at Dip Road, Kamo	Appeal lodged on both WDC and NRC decision to grant consent. Court assisted mediation is being scheduled for April/May 2024.

Consents in Process

During March 2024, a total of 131 Decisions were issued. These decisions comprised:

Coastal Permits	49
Land Discharge Permits	14
Land Use Consents	35
Water Takes	6
Bore Consents	27

Twenty-seven applications were received in March 2024.

Of the 113 applications in progress at the end of March 2024:

- 58 less than 6 months.
- 20 were received between 6 and 12 months ago (most awaiting further information from the applicant);
- 35 were received more than 12 months ago

Applications more than 12 months old – 31 March 2024

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
APP.006928	Mr J D Palffy	Log extraction from bed of Northern Wairoa River	4/07/2008	S92 hold for cultural effects assessment. Applicant has been advised that this application needs to be resolved or withdrawn. Council will follow up again with the applicant regarding withdrawal of application.
APP.004835	Far North District Council	Kerikeri urban area stormwater discharges	4/10/2011	S92 hold for information on flooding effects. FNDC awaiting results of new flood model for stormwater system before application can continue to be processed.

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
APP.037501	Hare Patau Hohepa Tepania	Marine farm at Southern end of 90 Mile Beach (Te Oneroa-a-Tōhē)	3/03/2015	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 mid-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	9/11/2018	Section 128 review. Review of conditions complete. Decision will be issued by end of April 2024.
APP.042595	Glenview Estate Limited	Activities associated with a proposed hydroelectric power station at Knight Road, Kokopu	2/03/2021	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.
APP.000932	Far North District Council	Replacement consents for the Kaitāia wastewater treatment plant at Bonnetts Road, Kaitāia	24/08/2021	Application publicly notified with two submissions received. Council to confirm with the applicant if it wishes to attempt to resolve issues raised by submitters prior to organising a formal hearing.
APP.030602	Far North District Council	Replacement consent for sludge storage facility at Kaitāia - jointly processed with WWTP application	24/08/2021	As above for APP.000932.

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
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	7/09/2021	Council and applicant finalising consent conditions prior to issuing a decision.
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	9/12/2021	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 provided s92 response and will provide revised conditions by the end of April 2024. Council will then determine if it has adequate information to make a decision on the application.
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	3/05/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow discussions with tangata whenua.

IRIS ID	Applicant	Description	Received Date	Comments
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 April 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	5/10/2022	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	6/10/2022	Hearing being held which has been adjourned until May 2024.
APP.044499	C & R Maria	Earthworks for a proposed 11 lot subdivision at Oruru Road, Taipa	20/10/2022	Draft conditions been provided to the applicant for review. Applicant has also been asked whether it wishes council to delay its decision until FNDC has made its decision on the same proposal in case there are changes.
APP.044610	K Archer	MM4 Swing mooring in Windsor Landing, Kerikeri	17/11/2022	S37 extension requested by applicant to allow reconsideration of proposal.
APP.044619	Kiripaka Holdings Limited	Earthworks for an 84 lot development at Kiripaka Road, Whangarei	24/11/2022	S37 extension agreed to by applicant to allow discussion and finalisation of consent conditions.
APP.044727	Quail Ridge Country Club Limited	Proposed pedestrian bridge across Kerikeri River	24/01/2023	S92 hold for information on flooding effects. Joint application with FNDC. Applicant has requested public notification and FNDC will be lead agency.
APP.006151	G W Cordiner	Replacement consent for boat shed #5 in Hatea River, Whangārei Harbour adjacent to Riverside Drive, Whangārei	23/02/2023	Decision will be issued by end of April 2024.

Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

The following commissioners were appointed in March 2024 for one consent hearing:

- Dr Lee Beattie and Mr David Hill for consents associated with subdivision works. The hearing is scheduled for 22 April 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 March 2024 is (by number):



Applications Publicly/Limited Notified During Previous Month	2
Progress on Applications Previously Notified	4
Hearings and Decisions	1
Appeals/Objections	3

COMPLIANCE MONITORING














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







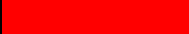
Classification	Total	Full compliance	Low risk non-compliance	Moderate non-compliance	Significant non-compliance	Not exercised during period
Air Discharge	19	16	1	1	0	1
Bore Consent	5	5	0	0	0	0
Coastal Discharge	20	11	4	3	0	2
Coastal Permit	89	66	12	0	0	11
Land Discharge	76	63	4	2	0	7
Land Use Consent	44	36	0	0	0	8
Water Discharge	47	25	5	14	2	1
Water Permit	31	26	3	0	0	2
Water Take	73	57	9	5	0	2
Total	404	305	38	25	2	34
Percentage		75.5%	9.4%	6.2%	0.5%	8.4%
Year to date	4704	3425	492	380	62	345
Percentage		72.8%	10.5%	8.1%	1.3%	7.3%

Municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance/enforcement

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Enforcement Action/Response
Ahipara Expires 2033		<u>Under ANs</u> (reissued in September 2022). Site works have started for the installation of the new SCUUV unit. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on 25 March 2024.
Russell Expires 30 April 2024 (replacement consent application received)		<u>Under AN.</u> Significant non-compliance currently being addressed.

Taipā Expires 2029		None currently.
Whatuwhiwhi Expires 2025		None currently.
Rāwene Expired 2023 (replacement consent application received)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Kawakawa Expires 2036		None currently.
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.
Opononi and Omāpere Expired 2019 (replacement consent under appeal)		<u>Under AN.</u> Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Kaikohe Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Kaiwaka Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)		Issues will be addressed in replacement consent.
Rangiputa Expires 2032		None currently.
Paihia Expires 2034		None currently.
Glinks Gully Expires 31 July 2024 (replacement consent being processed)		None currently.
Hikurangi Expires 2025		Improvements to plant performance currently underway.
Maungaturoto Expires 2032		<u>Under AN.</u>

