

Long Term Plan Amendment Hearings
Thursday 3 April 2025 at 10.15am

AGENDA

Northland Regional Council Long Term Plan Amendment Hearings

Hearings to be held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Thursday 3 April 2025, commencing at 10.15am

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

RĪMITI (Item)	Page
1.0 NGĀ MAHI WHAKAPAI / HOUSEKEEPING	
<i>Key Health and Safety points to note:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>If the fire alarm goes off – exit down the stairwell to the assembly point which is the visitor carpark.</i>• <i>Earthquakes – drop, cover and hold</i>• <i>Visitors please make sure you have signed in at reception, and that you sign out when you leave. Please wear your name sticker.</i>• <i>The toilets are on the opposite side of the stairwell.</i>	
<p><i>Please note that the public section of this meeting will be recorded and livestreamed via Youtube to the NRC website. As a participant in the meeting or a member of the public gallery your presence may be recorded. By remaining present at the meeting it is understood your consent is given if your image or voice is broadcast.</i></p> <p><i>Opinions expressed or statements made by individual persons during a meeting are not the opinions or statements of the Northland Regional Council. Council accepts no liability for any opinions or statements made during a meeting.</i></p>	
2.0 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – TAUĀKI Ā ROTO / OPENING KARAKIA	
3.0 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA / APOLOGIES	
4.0 NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA / DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST	
5.0 NGĀ TAKE / DECISION MAKING MATTERS	
5.1 Proposed amendment to Te Mahere Roa Long Term Plan 2024-2034 - Hearings on public feedback	3

TITLE: Proposed amendment to Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034 - Hearings on public feedback

From: Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist

Authorised by Group Manager: Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 26 March 2025

Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

The purpose of this paper is to provide scheduling to receive and/or hear public feedback on the proposed amendment to Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034, to facilitate a change to council's strategic asset, that being its interests in Marsden Maritime Holdings and Northport.

Recommendations

1. That the report 'Proposed amendment to Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034 - Hearings on public feedback' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 19 March 2025, be received.
2. Receive, and where appropriate, hear feedback relating to the proposed amendment to Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034.
3. That council does not receive late feedback received after 5pm Monday 31 March as per council's submissions policy.

Background/Tuhinga

Council is proposing to change the structure of its interests in Marsden Maritime Holding and Northport, which requires an amendment to the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and the way that this strategic asset is reflected in it. This amendment requires consultation.

On 19 March 2025, council approved for public consultation the following documents:

- Supporting Information to the Consultation Document – Amended Long Term Plan 2024-2034
- Long Term Plan Amendment Consultation Document

These documents have been made available to the public for consultation between 26 February 2025 and 28 March 2025 in accordance with the Local Government Act.

Over the consultation period feedback was received via council's submission management system from members of the public, organisations, iwi, hapū, and businesses.

A total of seven submitters indicated that they wanted to speak to their feedback at a hearing, with five of these confirming availability.

One submitter indicated that they wished to present their feedback in Te Reo Māori, and a translator has been arranged to support this korero.

The schedule for these submitters to speak at this hearing is attached, along with the written feedback they have already provided, which is to be taken as read by councillors.


A procedure for the hearings is also attached.


Late feedback

Council maintains a policy of accepting feedback after the official closing date where it does not impact on decision-making timeframes, unfairly disrupt the process for other submitters or decision makers, or until it is no longer administratively practical to do so.

Due to the very tight timeframe of this consultation, it is considered administratively impractical to incorporate any feedback received after 5pm Monday, 31 March. At the time of writing this report the submission period had not yet closed, however it is recommended that any feedback received after 5pm Monday 31 March is not incorporated into the process.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Hearing schedule and copy of submissions of those wishing to be heard [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Hearing procedure [↓](#) 

Public Hearings on proposed amendment to Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034

Schedule

Time slot	Submitter name	Ref number	Organisation	Notes	Submission
10:20	Tim Robinson	12	Bernina Northland	Confirmed	Tim Robinson Submission 12
10:30	John Bain	19		Confirmed	John Bain Submission 19
10:40	Peter and Eva Vaughan	26	Te Iwitahi Manihera whanau; Te Parawhau hapu; Ngapuhi iwi.	Confirmed	Peter and Eva Vaughan Submission 26
10:50	Rihari Dargaville	24	Taitokerau Māori Trust Board	Unconfirmed/scheduled Will speak in Te Reo Māori	Rihari Dargaville Submission 24
11:00	Mere Kepa	3		Confirmed	Mere Kepa Submission 3

Submissions

Tim Robinson | Submission 12

I am in full support of this proposal. It provides a pathway to better utilization of Northport, and economic growth for our region as a whole.