<p>Kaeo Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Kohukohu Expires 2026</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Hihi Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Ruakaka Expires 2046</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Mangawhai Expires 2042</p>		<p><u>Under AN.</u> Dam repairs completed. Extensive work being undertaken to address odour issues.</p>
<p>Dargaville Expires 2043</p>		<p><u>Under AN.</u> Issues addressed in replacement consent.</p>
<p>Te Kopuru Expires 2044</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Mangawhai Expires 2042</p>		<p><u>Under AN.</u> Dam repairs completed. Extensive work being undertaken to address odour issues.</p>
<p>Tutukaka Expires 31 May 2024 (replacement consent application received)</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Whāngārei City Expired 2022 (replacement consent conditions being finalised)</p>		<p><u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant. Odour mitigation has been budgeted for and other issues will be addressed in replacement consent.</p>
<p>Portland Expires 31 May 2024 (replacement consent application received)</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Waiōtira Expires 2030</p>		<p>None currently.</p>
<p>Oakura Expires 2025</p>		<p>None currently.</p>

Waipū Expires 2030		None currently.
Kerikeri Expires 2036		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 issued in March 2024:

Nature of offence	Abatement notices	Infringement notices	Formal warnings
Burning and smoke nuisance	2	4	
Earthworks/land use	3	2	1
Illegal activity in coastal marine area	1		
Illegal use of lake bed or river bed	1	6	
Illegal take, dam or diversion of water	2	2	
Farm dairy effluent discharge			2
Sediment discharge	1		
Other air discharge		1	
Total	10	15	3

Court Cases Update

Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
Prosecution Contravention of enforcement orders requiring remedial work.	Final step is for the 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 March 2024, the Suitably Qualified and Experience Person instructed by the defendant confirmed the SVR and the OMMP will be provided soon. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled on a date after 1 May 2024.
Prosecution Earthworks and vegetation clearance in and near natural wetland; and discharge of sediment.	The third jury trial call over was on 26 February 2024. 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 the trial. Meeting held with the Crown on 27 March 2024 with

	Mr Davis to discuss the issues that are agreed and disputed and possible settlement.
Prosecution 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. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for 10 and 11 July 2024.
Prosecution 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 February 2024. We are still negotiating wording of summary of facts with the defence lawyer for sentence indication hearing which is postponed to 18 June 2024 to accommodate negotiations.
Appeal against abatement notice and application for stay Coastal works.	NRC is a section 274 PMA party in support of the WDC application in relation to the hard protection structure. A two-day hearing was on 21 and 22 March 2024. The appellant conceded that NRC is correct – that the rock gabion baskets are a hard protection structure and unauthorised. The Environment Court has reserved its decision. On 4 April 2024, NRC received a proposal from the appellant to remove the unauthorised structure from the beach in advance of the court decision.

0.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

LAND MANAGEMENT

Whangārei urban awa project

This project has finished with the final closure report completed and going through the audit process with MfE. The project ran for 3 ½ years. The full \$150,000 NRC budget was allocated along with \$452,361.74 from MfE. The project completed 20.3km of fencing (20km target) and 20,890 plants in the ground (15,000 target).

Biodiversity

Lakes – hornwort was controlled in one lake in February and planning continues for control in three lakes in April. A contract with a drone herbicide applicator has been arranged instead of helicopter application which is cheaper.

CoastCare

- NRC CoastCare staff attended two events for Seaweek, Matarau Te Moana Enviroschools event and Bream Bay Coastal Care beach clean-up.
- Coastal Restoration Trust conference was held in Kāwhia and attended by NRC, DOC, Far North kaitiaki and Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust
- Glinks Gully Community held a working bee over Easter weekend, which was attended by CoastCare staff. Volunteers weeded invasive Cape Ivy and Acacia and also fixed the fence controlling vehicle access into the reserve and put-up new signs. This proved timely as that afternoon a large group of 4wds attempted to drive into the reserve but were stopped by the fence. Access paths for bikes and pedestrians is provided and sign posted.



Clockwise from top left: Kaitiaki o Tokerau presentation, attendees of the Coastal Restoration Trust conference at Kāwhia Marae, Glinks Gully Community working bee with weeds removed from the reserve, Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust volunteers fixing signs and fence and picking up litter from the beach.

NATURAL RESOURCES

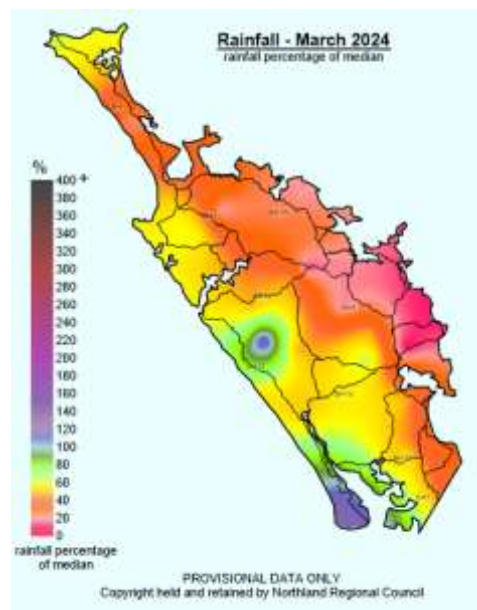
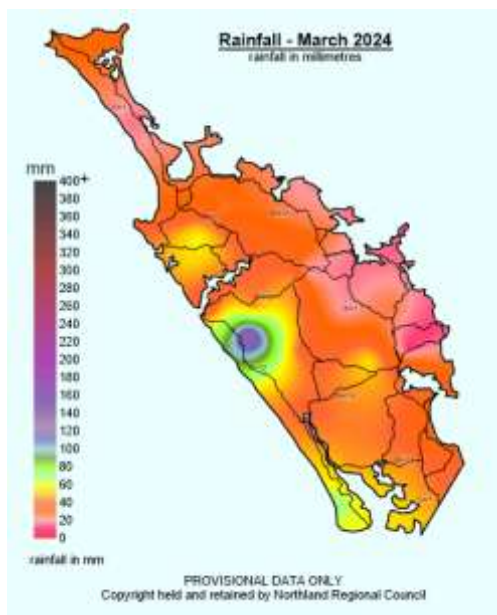
Science:

Auckland Council and Northland Regional Council have joined their storm tracking systems to enable better coverage for both regions from the north and south.

Staff are focused on assessing the groundwater levels due to dry weather in Northland, focusing high risk aquifers.

Hydrology

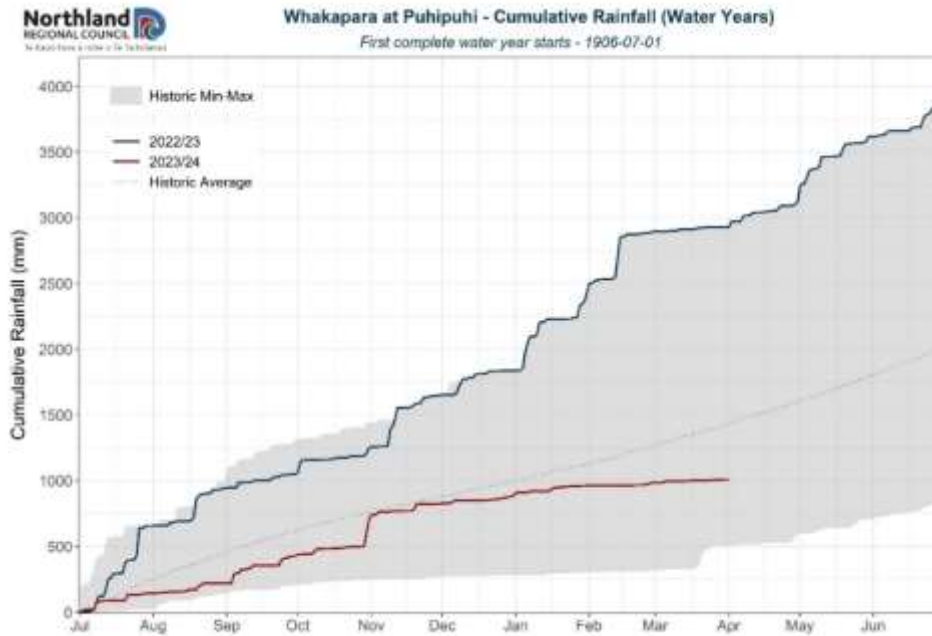
Rainfall



- The Northland region averaged 38.9mm rainfall for March, 44% of the median or normal expected.
- The highest rainfall recorded for the month was in the west of the region, with the Waimamaku at Wekaweke Road station in the South Hokianga recording 130.5mm, 76% of normal expected rainfall.

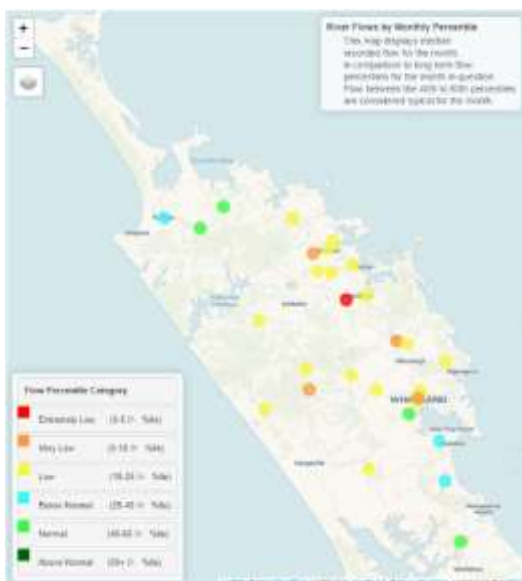
The Waimā at Tutamoe station recorded 101mm (120% of normal expected rainfall), and the Pouto peninsular averaged 117%.

- The east coast from Houhora to Mangawhai was the driest part of the region, with the Hātea at Glenberrie Forest station recording 13mm (11%), the Ngunguru at Dugmores Rock station 14mm (13%), and the Waitangi at Ōhaeawai station 16.5mm (15%).



- The cumulative rainfall graph above for the Whakapara at Puhipuhi station indicates that rainfall for the 2023-2024 water year (1 July to 30 June) was very close to the historic average in early December, but there has been very little rainfall in this catchment since El Nino conditions began to dominate.
- Cumulative rainfall for the 2023-2024 water year at this site for the nine months to the end of March 2024 is now about 1000mm, much lower than the historic average of about 1380mm for this time of year.

River Flow



Groundwater



- River flows in March 2024 were Low to Very Low for most of the region, particularly in central and eastern catchments.
- River flows were Normal to Below Normal for the month in northwestern catchments around Kaitaia and in the southeast in Bream Bay and around Mangawhai.
- Groundwater levels in the Far North and southeast of the region were Normal to above Normal for March 2024.
- Groundwater levels were Low in Ruawai and Kaikohe, and Extremely Low in Russell

Water Quality Field Operations

- A year-long sampling programme near Taupo Bay was completed, documenting the baseline water quality of a property undergoing largescale land retirement and remediation (stock exclusion, planting, etc.). The aim is to repeat this sampling programme in 5-10 years to document water quality improvements.
- Annual shellfish surveys were undertaken at Houhora and Hokianga with kaitiaki from Ngāti Kuri and Ngati Korokoro respectively.
- A lot of ongoing engagement with our Te Tiriti partners. Supporting their monitoring aspirations, including eDNA sampling and training with Ngai Takoto in collaboration with biosecurity staff as part of a Golden Clam surveillance programme.

POLICY AND PLANNING

The consultation period to feedback on the draft freshwater plan change closed on 31 March. Late feedback, however, continued to be received during the week following. In total around 600 pieces of feedback have been received on the draft Freshwater Plan Change.

0.5 BIOSECURITY

PARTNERSHIPS

On 21 March the second pāteke / brown teal release was held at 'The Landing' at the end of the Purua Peninsula. Pāteke are a threatened endemic duck, who's numbers dropped during the early 2000's. In Northland, through landscape-scale pest control and supplemented with translocations from captive rearing facilities, this species has slowly recovered and can be found across many sites in the region. A year ago, 20 pāteke were released at The Landing but probably due to very wet weather at that time, the ducks dispersed from the release site, and feral cats preyed on many. This year it has been considerably drier meaning the birds are more likely to stay closer to the ponds where they were released, and a significant amount of feral cat control has occurred. Each pāteke has been fitted with a transmitter, and we are hopeful this release will be more successful. Monitoring will indicate how the birds are doing and updates will be given in the coming months.