John Bain | Submission 19

"I am writing to you all as our Representatives on the Regional Council who are going to be asked to vote on a massive change to the holding you have as our 53% owners of shares in our Port Company MMH. The suggestion is to form a new company with the Port of Tauranga on a 50/50 share holding but with a proviso that NRC sell 7%, on set up, and a further 7% later to an Iwi group which does not, as far as I can read in the media, identify who they are or who elected them as the representatives.

The obvious dilemma many of your constituents have is purely one of concern of the loss this is going have on the income of the NRC from the investment funds of which the MMH shares take the golden 1st place at present.

If the new entity makes a profit of \$200 (or multiples of) then NRC will collect 50% of that figure as half the ownership of the new MMH which is \$100. BUT, under the proposed split that will drop to \$36 which is the cost of 2 X 7% taken from NRC share.

So, in simple terms the subsidy we have, and have had for decades, will be slashed by 14% and that will have to be made up from RATES.

My estimate is higher than 14% or the average percentage of income over many years from this source, in fact the rate increase will have to be in excess of 20% to 25% to reach the level enjoyed while investments have been paying up to 46% of income needed for the NRC operation. The outcome is with this increase the largest number of rate payers, which are low-income families are hit again. This is not what you all have been elected for and I am sure not what your intents are.

You will be told that there will be an increase in turnover and profit to offset the reduction in shareholding and the Iwi shares are still Northland shares, and if you believe that profit on an estimated spread sheet is the same as black print on a bank statement then you are not in the real world. If NRC holds 50% shareholding the result will be all Northland, including Iwi, get the benefit, other dilutions do not live to the old expectations of the inheritance from those who organised the trust in you as councillors and those who have gone before you and those who will follow. The Port operation, which was given to NRC to look after, and nurture, when the previous Harbour Board was disbanded and NRC given majority shareholding and were trusted to act on behalf of all of Northland.

I trust you all will take heed of these comments as I believe the living "contract" with Tauranga and Auckland is due for an update and a 50/50 agreement with Tauranga is a good step forward without giving up the family silver."

Rihari Dargaville | Submission 24

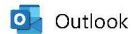
Doing a JV with interests parties in the North makes good economic sense. Keep the majority shares in Taitokerau in ownership and control.

Peter and Eva Vaughan | Submission 26

Conditional on:

1. Tangata whenua: Identify and evidence the tangata whenua. Engage and consult Tangata whenua, whanau, hapu, iwi.
2. Sale of endowment lands: Which lands? Harbour Board, Ministry of Works etc, 'taken lands' that should be returned to rightful Tangata Whenua owners, or landbanked by Crown.
3. Northport, MMH, Channel Infrastructure: Lands and waterways are on Poupouwhenua/Rauiri. Crown 'confiscated' land, from Te Parawhau hapu – Waitangi Tribunal. These lands should be rightfully returned to original owners: Eg, Te Iwitahi Manihera whanau, Te Parawhau hapū and others.

Subsequent email exchange:



Re: Hearings on Long Term Plan Amendment

From Peter Vaughan <peter.vaughan005@gmail.com>
Date Mon 2025-03-24 7:43 PM
To Kyla Carlier <kylac@nrc.govt.nz>
Cc Mandy Tepania <mandyt@nrc.govt.nz>; Robyn Broadhurst <robynb@nrc.govt.nz>; Auriole Ruka <aurioler@nrc.govt.nz>

Kia ora Kyla

1) NorthPort LTP change proposal

Thank you for confirming my in person feedback time of 10:40am Thursday 3rd April at NRC. I have presented In Person to WDC Council meetings in the past, so have some familiarity with such a process.

2) Thank you for the phone conversation and this follow-up about 'Endowment Lands'

Our initial response/position is that all Publicly held lands, especially 'Endowment Lands' should be 'Restricted Assets' not to be sold/disposed of.

Secondly, that NRC has legal obligations to engage Tangata Whenua and consult about any proposed change of use or disposal.

Identifying and evidencing Tangata Whenua status is an NRC obligation.