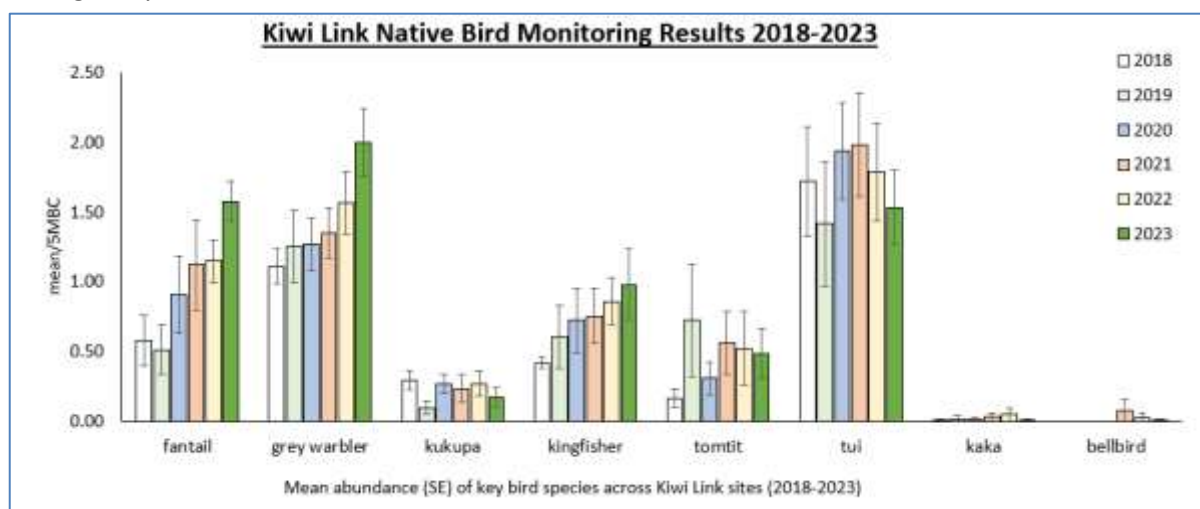
Ngāti Torehina Matua Hugh at the pāteke release in March.

Monitoring has been a high priority across many of the projects and the Kiwi Coast this month. The Kiwi Link have analysed and released their annual targeted bird survey results for 2023 (see below). Encouragingly, birds such as fantail, grey warbler, and kingfisher are maintaining a trend of steady annual increase, and while slight decreases in kukupa, tomtit, and tūi were observed, these

were within the margins of error. It is highly encouraging that kākā and bellbird, which are comparatively rare or absent over most of Northland’s mainland, are persisting in some of the Kiwi Link management sites. It is hoped they will increase their population sizes and distributions going forward.

Across the Whangārei Heads, Backyard Kiwi’s regular kiwi monitoring has indicated that, while the birds are doing well, they have been responding to the very dry weather by moving to the bottom of gullies to find areas with more moisture. Preparations are also underway for the upcoming Kiwi Listening Surveys, to be held in May.

Pāteke flock counts were all completed in February and have now been collated and sent to the Department of Conservation for analysis, and the Kiwi Coast’s 2023 pest control data is currently being analysed and due for release soon.



MARINE PROTECTION:

Summer focus has been on staff and mana moana hapū educating the public around new Marine protection rules. Pamphlets have been regularly circulated to the boating public and holiday makers by kaitiaki at selected boat ramps and via on-water messaging. Wider messaging has been delivered by key stakeholders (DOC, MPI, marinas, dive, and snorkel charters), also through radio advertising and a social media presence leading into the Easter Break. Pamphlet stocks were left at local campgrounds to communicate the new rules to holiday makers.

MONTH	#Vessels Approached	Fishing	Diving
Oct23	12	4	0
Nov23	28	8	5
Dec23	10	1	0
Jan24	49	22	10
Feb24	25	6	1
Mar24	13	3	3
TOTALS	137	57	31

Between October 2023 and March 2024 there has been regular on-water surveillance in the Rāhui Tapu with a total of 137 vessels approached. NRC has engaged an environmental monitoring officer to manage compliance actions and planning with mana moana hapū, and enforcement processes are in development.

Above: Number of vessels approached in Rāhui Tapu October 2023 to March 2024

NRC has been collaborating with the Department of Conservation and NZ Fisheries on implementation of the marine protection rules within marine protected areas. Reporting processes will be established over the coming months and the agencies will be sharing resources where possible to keep costs to ratepayers at a minimum.



Long-spined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*).

Auckland University undertook a rocky reef survey in February to assess the presence of Kina and Long-Spined Sea Urchin in sites in and surrounding the Rakaumangamanga Rāhui Tapu. Some of the survey sites were in Maunganui Bay which has been under s 186 Fisheries Act protection for over 12 years. The survey found that kina barrens and kina densities were lower in Maunganui Bay than the sites open to fishing, providing comparative insight into protected and non-protected marine areas.

Staff attended Matarau School Te Moana Enviro Day and an Enviroschools programme, focussed solely on marine protection, is in development to be delivered to kura local to the Rāhui Tapu. Ecological monitoring plans are in the early stages of development with discussion and input from mana moana hapū, Auckland University and Kerr and Associates.

INCURSIONS:

Freshwater Pests – Gold Clam

Gold clam awareness and advocacy at Lake Taharoa continued over easter weekend with kaimahi from Te Roroa, KDC and NRC on the ground conducting biosecurity checks and surveys on all visitors to the lake with watercraft. At least 69 vessels were inspected with most visitors coming from Auckland although again there were visitors from the Waikato and Taupo area. Next month all partners will come together to form a collaborative approach to future biosecurity activities at Lake Taharoa. To be successful, we will need sustained investment and stakeholder engagement to protect the mauri and ecological integrity of Lake Taharoa and its surroundings.



Setting up for biosecurity checks for gold clam at Lake Taharoa over the Easter long weekend

Koi

The end of summer was busy for our pest fish crew following up on multiple reports of koi across the rohe including Whakanekeneke, Waihou and Waipapa Rivers (Okaihau). Grass carp were observed (previously unknown from this area) but no koi carp. These rivers are a clear water environment suitable for testing our new underwater camera surveillance pontoon with feeder. In partnership with DOC the team also undertook surveillance netting in the Mangatete River (Kaitaia). No koi were captured but this new site has suitable habitat and drainage networks which could be netted and sampled for eDNA more easily further work planned.

Mahi Tahi

In partnership with DOC and Mountains to Sea NRC delivered a multifaceted three-day kaitiaki training program with Ngati Kuri at Te Haumihi Centre (Te Paki). The program included salt march assessments to identify inanga spawning habitat, netting for native and invasive freshwater fish and field-based fish passage assessments using the NIWA field app.



0.6 GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust – continued working on funding agreement for Mid North Water Scheme, including co-ordination with other co-funders
- Northland Inc – Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR) Project Development payments to Northland Inc to support three projects in their development stage: Shared Food Manufacturing Facility at Ngawha Innovation and Enterprise Park, Northland Wind Farm and High-Performance Computing co-location, and Toi Te Hiku – Northland Screen and Creative Hub.
- Northland Economic Quarterly e-newsletter – Issue 41 distributed on 27 March and available online at <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/online-services/enewsletters/>. The annual and spotlight sections examined some of the information available in the recently released Regional Economic Profile by Infometrics.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Long Term Plan – promotion and engagement

A range of promotional activity has been happening to make people aware of the feedback opportunity for our Long Term Plan 2024-2034. A high level of public interest on council's proposal on emergency services funding in particular has resulted in significant media coverage on the issue and a high number of submissions to date. The feedback period began on 15 March and runs until 19 April.

Public consultations – tools and techniques for effective engagement

The Community Engagement team is continually seeking best practice solutions for effective engagement and, as part of this, trialled NRC's first "hybrid" online and in person public meeting for the RLTP consultation on 15 March. Deputy Chair Shortland, RTC panel members and several members of the public were at the meeting in person, whilst others attended and contributed online.

We will be reviewing our consultation tools and techniques, following the raft of recent and ongoing consultations, to ensure NRC is offering the most effective means of engagement across our communities.

Northland Balance Farm Environment Awards (BFEA)

The Northland BFEA's held on Wednesday 20 March celebrated outstanding achievements in sustainable farming, with a special focus on the winners who exemplify excellence in environmental stewardship. One notable winner was the Oromahoe Trust, led by Dean Candy, which received the Regional Supreme Award along with several other accolades. The Trust's commitment to protecting the land for future generations was evident in their holistic approach, integrating sheep, beef, and forestry while actively managing pests and enhancing biodiversity.

Philip & Julia Leaf of Brierly Hill, Kaipara, were awarded the Northland Regional Council Water Quality Enhancement Award, in addition to winning the NZFET Biodiversity Award, showcasing their exceptional dedication to both improving water quality and preserving biodiversity on their farm.

Digital engagement

The most popular organic content was a post on the [February and Summer rainfall maps](#).

Impressions: 11,877 | Engagement: 1,021 | Engagement rate: 8.6%

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

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

eNewsletters distributed during this period:

- [Ki Uta Ki Tai | Hills to Harbour](#)
(Number of subscribers = 583, Open rate = 276, 47.8%)
- [Taumata Taiohi | Platform of the Youth](#)
(Number of subscribers = 219, Open rate = 96, 44.2%)
- [Economic quarterly](#)
(Number of subscribers = 281, Open rate = 85, 31.5%)

Key Performance Indicators	Feb-24	Mar-23
WEB		
# Visits to the NRC website	45,249	48,020
E-payments made	13	12
# subscribed web alerts (cumulative)	1,348	1,342
# subscribed to eNewsletters (cumulative)	5,431	5,421
SOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)		
# NRC Facebook followers	12,196	12,247
# NRC Overall Facebook Reach	361,398	155,095
# NRC Engaged Daily Users	16,202	*N/A
# CDEM Facebook fans	36,233	36,288
# CDEM Overall Facebook Reach	39,203	54,326
# CDEM Engaged Daily Users	1,774	*N/A
# Instagram followers	1,756	1,779
# LinkedIn followers	2,734	2,758

Top three website pages:

- [Pest Control Hub](#)
- [Future Plan / Long Term Plan](#)
- [Environmental data hub](#)

*Metrics are being discontinued by the platforms.

Media liaison

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

- Northland tsunami siren testing at the end of daylight saving
- Poplar and willow sales resume
- NRC rates proposals increase focus on core business
- \$52,500 fine for concrete plant contaminant discharges
- Council encourages public to have their say as freshwater consultation deadline approaches
- Check before earthworks, vegetation clearance.

A number of media enquiries were also received and responded to. Combined, this activity helped generate 104 items mentioning Northland Regional Council as reported by media monitoring agency Fuseworks.

- Top five sources of Te Taitokerau coverage: Northern Advocate (27), Northland Age (11), Kaipara Lifestyler (7), Newshub (3).
- Content types were split as follows:



Education

Marine pests teachers' workshop

The Marine pests teachers' workshop was held in Whangārei. Teachers, from all sectors and from as far north as Horeke, took part in hands-on activities relating to marine pests impacting the marine environment and climate change. Marine Biosecurity team members also taught participants how to monitor for marine pests using the Marine Metre Squared method. The kaupapa of the workshop was linked to the curriculum and aimed to help schools develop real life science capabilities in their students.



Identifying species found during the Marine Metre Squared activity.



Whangārei Girls' High students replace a broken post as part of fence repair mahi.

Wai Fencing Whangārei

The first NCEA-based WaiFencing skills workshop was held in Whangārei on the Wiegersma Farm, which is a KMR project. Students took part in skill building in fence construction, temporary electric fencing and fence repair. They also got to meet newly-born calves. Land Management team members gave a presentation on the importance of fencing off waterways and joined a local fencing contractor and Can Train NZ in providing tuition.

Whangārei's Kaurihohore School reflects at Enviroschools Bronze

Kaurihohore School became a Bronze Enviroschool. Kaiako and ngā akonga have multiple upcycling projects on the go, are creating a school waiata and learning about local history with mana whenua, are beekeeping, permaculture gardening, and creating weta boxes and tui feeders. Next steps include: making a video of their enviroschools journey, exploring the local graveyard and researching environmentally friendly paint to use for outdoor projects.