Selling Endowment Lands could be described as robbing Peter to pay Paul ? from a Tangata Whenua perspective

3) Tangata Whenua to Poupouwhenua 'Confiscated Lands'.

NRC has a legal obligation according to the Local Govt Act to identify, evidence, and engage with the correct Tangata Whenua to the lands.

We can supply evidence of our Tangata Whenua status to the Poupouwhenua lands, and to all lands in Whangarei CBD and surrounds.

Unfortunately, NRC has failed to meaningfully engage with Te Iwitahi Manihera whanau, Te Parawhau hapu, Ngapuhi iwi, who are major stakeholders, and hold evidenced Tangata Whenua status, as described above. Some evidence has been supplied to NRC in the past, once in a meeting with the current CEO, and another meeting with Auriole Ruka, GM.

We have previously advocated to NRC, WDC and the Crown, that all Treaty Claims lands, and all Endowment or 'Taken' lands should be designated Restricted Asset not to be disposed of, and/or Landbanked for Return to Tangata Whenua tuturu or for Treaty claims Settlement/Redress...

Kyla, not sure all these are within your jurisdiction or portfolios, and I have included Auriole and Kim into this email

Nga mihi
na

Peter and Eva Vaughan

Te Iwitahi Manihera whanau
Te Parawhau hapu
Ngapuhi iwi

On Mon, Mar 24, 2025 at 5:17 PM Kyla Carlier <kylac@nrc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Peter,

Thanks for the conversation today, and for your feedback on council's proposal to amend the Long Term Plan 2024-2034 and change the structure of our investments in Marsden Maritime Holdings and Northport.

You've indicated that you wish to present your feedback in person at the hearings.

Hearings will be held at our Whangārei office (36 Water Street) on **Thursday, 3 April 2024**. You're scheduled to speak to your submission between **10:15 - 10:45am**, and as discussed, I have confirmed you as the last speaker at 10:40am. These times can be subject to change, so I suggest you arrive by 10:30am, and plan to stay until 11am.

You'll have **five minutes** to present your feedback.

Please note that elected members will hear any points you want to make in addition to your written submission, which you can take as read. Elected members want to hear what you have to say and will not debate any of the issues on the day. Only those people who have requested to attend a hearing, and subsequently been allocated a time slot, may speak.

Also, I have spoken to our property team about the commercial investment properties that are likely to be sold to fund a portion of the investment required for the proposal, and you are correct that endowment properties are involved. The team have advised the following:

The properties we have earmarked for sale, but have not confirmed with Council as yet, are all Harbour Board endowment properties involving lessors' interest (land only) in Whangarei apart from one freehold commercial property in Dargaville.

While there is a possibility that a few may be subject to Public Works Act offer back, this is unlikely. None are subject to Treaty obligations as far as I am aware, that is to say are required to be returned to Tangata Whenua, or land banked by Crown.

However, we are yet to do a forensic examination on the titles before sale.

I hope this helps. Please feel free to contact me, should you have any further questions.

Ngā mihi

Kyla Carlier

Corporate Strategy Manager
Northland Regional Council » Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau

Mere Kepa| Submission 3

[Submission summary; full original attachments below]

The submitter supports the opportunity for hapū and iwi investment partners to join the proposed joint venture but has reservations about exclusivity. They express concern over the proliferation of exclusive housing estates, industrial developments, and the resulting environmental and cultural impacts on Te Poupuwhenua and surrounding areas. They lament the historical and ongoing

losses suffered by Te Parawhau Hapu and Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu due to colonial actions and coastal erosion.

The submitter raises concern at council for not addressing the Waitangi Tribunal's 2022 findings, which highlighted the unjust confiscation of 1,000 acres of Whangarei headlands from Te Parawhau. They argue that any joint venture should involve the landowners and respect Māori values such as Mana, Rangatiratanga, and Kaitiaki. The proposal should be sensitive to these values and aim to provide redress and satisfaction to the affected hapū.

While the submitter sees potential in the joint venture, they believe it lacks a genuine commitment to delivering societal, political, and economic benefits to Te Parawhau Hapu and Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu. They support the idea of hapū and iwi acquiring a 7% shareholding but emphasize the need for the proposal to align with Māori values and address historical grievances.

A better way to structure council's investments in Marsden Maritime Holdings and Northport.

To
Northland Regional Council
submission@nrc.govt.nz

Deadline: Friday 21 March

Submission

Tena koe,

At the dawn of the Maori technocratic, industrial age at Te Poupuwhenua, I support the “opportunity for hapuu and iwi investment partners to come on board, now and in the future”, nonetheless, with reservations of exclusivity (1).

As the Tangata Whenua, a citizen, a resident and ratepayer, a volunteer, a published writer, and poet, I observe with interest the proliferation of exclusive housing estates and canals; retirement village suburbia; rows of metallic warehouses, factories, and terminals, files of white power boxes, increasing commuter traffic on narrow, congested roads, and migration, urbanisation, and pollution at Te Poupuwhenua, Takahiwai, Ara Kahika, and Ruakaka (2).

I lament the land and concomitant cultural and economic losses suffered by Te Parawhau Hapu and Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu, held in reserve by colonial history in Takahiwai. I express grief for the bucolic landscape and unspoilt pastoral scenes—land in waiting for confiscation for colonising by those retreating from coastal erosion. I bemoan the warning by the coastal scientist, Jim Dahm, when he says that:

Engineered solutions to coastal erosion, while they might protect the properties behind lead to the degradation of the beach in front ... (3).

Most importantly, I bewail the failure by Northland Regional Council to regard that the Waitangi Tribunal in 2022 found:

By requiring Te Parawhau to forfeit 1,000 acres of the Whangarei headlands (known as Te Poupuwhenua) as payment for the January 1845 taua muru against the settlers Millon and Patten, the Governor acted inconsistently with its obligation to act with utmost good faith, in breach of te maataapono o te houruatanga, the principle of partnership (4).

I am available to appear before a Hearing of Panellists.

Naku noa na Mere



Te Parawhau Hapu & Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu, Takahiwai.

Kaitiaki, Pest Strategy: Takahiwai Hills and Forest. Est. 2017
Chair, Takahiwai Maori Committee. Est. 1977
Chair, Kopuawaiwaha 2B2 Ahu Whenua Trust. Est. 1949

References

1. Catherine J Iorns Magallanes. *Nature as an ancestor: Two example of legal personality for nature in New Zealand*. <https://doi.org/10.4000/vertigo.16199>
2. Mere Kepa. Submission, *Extending existing port coastal permits under RMA*, to Ministry of Transport. 31 May 2024.
3. Coastal scientist Jim Dahn warns sea level rise likely to result in more permanent erosions to our coast. *Bream Bay News*, 13 March 2025, page 11.
4. *Waitangi Tribunal Report 2022. WAI 1040 Te Rangatiratanga me Te Kawanatanga Pre-Publication* (page 1883).

15 March 2025

MARSDEN MARITIME HOLDINGS, NORTHPORT PROPOSAL TUKUNA MA OOU WHAKAARO — SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

To:
Northland Regional Council

E: nrc.govt.nz/MMHproposal

Deadline:
28 March 2025

Feedback

I support reservedly the proposal to secure the opportunity for hapu and iwi of Ngapuhi to acquire a 7% shareholding in the new joint-venture company.

In Section 2 of the *NZ Herald* dated Saturday, November 9, the headline declared that “Common-law rights of Maoris overlooked. On the same page, another headline declared “Land-grabbing on scandalous scale”.

As Professor F.M. (Jock) Brookfield stated in the first article:

... under the Treaty of Waitangi the Crown gained a country, but has failed to pay the promised price in full”

In 2022, the Waitangi Tribunal found that:

By requiring Te Parawhau to forfeit 1,000 acres of the Whangarei headlands (known as Te Poupouwhenua) as payment for the January 1845 taua muru against the settlers Millon and Patten, the Governor acted inconsistently with its obligation to act with utmost good faith, in breach of te maataapono o te houruatanga, the principle of partnership (1).

Arguably, then, the proposal to increase Northland Regional Council’s stake in the port, bringing together Northport and Marsden Maritime Holdings, the Port of Tauranga and the Crown led Tupu Tonu, Ngapuhi Investment Fund Ltd is still an imaginary merger for Te Parawhau Hapu and Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu. Characteristically, the imaginary merger combines utopian ideals with practical approaches to address significant losses and navigate legal and bureaucratic challenges. This fusion can transform theoretical resolutions into commercial realities and positively impact the lives of Maori people such as the ‘owners’ of 1000 acres of Te Poupouwhenua.

Still the proposal appears to display a sort of laziness and to have only a passing interest in delivering societal, political, and economic benefits to the Te Parawhau Hapu and Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu.