Matarau School’s Te Moana-themed Enviro Day

Council joined in Matarau School’s Te Moana-themed Enviro Day by holding interactive sessions on: marine pests, CoastCare, lifesaving, skippers of the future and marine protected areas.



Students celebrating wearing correct-sized life jackets at the maritime ‘Skippers of the future’ session.



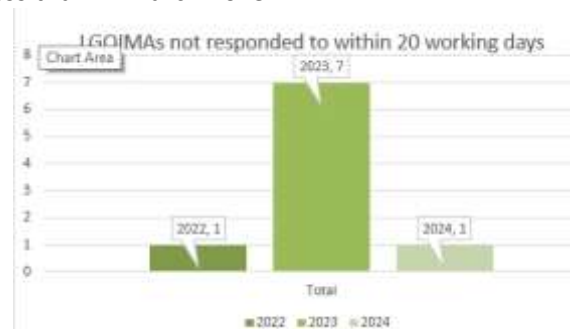
Hands-on activities at the marine pests session.

Facilitating Enviroschools communities

Despite being 2 team members down, during March, Enviroschools Facilitators visited or held specific online interactions with over 50 enviroschools’ communities.

Local government official information (LGOIMA) requests

We received 17 LGOIMA requests in March 2024, five less than in March 2023.



Maori Relationships

Muriwhenua Resilience

As a result of the collaborative work done on forming an action plan for Tāiki ē (NRC Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan) we have partnered with kaitiaki across Muriwhenua to gather and collate qualitative data as a prototype that enables the voices of whānau, hapū and iwi. Our goal is to ensure that appropriate infrastructure and resources are available to transition from an emergency state to a preparedness and readiness outlook strengthening resilience that reflects a commitment to a Te Tiriti partnership.

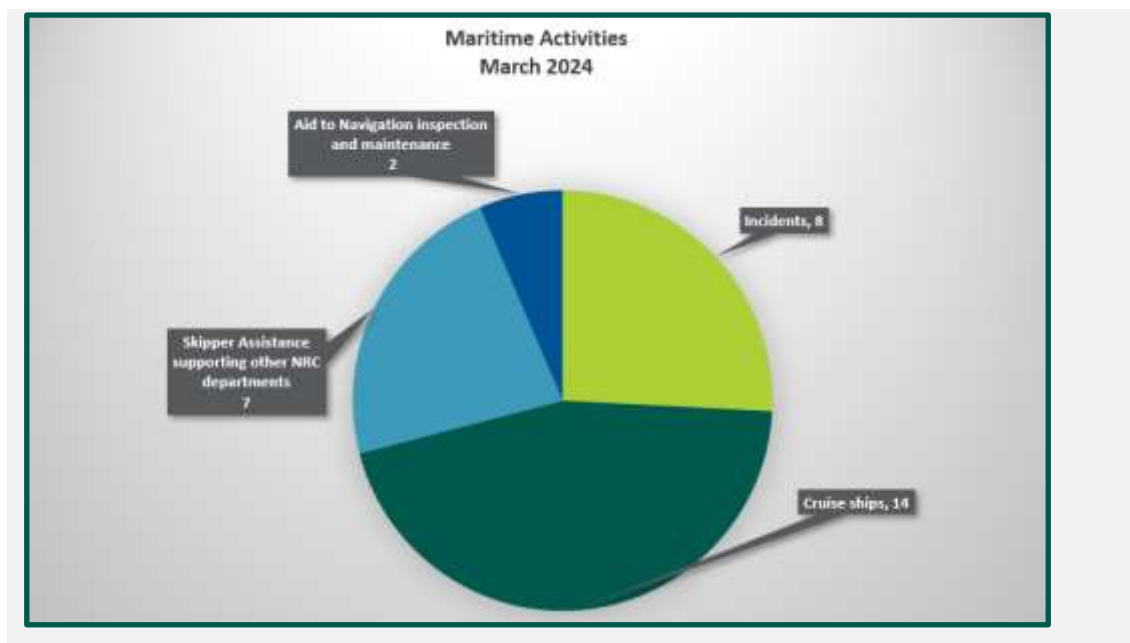
We have been hosted by several groups to facilitate kōrero around what matters to the whanau in protecting and maintaining a safe environment as we adapt to the changing climate and threats to our whenua. These include the Muriwhenua Youth Workshop, Muriwhenua Wellbeing Festival, Make your beans count - Kā Uri, Te Ahu Walkthrough Workshop, and an invitation to attend Whakawhitiorapai – at either Te Kao or Te Paki, Panguru and Futureproofing our taiao session with tohunga Matua Rereata Makiha at Kaitaia.



0.7 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

MARITIME

The chart below provides an overview of core activities undertaken by the Maritime team in March 2024.



The incidents included two offences (illegal anchoring, speeding, obstructing navigation etc), two light and beacon failure/repairs as well as one accident, one wreck and one mooring incident to address.

In March we completed the final sea trials of the Waikare II bringing the new pilot vessel up to the Bay of Islands with a run time of 6 hours to test all systems, and in seas of 2 metres with some bigger swells. Familiarisation with vessel systems and sea trials for pilotage are ongoing. So far, the vessel is performing well. Some minor anode and electronic issues are being resolved. The original Waikare is being prepared for sale.



Waikare II in Opuia

Cruise ships to the Bay of Islands are winding down with the last double up days of 2 ships in, and only 6 left for this financial year. 86 ships have arrived so far this season with 5 cancellations from original bookings due to shipping company logistics. This gives a record breaking 92 ships for the season. Team members will be taking leave over the next few months reducing capacity across the maritime team.

Reporting for state of the Environment showed the total number of derelict, abandoned and sunk vessels removed by the maritime team from January 2017 to December 2023 was 216 vessels. It was noted by Maritime NZ in an audit of regional oil spill response this month that oil spills were well down in Northland over the last few years possibly aided by this work.

RIVERS

Awanui Scheme Upgrade

Further progress with Lower Whangatane Stopbank construction. ~65% of stopbank completed to full height, with excellent compaction results achieved during recent geotechnical testing. Preparation is underway for merging of new stopbank to existing stopbank for over-wintering. Continued survey monitoring of newly formed stopbanks is showing no notable movement and revegetation of new stopbanks is progressing well.