I shall avail myself to appear before the Hearing Panel.

Naku noa na Mere



Te Parawhau Hapu & Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu

Kaitiaki, Pest Strategy: Takahiwai Hills and Forest. Est. 2017
Chair, Takahiwai Maori Committee. Est. 1977
Chair, Kopuawaiwaha 2B2 Ahu Whenua Trust. Est. 1949
WAI Claim 3450

22 March 2025

**Creating a new joint-venture company from Marsden Maritime Holdings and
Northport and amending the Long Term Plan 2024-2034**

To: Northland Regional Council

E: mailroom@nrc.govt.nz

Deadline: 28 March 2025

Submission

As useful as the proposal seems, I prefer to respond: thus, “none of the above”.

The proposal I admire is ultimately that which, in a variety of ways, extol Maori values that we think are worthwhile—which refer, that is, whether through a joint-venture company with Marsden Maritime Holdings, Northport, Port of Tauranga, and Tupu Tonu, or an amendment to the council’s plan with regard to the “strategic asset” and the principles of Mana [prestige, authority, and control; Rangatiratanga [chieftainship, independence, and self-determination], and Kaitiaki [promising care of nature].

Rather, the proposal is not sensitive to the complexity of the values for redress, satisfaction, happiness, and beauty, and to such legendarily positive qualities as friendliness, kindness, subtlety, strength, and intelligence. Like the proposed joint venture, the beauty and understanding of the nature of the values of Mana, Rangatiratanga, and Kaitiaki are intertwined in the land and blood kin.

In the proposed joint venture, the land at Te Poupouwhenua belongs to the Te Parawhau Hapu. The land that is to be occupied by the joint venture is confiscated land: as follows.

By requiring Te Parawhau to forfeit 1,000 acres of the Whangarei headlands (known as Te Poupouwhenua) as payment for the January 1845 taua muru against the settlers Millon and Patten, the Governor acted inconsistently with its obligation to act with utmost good faith, in breach of te maataapono o te houruatanga, the principle of partnership (1).

If the underlying quest of the joint venture is “to improve efficiency and get better outcomes for Te Taitokerau”, it seems only natural that improved efficiency and better outcomes should simultaneously involve the land owner. Agreeably, “the current structure isn’t as simple as it could be, and the Te Parawhau Hapu, like the joint partners, think there’s a better approach that will have real benefits for these entities and our region into the future”. Put simply, making changes to the council’s recently adopted Te Mahere Roa | Long Term Plan 2024-2034 with regard to the infoldment and betterment of the Te Parawhau Hapu would require amendments:

To achieve *our* strategic objectives and provide the opportunity for the hapu [sic] to invest, and realise these opportunities for the best possible benefit of our community and our region, we think there’s a better way to structure council’s investments.

Naku noa na Mere



(Dr) T. Mere. A. Kepa

Te Parawhau Hapu & Te Patuharakeke o Te Parawhau Hapu, Takahiwai.

Kaitiaki, voluntary Pest Strategy: Takahiwai Hills and Forest. Est. 2017

Chair, Takahiwai Maori Committee. Est. 1959

Chair, Kopuawaiwaha 2B2 Ahu Whenua Trust. Est. 1949.

26 February 2025

Public hearings procedure

Amendment to the Long Term Plan 2024-2034

3 April 2025

Note: Submitters will be advised in advance of the hearing when their time slot is, and the length of their speaking time. Presentations are only permitted by prior arrangement, and must be provided to NRC by Friday 28 March.

Submitters are welcome to stay and hear other submitters speak.

1. The Chair will call the hearing to order and start the meeting in the usual way with karakia and health and safety considerations. Speaking rights are limited to elected members and those that have been allotted a hearing time.
2. The Chair will introduce the matter at hand, being hearing submitters to the Amended Long Term Plan 2024 – 2034.
3. Each speaker will be allocated approximately ten minutes, including question time.

Elected members may ask the speaker relevant clarification questions concerning the issue in a courteous and respectful manner, providing the elected member does not:
 - i. engage in any debate or argument with the speaker;
 - ii. make any derogatory, accusatory, or inflammatory remarks to the person; and
 - iii. make any statements, arguments or express an opinion that would disclose a bias
4. Elected members may ask the Administrator relevant questions after all persons who wish to speak have been heard.
5. Following the conclusion of all questions and representations on the issue, the Chair will conclude the hearing.