Newly formed stopbank looking North.



Nuclear Density testing underway.

Otiria Moerewa Spillway

The spillway segments' connections are open, Ngapipito Road is being raised to design height, the stop bank's final section is being raised and compacted and there is 400mm of height left to construct, and rock is being placed for scour protection at the spillway mouth.



Otiria Spillway transition through creek



Ngapipito Road Box Culverts



Final portion of the stop bank construction

Kawakawa Deflection Bank

We've begun constructing a deflection bank in Kawakawa for 50yr flood protection, engaging a local contractor. The old Whangae road bridge was raised by about 700mm to match the deflection bank's crest, with local hapu overseeing.



Te Nagere Bay

We've also completed scour protection works at Te Ngaere Marae's access through the Better Off Fund, using a local contractor.

Matangirau Floodway

We are working with key members of the community to write agreements for each impacted land parcel. The floodway modelling and prelim design has been completed. Detailed design to come this winter for completion next season.

CLIMATE ACTION AND NATURAL HAZARDS

An [interim report](#) provides a summary of emerging themes one year into the 'Innovations for Climate Adaptation' research. The findings show that Council staff across the country have been undertaking and implementing various actions to reorganise Council practices and processes for climate response which is also reflected in the work that the NRC climate action team are undertaking:

- Using carbon accounting to inform mitigation actions that connect across internal Council teams and processes, resulting in new business cases for climate response in annual and long-term plans;
- Shifts towards increased cross-Council collaboration and coordination at regional levels as part of climate change risk assessments and adaptation planning;
- Internal reorganising within Councils to embed climate change considerations across decisions and valuing a wider range of knowledge and skills to inform these processes;
- Increasing recognition of the need to resource mana whenua and community-led projects and processes for climate response.

These shifts show evidence of both ‘just’ (considering equity) and ‘robust’ (incorporating a wider range of knowledge) considerations in climate response. While these shifts may seem small or tentative, they provide important evidence and examples to build on as New Zealand continues to collectively navigate climate response.

Completion of Adaptation Preparedness Data

Our adaptation preparedness survey response was completed this month as requested by MfE under section 5ZW of the Climate Change Response Act can be found here [NRC's 2024 call for data response.xlsx](#)

King tides Taitokerau

Northland's King tides Taitokerau project received a boost when our Local Democracy Reporter featured this kaupapa across media for the March 2024 King tides. The NRC website was viewed over 1000 times, featuring in the top 5 pages for this period and generated 75 new photos to the database from keen Northland citizen scientists playing their part to record tidelines in Te Taitokerau. The photos submitted will be used to observe, visualise and understand the impacts of future sea level rise on coastal communities, help document current coastal flood risks, validate climate change models, and serve as a living record of change for future generations.

In the article featuring in the Northland Advocate and NZ Herald, Susan Botting interviewed members of a group walking the Town Basin loop, who said tides were definitely rising. "The tides are getting higher at Kissing Point," Peter Attwood said. "Tūtūkākā tides were also doing the same", Keith Whalley said. Members who were also former boaties, said photographing the impacts of those tides was a great idea.

King tides Taitokerau will again be promoted between 9-11 April with NRC Social media posts and reciprocal promotion from Far North District Council and Whangārei District Council.



A selection of new photographs uploaded by citizen scientists from the March 2024 King tides.

Zero Carbon

On March 7 we supported a climate action for business workshop that was hosted by NorthChamber in conjunction with Westpac. The first part of the session was focused on why it is important to incorporate sustainability and climate action into business and the benefits of doing so. The second part was a workshop facilitated by the Sustainable Business Network on using their climate action toolbox to measure emissions and create an action plan.

TRANSPORT

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

Public Consultation

Consultation on the Draft Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - Three Year Review (RLTP) ran from 16 February 2024 to 15 March 2024. This included 7 public “Have your Say” drop-in sessions held around the region along with one evening online session, one Hybrid in Person and On-line session and attendance at the Dargaville Field Days to assist with any enquiries.

Late Release of Transport Related Documents

During the public consultation period the government released their Draft Government Policy Statement 2024 (GPS) for consultation and the Far North, Whangarei and Kaipara District Councils and Northland Regional Council released their Long-Term Plans LTPs for consultation. At the time of compiling this report, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) board have yet to approve the release of their State Highway Investment Proposal (SHIP) that covers all proposed works on the nations state highways.

Should the release of the SHIP and any LTPs trigger the Significance Policy contained in both the present and draft RLTP’s, this could result in the RTC having to undertake targeted consultation on those projects that trigger the Significance Policy. The RTC have approved that the existing submission period be extended to allow for late submissions if needed.

Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport (GPS)

The Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024 (GPS) was release for consultation on 4 March and is to take effect on 1 July 2024.

The consultation period closed on 2 April 2024 being the same day as the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) meeting. The RTC Elected Representatives compiled a formal submission which was approved for release to the Ministry of Transport (MoT) by the RTC Chair. This was sent on Thursday 28 March 2024. A paper was tabled at the RTC meeting recommending retrospective approval be given for the submission. This was approved.

PASSENGER TRANSPORT

Reduction in Community Connect Fares

As from 1 May 2024, the government will no longer subsidise half price fares for 13 to 24 years old and free fares for 5 – 12-year-olds. This will result in all passengers in these age groups reverting to paying the full fare as charged prior to the introduction of this concession scheme. Staff will be undertaking an advertising campaign during the month of April 2024 to advise passengers of this.

Rose Street Bus Hub Upgrade - Phase 2

Phase two of this upgrade is now underway and includes the demolition of existing bus hub structures, installation of modern amenities including public toilets, staff facilities, a ticketing office, and a covered seating area. Additionally, a new pedestrian link connecting Rose and Vine Streets will ensure a safer space for residents.

Funded by New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and executed by Whangārei District Council in collaboration with Northland Regional Council, this initiative aims to transform the Rose Street bus hub into a hub of convenience and connectivity. More information can be found at [Whangārei District Council](#)



Mangonui Waterfront Festival

The Far North Link Bus Service in Kaitia provided free travel to the Mangonui Waterfront Festival on Saturday 2 March 2024. <https://www.doubtlessbay.co.nz/events/annual-mangonui-waterfront-festival/> This was to encourage people to use the bus on the day to avoid congestion, and to promote public transport as an alternative option.

Total Mobility Scheme (TM)

The increase in people signing onto the TM Scheme and the number of trips being undertaken continues to escalate, particularly in Whangarei. Staff were invited to chair the first national TM meeting for 2024, at which regional and national budgets were covered in detail along with request to NZTA for additional national funding to cover the increases cost of usage. The national TM review being undertaken by the Ministry of Transport is waiting on a discussion paper to be released defining what TM is, the affordability of the scheme, and a survey for public engagement.

Northland Road Safety:

With State Highway 1 over the Brynderwyns open over Easter, the final fatigue stop for the season was run on Thursday 28 March 2024. This stop was run with support from AMI, Red Cross, and Fulton Hogan. It was an extremely successful event, with 112 cars stopping and interactions with 280 people. This season there have been 5 fatigue stops, starting at Labour weekend and ending at Easter, 465 cars stopped, and 955 interactions took place.

The Road Safety Forum was held on Fri 8 March 2024. A number of items were discussed including a presentation on research into drug and alcohol impaired drivers, NZTA safety improvements updates, a presentation on evolving car safety issues, a review of death and serious injury crashes in 2023 and plans for road safety week 20-26 May 2024.

The Northland Freight Group Forum was held on Thu 21 March where NZTA provided an update on safety and route resilience as well as presentations on fatigue and road worker safety.

Emergency Management

No emergency events requiring a Civil Defence response have occurred in the last month. Central Government has agreed to contribute \$1.037 million to the Multi Agency Coordination Centre (MACC) project. Work is continuing with FENZ to progress this project.

The Bush International Consulting report into the Hawkes Bay Civil Defence Emergency Management Response to Cyclone Gabrielle was publicly released on 25 March 2024. The CDEM team are reading the report to identify lessons for Northland's emergency response to 1 in 100 and 1 in 500year events.

The Government Inquiry into the North Island Weather Events is with the Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery and a date for release is expected to be confirmed in the coming weeks.

The Minister for Emergency Management and Recovery informed that the Government does not intend to progress the proposed Emergency Management Bill through its remaining legislative stages and suggest the Committee report the Bill back to the House early and without forming an opinion. The Minister is of the view that the existing Bill would not deliver the integrated, fit-for-purpose emergency management framework that New Zealand needs.

Submissions on the Bill and reviews into last year's severe weather events have highlighted significant system issues, including matters such as how information is collected and shared during responses and how the system partners with communities.

The Government is going to consider these reviews, including the Government Inquiry into the Response to the North Island Severe Weather Events, and work through exactly what improvements need to be made and how these will be delivered.

0.8 KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION

The KMR Pou Tātaki, supported by governance and the KMR executive team, continues to focus on senior-level engagement and influence to ensure key decision-makers understand the programme and our value in supporting environmental restoration of the Kaipara Moana across two regions.

Major strands of this work include presenting on KMR at key forums, highlighting and sharing our best practice with others, and developing targeted strategic partnerships that help us reach – and support – a breadth of landowners and groups in the catchment. Some examples of this activity from the past month are highlighted below:

2024 Ballance Farm Environment Awards

KMR was honoured to be acknowledged at the 2024 Ballance Farm Environment Awards in both the Auckland and Northland regions. As the recipient of the Catchment Group Showcase Award, KMR presented in both regions to the audience of farmers, growers, rural professionals and interested community members. We highlighted our progress to date and celebrated the nearly 600 landowners and groups working with us across the catchment, and approximately 115 more in our 'pipeline' of potential landowners and groups. In Northland, three of the regional winners are working with KMR, with the judges acknowledging KMR's support in their journey to improve the land and waterways for future generations.

National Freshwater Conference

KMR participated at the 15th Annual National Freshwater Conference in Wellington, in collaboration with Whangārei Deputy Mayor Phil Halse. There was a lot of interest in KMR as an exemplar freshwater restoration programme, including how KMR supports landowners and groups in the community in achieve their aspirations; our strategic foundations including the Memorandum of Understanding between the Crown, iwi and councils; and how KMR investments are informed by high-resolution scientific datasets.

OECD public sector innovation entry

Working with MfE, KMR has been invited to enter into an OECD call for projects that exemplify good practice in using in behavioural science for 'green transitions' – global efforts by the wider public sector to accelerate the green transition and achieve net zero targets. If successful, KMR would be recognised for our good practice and be able to access and learn from an 'observatory' of other good practice globally and adapt it as relevant for wider application into KMR, and beyond.

Proposed Ministerial visit

In the Auckland region, we are working with the Minister's office to host Hon. Andrew Hoggard on a KMR landowner's farm. At the Minister's request, the visit - which is not yet confirmed - will focus narrowly on the landowner's experience and aspirations for the farm system, and how KMR has supported these following Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland floods.

KMR and Wai Connection partnership

KMR and Mountain to Sea Conservation Trust's *Wai Connection* programme have announced a partnership to boost efforts to restore the Kaipara Moana. By joining forces, the two entities are aiming to increase support for both emerging and established community and catchment groups in the Kaipara Moana catchment, and better connect them to funding and other support to increase the number of sediment reduction projects under way to protect and restore the mauri of local waterways.

UNESCO Cities with the Ocean initiative

Along with the relevant Manukau Harbour group, KMR has accepted an invitation from the Hauraki Gulf Forum / Tīkapa Moana to participate in the Auckland-led project to endorse the UNESCO Cities with the Ocean initiative, which forms part of the United Nations Decade of the Ocean. Under the initiative, no technical or financial contribution is required and participation in activities will be on a voluntary basis. However, participation will bring global attention to the work - at various stages of development - across the three Auckland harbour systems and associated catchments to protect and restore the oceans which surround the city.

Latest webinar

As part of our ongoing series of webinars, KMR's planting specialist gave a well-attended and well-received webinar to outline how KMR approaches planting, including key features of our Planting Guide, how we work with KMR's accredited nurseries and planting zones, our eco-sourcing policy, and how KMR supports landowners to get the right tree in the right place to reduce sediment flows into the Kaipara Moana.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil