

AGENDA

RĀRANGI TAKE

**Huihuinga O Te Kāhui Māori O
Taitokerau - Te Ruarangi
Thursday 8 May 2025 at 9.30am - 3.00pm**

Rārangi Take O Te Kāhui Māori O Taitokerau (TE RUARANGI)

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei and via audio visual link
on Thursday 8 May 2025, commencing at 9.30am - 3.00pm

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).

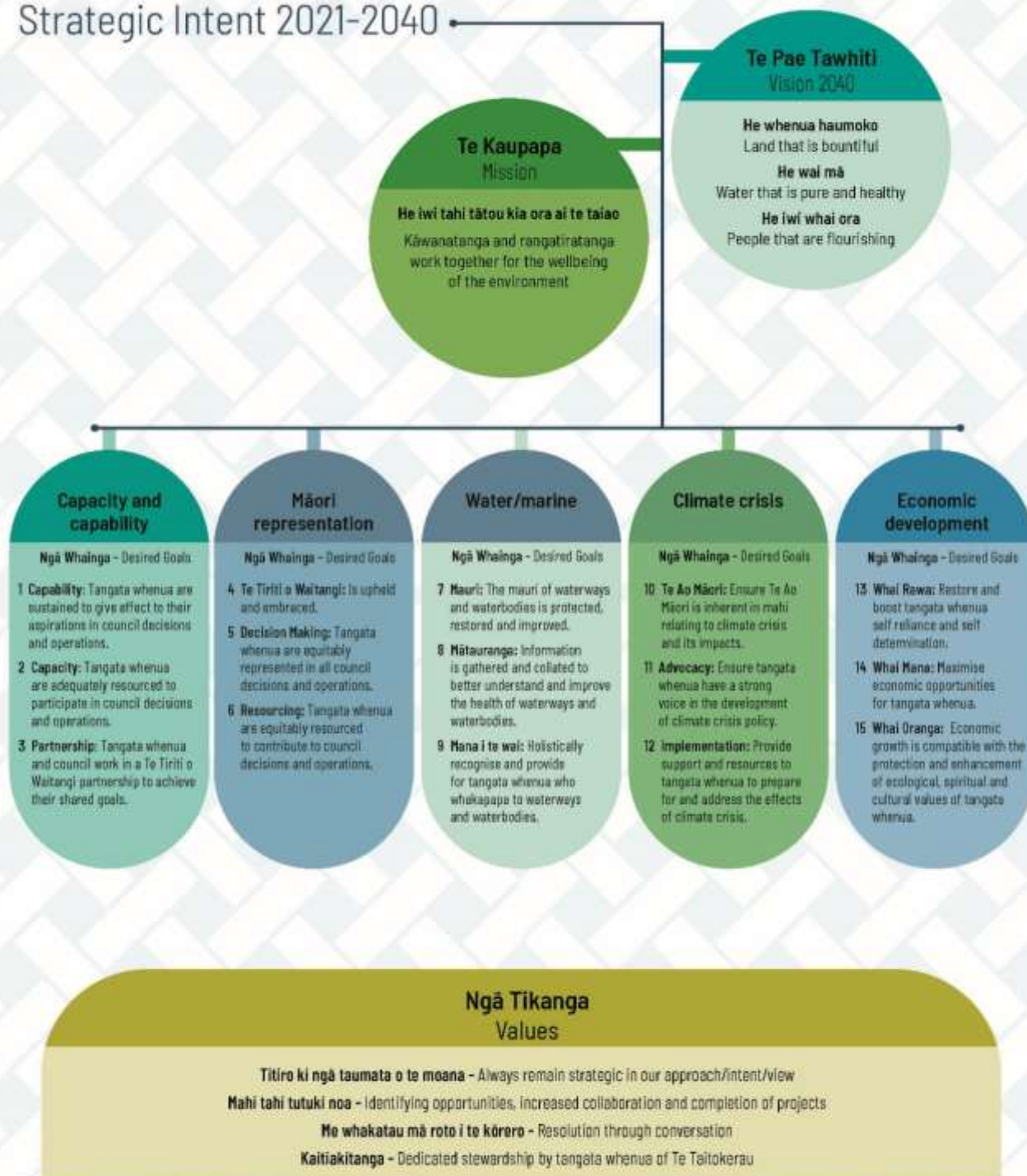
NGĀ MANA WHAKAHAERE (MEMBERSHIP OF TE RUARANGI)

Heamana Tokorua (Co-Chairs):

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

Abe Witana, Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa
Alan Riwaka, Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Whātua
Amy Macdonald, Councillor
Aperahama Edwards, Ngātiwai Trust Board
Delilah Te Aōrere Parore-Southon, Te Roroa
Geoff Crawford, Councillor (NRC Chair)
Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust
Geraldine Baker, Kahukuraariki Trust Board
Jack Craw, Councillor
Janelle Beazley, Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi
Joe Carr, Councillor
John Blackwell, Councillor
Juliane Chetham, Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board
Kipa Munro, Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia
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
Nyze Manuel, Te Rūnanga O Whāingaroa
Peter-Lucas Jones, Councillor
Rick Stolwerk, Councillor
Rowan Tautari, Te Whakapiko Hapū
Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari Hapū Iwi Trust (vacancy)

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



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 = whānau, hapū and iwi

Commonly used terms and abbreviations	
AP	Annual Plan
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPCA	Community Pest Control Areas
DOC	Department of Conservation
FNDC	Far North District Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
IHEMP	Iwi/Hapū 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 Te Ruarangi)
NES	National Environmental Standards
NINC	Northland Inc. Limited
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmosphere
Non-elected member (Te Ruarangi)	One of the up to twenty-one appointed iwi and hapū members from Te Taitokerau. Members are appointed in accordance with the Terms of Reference .
NPS	National Policy Statement
NPS-FM	National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
RMA	Resource Management Act 1991
RP	Regional Plan
Te Ruarangi caucus	Comprises the non-elected iwi and hapū members of Te Ruarangi
TKoT	Te Kahu o Taonui (Iwi Chairs)
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPK	Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Maori Development)
TTMAC	Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (former name of Te Ruarangi)
TTNEAP	Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan
TWWAG	Tāngata Whenua Water Advisory Group
WDC	Whangarei District Council

KARAKIA / WHAKATAU

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TITLE: **Record of Actions – 13 March 2025**

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

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 02 May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Record of Actions of the last meeting (attached) held on 13 March 2025 for review by the meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Record of Actions - 13 March 2025 [↓](#) 

Te Ruarangi
13 March 2025

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
36 Water Street, Whangārei and via audio visual link
on Thursday 13 March 2025, commencing at 9.30am - 3.00pm (meeting)

Tuhinga (Present):

Co-Chair, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine, Pita Tipene
Councillor Amy Macdonald
Councillor Geoff Crawford
Councillor Jack Craw (part meeting)
Councillor John Blackwell
Councillor Marty Robinson
Councillor Peter-Lucas Jones
Ngāti Hau, Mike Kake
Ngāti Kuta Michelle Elboz
Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board Julianne Chetham
Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust, Mira Norris
Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Niki Conrad
Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia, Nora Rameka
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Sheila Taylor
Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Abe Witana
Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, Nyze Manuel
Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi, Janelle Beazley
Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust, Georgina Connolly
Te Whakapiko Hapū, Rowan Tautari

I Tae Mai (In Attendance):

Huihuinga i te katoa (Full Meeting)

Kaiāwhina Kaupapa Māori Technical Advisors
PA/Team Admin, Governance and Engagement
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity
Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Huihuinga i te wahanga (Part Meeting)

Economic Policy Advisor
Economist
Kaiāwhina Tari
Northland Inc, Chair, Suzanne Duncan
Northland Inc, Chief Executive, Paul Linton
Northland Inc, Head of Kaupapa Māori, Enterprise and Innovation, Piripi Moore
Partner, Barker & Associates, David Badham
Kaitohutohu Taiao Senior Advisor, Te Kahu o Taonui, Phillip Grimshaw

Te Ruarangi
13 March 2025

The iwi and hapū caucus commenced at 9.30am with a karakia led by Co-chair Pita Tipene and a mihi by the Pou Manawhakahaere, GM Governance and Engagement. The formal meeting commenced at 11.00am.

Secretarial Note: Nora Rameka advised that she would be stepping down after over a decade of dedicated service to Te Ruarangi (previously the Te Taitokerau Māori Advisory Committee). Whaea Nora's commitment, wisdom, and contributions significantly shaped Te Ruarangi and her presence will be missed. We look forward to Kipa Munro joining us as the Ngāti Rehia representative.

Karakia / Whakataua

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Co-Chair, Tui Shortland
Councillor Joe Carr
Councillor Rick Stolwerk
Kahukuraariki Trust Board Geraldine Baker
Ngāti Tara, Mahue Greaves
Ngātiwai Trust Board, Aperahama Edwards
Te Roroa, Delilah Te Aōrere Parore-Southon
Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari, TBC
Te Whakaminenga o te Hikutu Hapū-Whanau Lynette Wharerau

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 – 13 February 2025 (Item 4.1)

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

Agreed action points: Nil

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

The Action Sheet was received.

Agreed action points: Nli

Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions (Item 4.3)

Action 30 (marine protection and development) has made some progress but there are issues that need attention. The remaining actions are tracking without any significant issues or delays.

Agreed action points: Nil

Northland Inc Limited: Statement of Intent 2025/26 - Draft from Northland Inc (Item 4.4)

This paper sought the views of Te Ruarangi on the draft Northland Inc Statement of Intent (SOI) 2025/26. These views would then be considered at a council workshop on 19 March for inclusion in

Te Ruarangi
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NRC's feedback to the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (JREDC) on the draft SOI. Northland Inc (NINC) Chair, Suzanne Duncan, and Chief Executive, Paul Linton, were present for this discussion. Key discussion points included:

- The draft had made minimal changes to the existing SOI, the aim being to ensure that Northland Inc (NINC) had a good direction that they could deliver on.
- The draft SOI had a strong focus on small to medium enterprises (SMEs). However, the Regional Business Partner (RBP) Network is being reviewed by central government and there may be a shift towards funding larger manufacturing ventures.
- The feedback to NINC was that the draft SOI was weak in terms of Māori economic development (MED), especially given the recent [Te Ōhanga Māori 2023 report](#) from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and that there were concerns about shrinking budgets for strategic regional events such as Whāriki.
- It was strongly suggested that robust forums to discuss economic development in Taitokerau were needed, similar to Wānanga Waioara.
- Additionally, it was questioned whether council was providing adequate scrutiny to the draft SOI, and an adequate resource and budget allocation to support NINC's activities.
- Suggestions were provided on how to improve the metaphor of the whare as a strategic framework to better represent relationships, vision, mission and strategic aspects.
- A question was raised about whether NINC is best placed to take the lead to work alongside other entities on Māori economic development.
- Northland Inc are structured to support the Māori economic development pou. The challenge was funding limitations.

Agreed action points:

- George Riley to send feedback to the Northland Inc team to improve the cohesiveness around the draft SOI where strategic framework.

Secretarial Note: Te Ruarangi acknowledged Co-Chair Pita Tipene's Māori Business Leader Award from the biennial Te Hīringa Māori Business Awards, and that of councillor Peter-Lucas Jones for the Te Tihi award for his international achievements, named in Time Magazine's list of the 100 most influential people in AI in 2024.

Te Rerenga Strategy values and principles and working in partnership with tangata whenua (Item 4.5)

This report summarised the key discussion points and actions from the Te Ruarangi workshop held on 20 February 2025. The workshop explored investment principles and processes in partnership with tangata whenua to guide council responses to economic development opportunities or deals on behalf of the region. Northland Inc (NINC) Chair, Suzanne Duncan, and Chief Executive, Paul Linton, were present for this discussion.

Key Discussion Points:

- Actions from the workshop discussion. Some can be progressed by the council, some by NINC, and some need to be done together.
- Further discussion is needed regarding the action to hold an economic development forum. The Wānanga Waioara model was successful due to who and how it was led, with NRC supporting it rather than leading it. Consideration on how to replicate this for other kaupapa.
- Affirmation of the usefulness of Te Rerenga as a basis for an economic approach and aligning it with government and Mayoral Forum policies.

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- Feedback on the Taitokerau Regional Deals proposal has been positive, noting it as a very professional document. The outcome is expected in late May. If Taitokerau is invited to negotiate with the government, provisions have been made to ensure iwi and hapū representation is included.
- Due to the release of confidential information on the Regional Deals, the government is removing the confidentiality requirement. Information will be shared with Te Ruarangi once any commercially sensitive information is redacted.

Agreed action points:

- That the actions from the report 'Te Rerenga Strategy values and principles and working in partnership with tangata whenua' were endorsed as Te Ruarangi meeting actions.
- A subgroup comprising Co-Chair Pita Tipene, and members Mira Norris and Nyze Manuel, will convene to explore potential options for a Te Taitokerau economic development forum, and then work with staff to consider next steps.

Resource Consent Review Report - 12-month Action Plan (Item 4.6)

This paper provided an update on the 12-month Action Plan based on the Tāiki ē resource consents process review, with a presentation from David Badham (Barker and Associates) and Phillip Grimshaw (Te Kahu o Taonui). The resource consents process review is a significant work programme, guided by the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG). Efforts are focused on developing tools that will make consents information more accessible for iwi, hapū, and key stakeholders. Key discussion points included:

- Benefit of consent information transparency for regional development and landholders
- Reducing duplication across councils by working collaboratively.
- The importance of focusing on water to align with NRC policy around iwi and hapū involvement in resource consents.
- A suggestion that boundaries be removed from the milestones as water is transitory across boundaries and hapū interests are not confined to specific land areas.
- There is an enduring issue about the capacity and resourcing of iwi/hapū, which the report does not address.
- Acknowledgement of the tangible actions from Tāiki ē and the work of MTAG members, and that the minimal discussion was a testament to the project's success.

Agreed action points:

- That Te Ruarangi be provided with progress updates of the 12-month implementation plan to give effect to the report and recommendations, "Tāiki ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process".

Guidelines for appointment of Māori commissioners (Item 4.7)

This report sought feedback on the recently council-approved guidelines for selecting RMA consent hearings commissioners, in particular Māori commissioners. The framework was amended through requests from the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee (ARF) and adopted by council on 10 December 2024. Key discussion points included:

- An expression of disappointment that, despite a specific Tāiki ē action (5) regarding Māori RMA commissioners, the guidelines went to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee prior to seeking feedback from Te Ruarangi.

Te Ruarangi
13 March 2025

- The oversight of not bringing the guidelines to Te Ruarangi first was acknowledged, and it was noted that council endorsed bringing the guidelines to Te Ruarangi for feedback before returning them to ARC.
- The guidelines lacked an emphasis on heritage and history and also seemed overly prescriptive.

Agreed action points:

- That Te Ruarangi provides feedback to the guidance framework for selecting and appointing RMA Consent Hearings Commissioners as set out in the Background/Tuhinga section of this report.
- That staff work with the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) to develop and draft the changes for Te Ruarangi approval before returning to the Audit and Risk Committee for their consideration.

Update on Marine Protected Areas (Item 4.8)

This report, taken as read, provided an overview of the Rāhui Tapu/Marine Protected Areas currently managed under the Resource Management Act in Te Taitokerau, compiled in anticipation of a future Te Ruarangi workshop on the plan change process related to Northland Regional Council's marine protected areas. Key discussion points included:

- An application for Envirolink funding to conduct ecological mapping with the University of Auckland.
- Ngāti Rehia discussed monitoring barren kina areas with the University of Auckland, and how the hapū is building the monitoring capacity and capability among their rangatahi, and the need for rāhui to protect coastline and manage kaimoana resources.
- Concern was raised about how council determines who has mana i te moana and reconciliation of iwi and hapū interests.
- Staff began by working with hapū identified through the Environment Court, providing reports to iwi, and engaging with any hapū claiming mana i te moana. They acknowledged the hapū list might not be comprehensive and that not all hapū are aware of forums like Te Ruarangi for engagement.
- The use of a closed tender process was requested by the hapū involved to avoid unaffiliated groups and it made sense to have preferred suppliers within the rohe.
- The need for better communication with the Te Hiku and Mid-North fisheries forums about marine protected areas was highlighted.

Agreed action points:

- That staff bring a further update on implementation progress to a future meeting.
- That staff provide a paper on fishing control legislative provisions following conclusion of the law reform process.
- That the Kaiwhakahaere Moana Ora find a helpful fisheries communication channel for Ngāti Rehia.
- That Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity and Kaiwhakahaere Moana Ora liaise with Nyze Manuel so that fisheries forums can be made aware of marine protected areas.

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Central Government Legislative Changes (Item 4.9)

This report provided an overview of recent and upcoming central government legislative changes relevant to Northland Regional Council (NRC) and iwi and hapū partners. Key discussion points included:

- Concerns about the steady dismantling of iwi and hapū involvement in processes, noting that council's submissions on Bills have highlighted the undermining of Te Tiriti partnerships.
- The value of staff working alongside Te Ruarangi (TR) in making submissions, despite the challenge of short timeframes.
- The Regulatory Standards Bill could have a chilling effect by not explicitly requiring reference to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- There is an opportunity for a joint response (by 28 April) to proposed changes to wastewater standards which may remove NRC's ability to enforce more stringent wastewater standards.
- Lower wastewater standards might reduce costs but do not necessarily improve outcomes. Consents are effects-based, asking "what is the outcome of this activity?" Whereas we can't go back and ask about the effects of a standard, just whether the standard is met.
- The Resource Management Reform Bill (RMA) creates a risk of commercial fishing having a veto right over the RMA, however the Bill did retain some discretion for council around creating rāhui tapu.
- Despite the legislative changes, Te Ruarangi is on a good trajectory. This is evident in staff's use of inclusive language, such as Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the normalisation of both Māori and English in forums.

Agreed action points:

- The Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services will approach the council to undertake a similar process for the Wastewater Standards submission as proposed for the Fast Track Approvals Bill in Item 4.10 and will email Te Ruarangi with the council's response.

Fast-track Approvals Act (Item 4.10)

The purpose of this report was to seek nominations of iwi and hapū members of Te Ruarangi to participate in council workshops relating to applications that are being processed under the new Fast-track Approvals Act. Key discussion points:

- That the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) provide technical advice and guidance, in particular any options that could mitigate some of the shortcomings in the legislation as they relate to iwi and hapū involvement.

Agreed action points:

- That iwi and hapū members Nyze Manuel, Abe Witana and Sheila Taylor are nominated to be involved in council workshops relating to Fast-track Approval proposals. This provides two members to attend the workshops and an alternate
- That the Māori Technical Advisory Group provide technical advice and guidance on the Fast-track approvals Act to the Policy and Planning Team.

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 4.11)

The report was taken as read.

Agreed action points:

- That Nyze Manuel and Mira Norris (with Mike Kake as an alternative) are nominated to be on the judging panel for the Whakamānawa ā Taiao | Environmental Awards 2025.

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The awards will be held from 5.00 – 9.00pm, 26 June, Waitangi Treaty Grounds (Tahuaroa Function Centre).

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 2.30pm with karakia by Mike Kake.

Unconfirmed

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: 02 May 2025

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 [↓](#) 

TTMAC actions as at 17 April 2025

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

Completed: The action has been completed. No further work is required or the work is now considered BAU. These actions are archived after a month.
In progress: The action is currently being worked on and is not yet completed.
Stationary, Overdue: The action is stalled or overdue and action is needed to get back on track.
Pending start / Upcoming tasks: actions that are scheduled to start in the future and have not yet begun.

Meeting date	Action(s)	Tāiki ē reference	Status	C&C	MR	W/M	CC	ED
14/11/2024	Resourcing Māori Technical Expertise That the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) assist in in proposing a process for establishing a supplier panel and bring their recommendations back to TTMAC.	Actions 24, 25. Priority 3	Stationary. A paper was presented at MTAG's meeting on 13 December 2024. However, due to prioritising other actions, the timeframe for this task has been delayed.	✓				
13/02/2025	TTMAC Strategic Review That the TTMAC Review Working Party be reconvened to review membership options for clause 7 and bring the recommendations back to a TTMAC meeting.	N/A	Pending start.		✓			
13/02/2025	Annual Report process Staff to create an engagement plan for gathering stories from the following nominated iwi and hapū for inclusion in the Annual Report: - Michelle (Barb) Elboz – Caulerpa, Predator Free - Nora Rameka – Ngāti Rehia, Mana Whakahono a Rohe - Pita Tipene – Jobs for Nature, Te Papa Pa Orooro - Nyze Manuel – Wananga Waiora, Kaitiaki network - Niki Conrad – mahi with Te Aupōuri.	Action 31, Priority 2	In progress. Staff have been briefed and are working on an engagement plan.	✓	✓			
20/02/2025	Economic development workshop Staff to consider developing an annual workplan and orientation for the new triennium.	Action 29. Priority 2	Completed. This work will be considered as part of the council induction process.					✓

Meeting date	Action(s)	Tāiki ē reference	Status	C&C	MR	W/M	CC	ED
13/03/2025	Te Taitokerau economic development forum The 20 Feb workshop action for staff to develop ideas for an Economic Development Summit, focused on Te Rerenga was endorsed at the 13 March formal meeting. Additionally, a subgroup comprising Co-Chair Pita Tipene, and members Mira Norris and Nyze Manuel, to convene to explore potential options for a Te Taitokerau economic development forum, and then work with staff to consider next steps.	Action 29, Priority 2	In progress. An initial discussion was held with the iwi and hapū subgroup comprising Pita Tipene, Nyze Manuel and Mira Norris on 23 April 2025.					✓
13/03/2025	Resource consent review report - 12-month action plan Provide Te Ruarangi with progress updates of the 12-month implementation plan to give effect to the report and recommendations, "Tāiki ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process".	Action 9, Priority 1	In progress.	✓	✓	✓		
13/03/2025	Guidelines for appointment of Māori Commissioners That staff work with the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) to develop and draft proposed changes to the guidelines for Te Ruarangi approval before returning to the Audit and Risk Committee for their consideration.	Action 5, Priority 2	In progress. On the Māori Technical Advisory Group workplan for consideration at their 30 April 2025 meeting.	✓	✓	✓		
13/03/2025	Marine protected areas That staff bring a further update on implementation progress to a future meeting, provide a paper on fishing control legislative provisions following conclusion of the law reform process, and organise a workshop on marine protection at a future Te Ruarangi workshop.	Action 30, Priority 3	In progress. Two actions have been completed: 1. To provide a fisheries contact for Ngāti Rehia. 2. Contact Nyze Manuel re increasing fisheries forums awareness of rāhui tapu and marine protected areas.			✓		
13/03/2025	Fast-track Approvals Act That Nyze Manuel, Abe Witana and Sheila Taylor be involved in council workshops relating to Fast-track Approval proposals. That the Māori Technical Advisory Group provide technical advice and guidance on the Fast-track Approvals Act to the Policy and Planning Team.	Action 13, Priority 1	In progress. Nyze, Abe and Sheila invited to the council workshop on 29 April re ast track Approvals "projects of Interest' and Resource Management Reforms. MTAG provided advice at the 3 April MTAG meeting re the Fast-track Approvals Act.	✓	✓	✓		
13/03/2025	Central government legislative changes The Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services will approach the council to undertake a similar process for the Wastewater Standards submission as proposed for the Fast Track Approvals Bill in Item 4.10 and will email Te Ruarangi with the council's response.	Action 30, Priority 3	In progress.	✓	✓	✓	✓	

TITLE: Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions

From: Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 02 May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the monthly update 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 Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement and dated 15 April 2025, 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 - report on priority actions [↓](#) 

KEY					
On track / Proceeding smoothly: All tasks and milestones are being completed on time and within scope. No significant issues or delays.					
Needs attention: Progress has been made but there are some issues that are being addressed to avoid delays. E.g. minor delays due to resource constraints, some tasks are taking longer than expected.					
Critical Issues: Significant problems are hindering progress and action is needed to get back on track. E.g. major technical issues, budget overruns impacting the timeline.					
Pending start / Upcoming tasks: tasks that are scheduled to start in the future and have not yet begun.					
Actions	Work item	Priority	Progress	Notes	Budget
Action 01	Te Tiriti Health Check	Priority 1	On track	See separate paper. Work programme updated and Te Ruarangi workshop date to be confirmed.	\$25,000 per annum for independent ‘health check’ of council’s Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations \$100,000 per annum from 2022/23 for implementation of recommendations
Action 02	Continue developing Tāiki ē	Priority 1	On track	Council position re Transfer of Powers being developed e.g Te Mana me te Mauri o te Wai, Māori Representation	
Action 03	Increase IHEMPs	Priority 2	On track	Working through allocation process. Four applications received	\$30,000
Action 04	Manawhakahono a Rohe agreements	Priority 1	On track		\$30,000 per annum
Action 05	Māori RMA Hearing Commissioners	Priority 2	On track	There are now 13 newly accredited RMA commissioners from November 2024 cohort.	
Action 06	Targeted educational noho on Resource Management processes	Priority 2	On track	see separate paper re Wānanga Waiora	\$20,000 per annum RMA noho
Action 07	Develop a culturally appropriate environmental monitoring programme	Priority 1	On track	Working with consultant to complete a audit on monitoring teams re culture appropriate monitoring currently underway, to use as a baseline, hopefully complete this fy. Still trying to progress the kaitiaki network.	Budgeted: \$250,000 22/23 ongoing (specific purpose and allocation yet to be confirmed)
Action 08	Hapū freshwater monitoring	Priority 1	On track	Working through allocation process. 22 applications received.	
Action 09	Regulatory services delivery	Priority 1	On track	12-month Action Plan received from March 2025, David Badham and continue to work with MTAG to implement over next 12 months	Taiki e implementation
Action 10	Support education providers	Priority 3	On track	No change	Unbudgeted
Action 11	Tangata whenua resourced to particpate in governance decision making	Priority 1	On track	Independent tangata whenua advisors. TTMAC review with recommendations to be implemented. See separate paper.	
Action 12	External funding for iwi/hapū	Priority 2	On track	Staff assist iwi and hapū to apply for funding - Access 2 Experts, Community Resilience (MSD).	Within existing resources
Action 13	Joint advocacy	Priority 1	On track	see separate paper - Central Government Legislative Changes	Within existing resources.
Action 14	Streamline councils' collaboration	Priority 3	On track	see separate paper - Te Ōhanga Māori - Māori Economy Statistics & Report	Within existing resources.
Action 15	Tangata whenua governance opportunities	Priority 1	On track	TTMAC, Tangata Whenua independant expert roles, working parties	Budgeted
Action 16	Deliver specific projects within agreed priority areas of	Priority 2	On track	There are a series of projects that we are working in partnership with iwi/hapū (e.g. rāhui moana)	Budgeted
Action 17	Cultural competency framework	Priority 2	On track	Kaupapa Māori Employment Outcomes Framework Managers wānaga to be held at Ngaiotonga marae. Review of Te Whāriki underway and job description for kaupapa Māori HR role to be finalised to join Māori Relationships Team.	Within existing resources
Action 18	Scholarship/Intern programme	Priority 2	On track	Interviews completed	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	see separate paper - Te Ōhanga Māori - Māori Economy Statistics & Report	
Action 20	Iwi/hapū contacts database	Priority 2	On track	Ongoing a part of Resource Consents Review 12 month plan on Tangata Whenua contact database including GIS and IRIS updates presented March 2025.	Budgeted \$20,000
Action 21	Transfer of powers	Priority 2	On track	Council position re Transfer of Powers being developed	
Action 22	Māori constituencies	Priority 1	On track	see separate paper Local Government Elections 2025	Budgeted: \$20,000 allocated in governance budget for 22(a)
Action 23	Equitable/safe environment for councillors	Priority 1	On track	Funding of Te Reo Māori interpreter services commencing 24/25 financial year	Within existing resources
Action 24	Procurement	Priority 3	On track	NRC have registered with Amotai in order to connect to more Māori and/or Pasifika owned businesses who service Te Taitokerau. Linked to resourcing independant Māori technical expertise	Within existing resources
Action 25	Council contracts for iwi and hapū	Priority 3	On track	See also Action 24. Progressive procurement to be explored and benefits for tangata whenua and council under the economic whainga.	Within existing resources.
Action 26	Long Term Plan / Annual Plan	Priority 1	Completed	LTP process completed	
Action 27	Freshwater Plan	Priority 1	On track	See Action 7	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	On track	Focus on implementation of hapori Māori resilience plan	Budgeted and underway within existing resources. Further budget required to fully implement the action.
Action 29	Sustainable economic development	Priority 2	Needs attention	Workshop held 20 February 2025 that provided an opportunity to explore future principles and processes of investment in partnership with tangata whenua that will help guide and support council when responding to economic development on behalf of the region.	Unbudgeted Further budget required to fully implement the action.
Action 30	Marine protection and development	Priority 3	Needs attention	Paper brought to Te Ruarangi March 2025	Budgeted: \$50,000 Further budget required to fully implement the action.
Action 31	KPI framework for Ngā Whainga	Priority 2	On track	Annual report under development and will be presented at end of financial year.	Within existing resources

TITLE: **Te Ōhanga Māori - Māori Economy Statistics & Report**

From: Darryl Jones, Economist; Emmanouela Galanou, Economic Policy Advisor and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 02 May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

Tāiki ē Action 29

Ensure strong tāngata whenua self-reliance and self-determination through sustainable economic development by:

- a. Supporting tāngata whenua to develop and implement their own economic development plans; and*
- b. Co-designing regional plans for economic development in Taitokerau (e.g., Taitokerau Economic Action Plan, and Te Rerenga) and ensuring that these include clear, measurable and achievable actions.*

Who	Timeframe	Budgeted	Whainga / Goal	Prio rity
Northland Inc in partnership with Northland Councils, the Crown, iwi and hapū and public / private entities	1-3 years and ongoing	Unbudgeted Further budget required to fully implement the action.	Capability Capacity Partnership Whai Rawa Whai Mana Whai Oranga	2

The purpose of this agenda item is to address Action 29 and the actions identified through discussion at the Te Ruarangi workshop held on 20 February 2025. The workshop was a deep dive into the specific Tāiki ē whāinga (goal) of economic development. The actions from that workshop are noted in the background below.

This presentation and report provides Te Ruarangi with detailed information and insights into the state and trends of the Māori economy in Te Taitokerau, to inform ongoing discussions. Emmanouela Galanou will present (Attachment 1), drawing on data and analysis from Infometrics, BERL, Te Puni Kōkiri, and Statistics NZ.

At the national level, the study "Te Ōhanga Māori 2023" by BERL, commissioned by MBIE and released on March 10, 2025, is available online at <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/30486-te-ohanga-maori-2023-report-pdf>. Additionally, BERL has conducted research for NZ Māori Tourism (NZMT) on the value of Māori tourism in 2025, which can be accessed at <https://berl.co.nz/our-mahi/value-maori-tourism>.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Te Ōhanga Māori - Māori Economy Statistics & Report ' by Darryl Jones, Economist; Emmanouela Galanou, Economic Policy Advisor and Auriole Ruka, Pou

Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

Tuhinga/Background

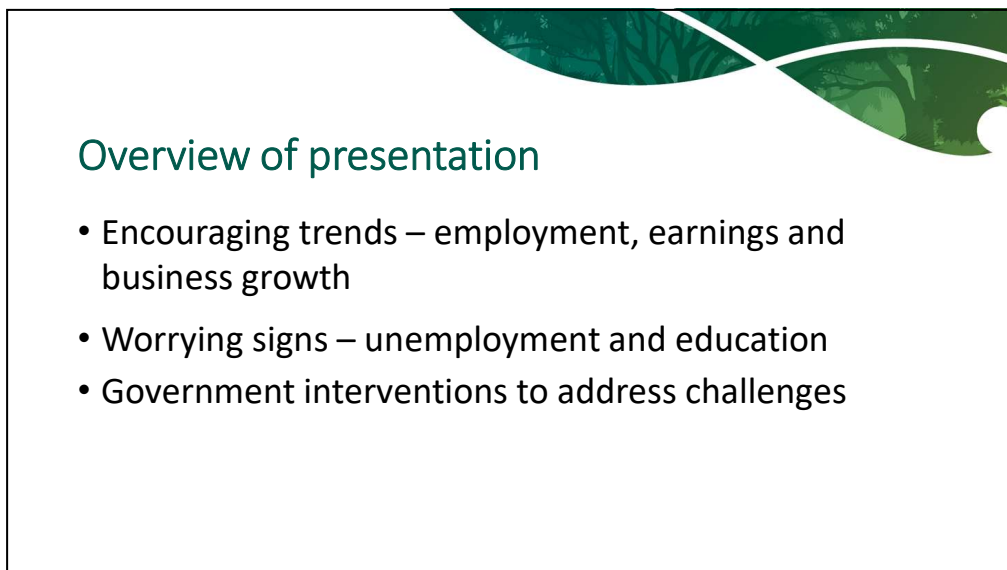
Action	Status
Staff to review the timing of the Statement of Intent (SOI) to ensure there is sufficient time for input moving forward.	Completed. The SOI was presented to Te Ruarangi for their feedback at the 13 March Te Ruarangi meeting. Northland Inc's chair and chief executive were in attendance.
Staff to discuss with Northland Inc the actions identified by Te Ruarangi including an economic development summit that supports the implementation of Taiki ē Action 29.	In progress. The proposition for an economic development summit was raised at the Te Ruarangi meeting on 13 March. During this meeting, a subgroup was formed to explore potential options for the summit and to work with staff on the next steps. An in-depth discussion with Northland Inc is still pending.
Staff to consider a process to work on an annual economic development workplan for Te Ruarangi and this could be also part of an orientation for the new council in the next triennium.	Completed. This will be considered as part of the induction preparation for new councils.
Staff to look at what safeguards exist when reviewing the SOI.	Completed. Te Rerenga provides key values and guidelines, with its acknowledgement of He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi as foundational documents for Te Taitokerau.
Staff to establish a feedback loop after JREDC's meeting about the submission.	Completed. The media release regarding the proposed Northland Regional Deal was emailed on 3 April 2024 to Te Ruarangi members, along with supporting FAQs, and public version of the application document. There is a paper in the 8 May Te Ruarangi agenda.
Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs to raise concerns with JREDC members about the feedback given about the regional deals process by both TTMAC and Te Kuaka.	Completed. The Joint Regional Economic Development Committee meeting considering the regional deals proposal was held 21 February 2025.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Māori economy in Tai Tokerau [↓](#) 

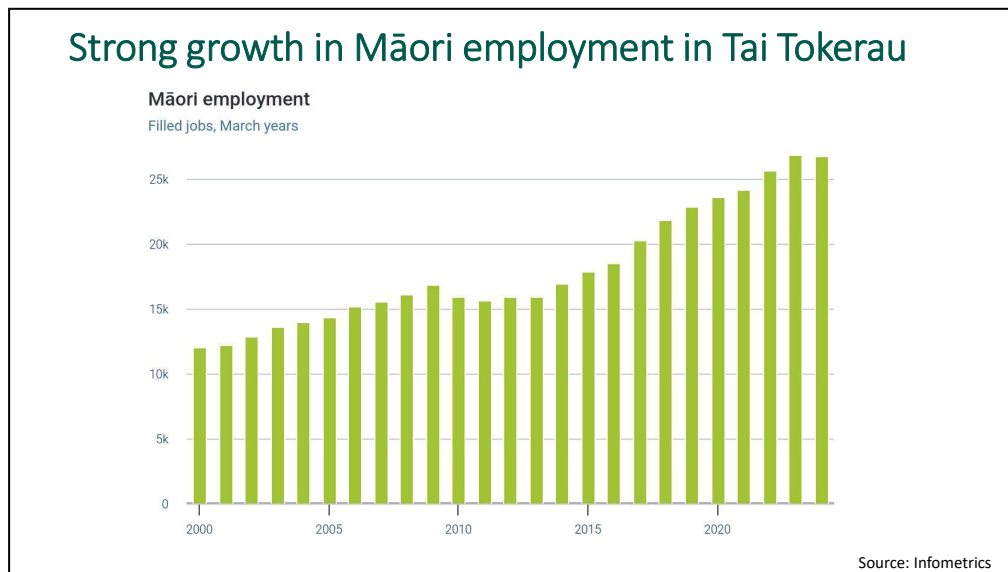


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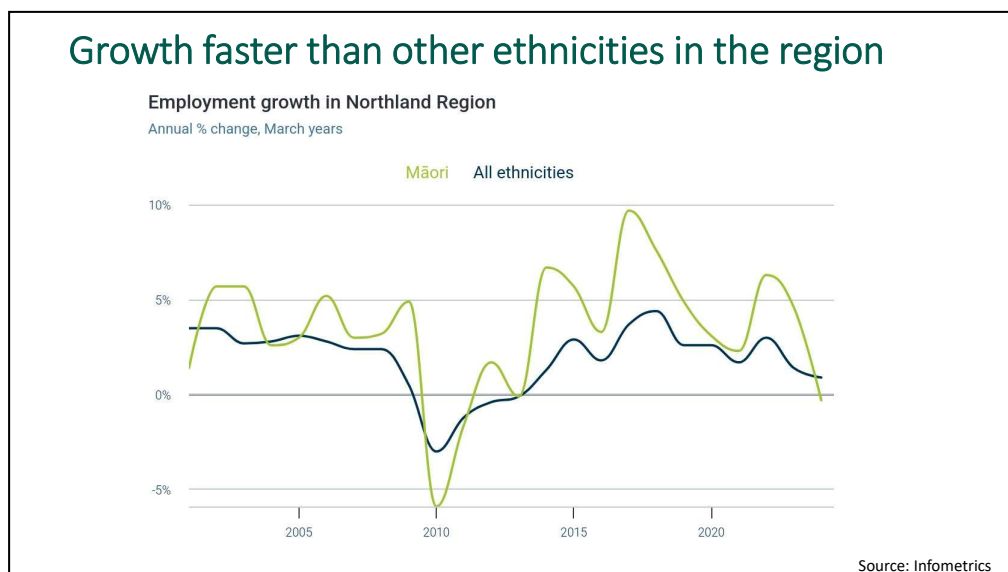


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1/05/2025

Stronger than the national average in recent years

Employment growth for Māori

Annual % change, March years



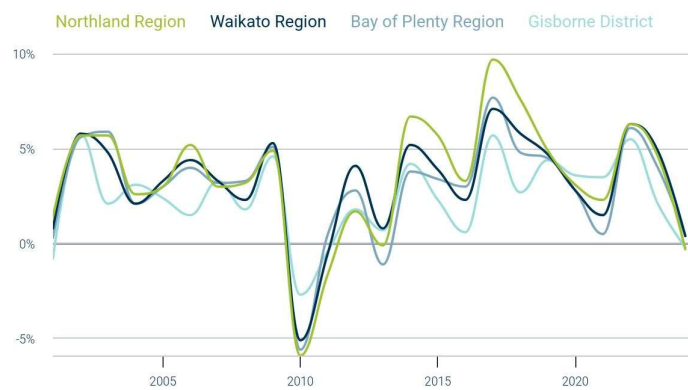
Source: Infometrics

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And generally at least as fast as other similar regions

Employment growth for Māori

Annual % change, March years



Source: Infometrics

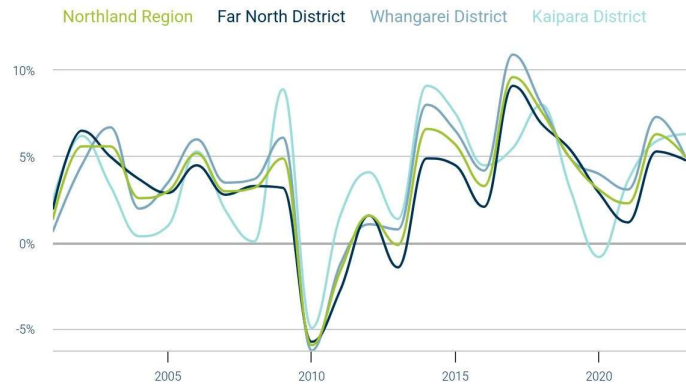
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Similar trend across districts but slower in Far North

Employment growth for Māori

Annual % change, March years



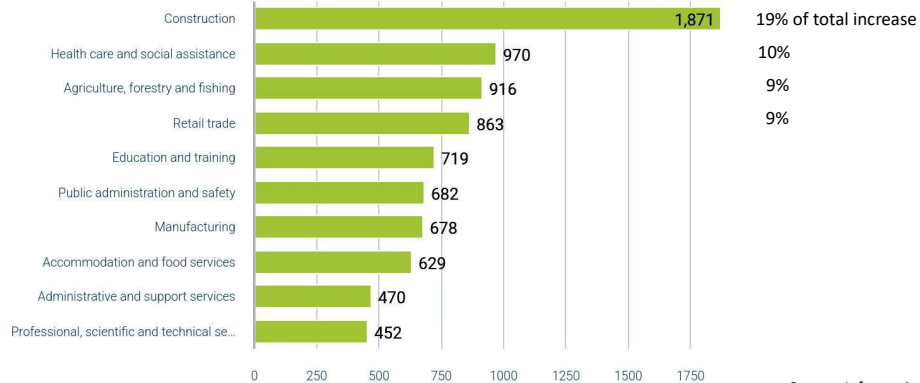
Source: Infometrics

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Large increase in construction but broad based

Top 10 employment creating industries for Māori, ANZSIC Level 1, 2014 - 2024

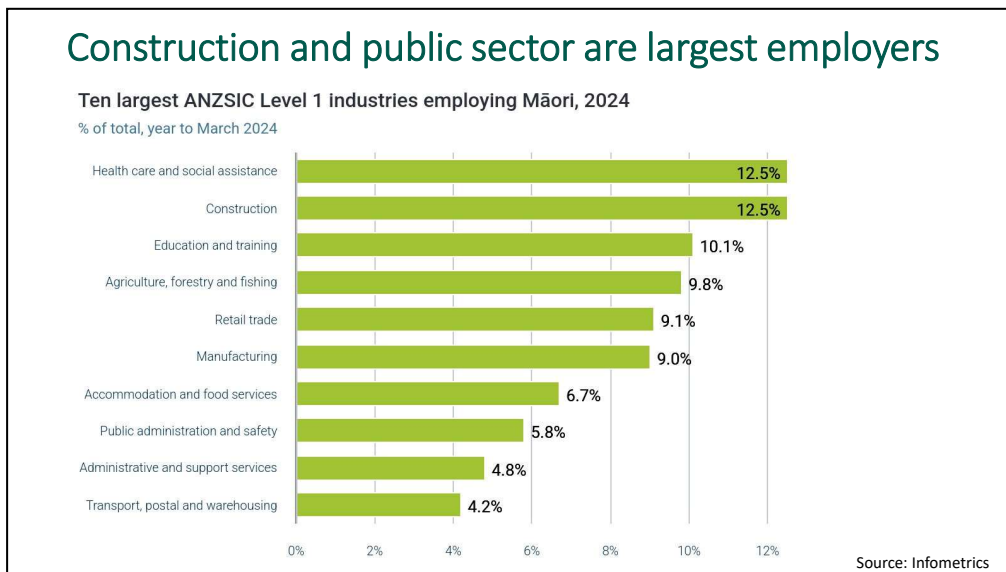
Absolute change in filled jobs, March years



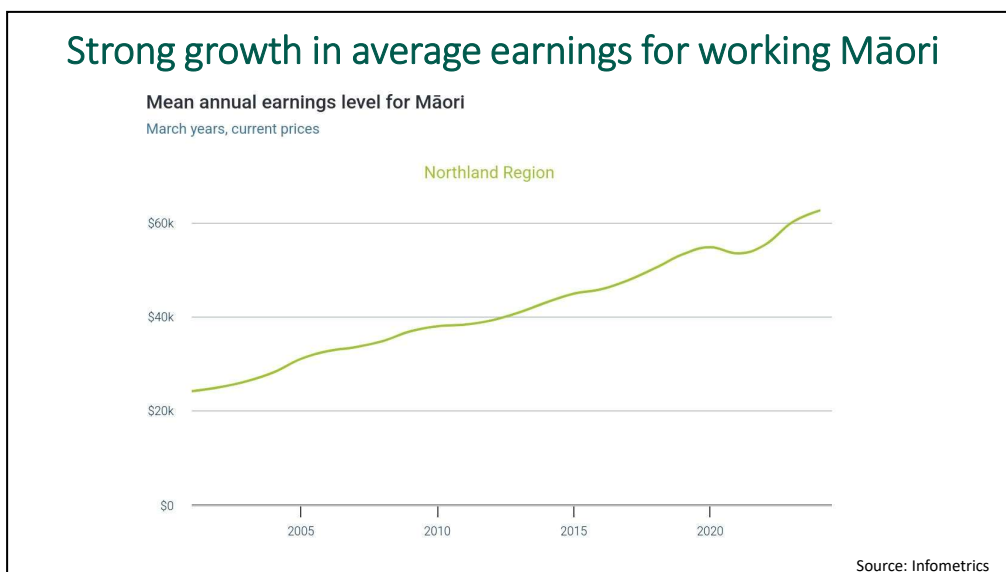
Source: Infometrics

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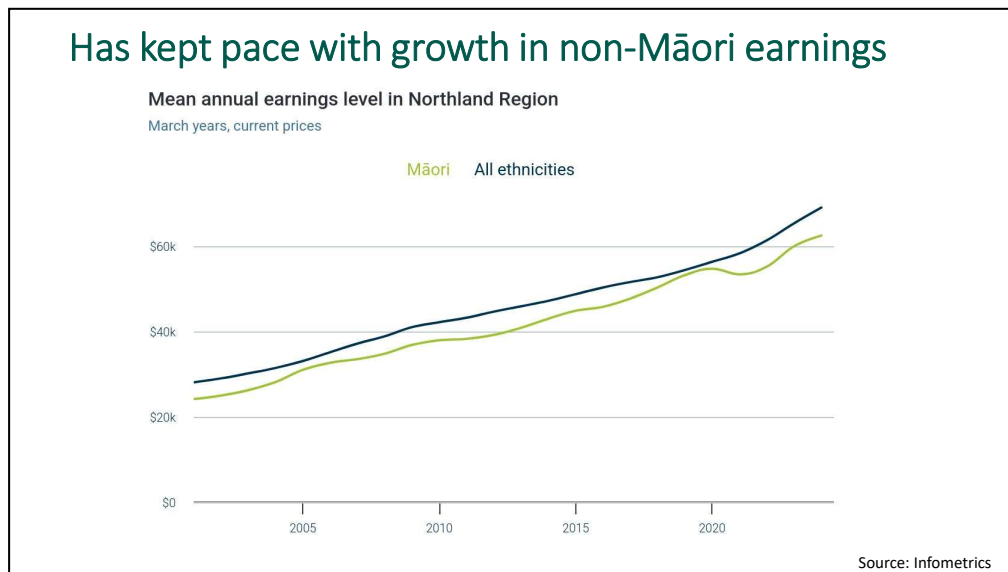
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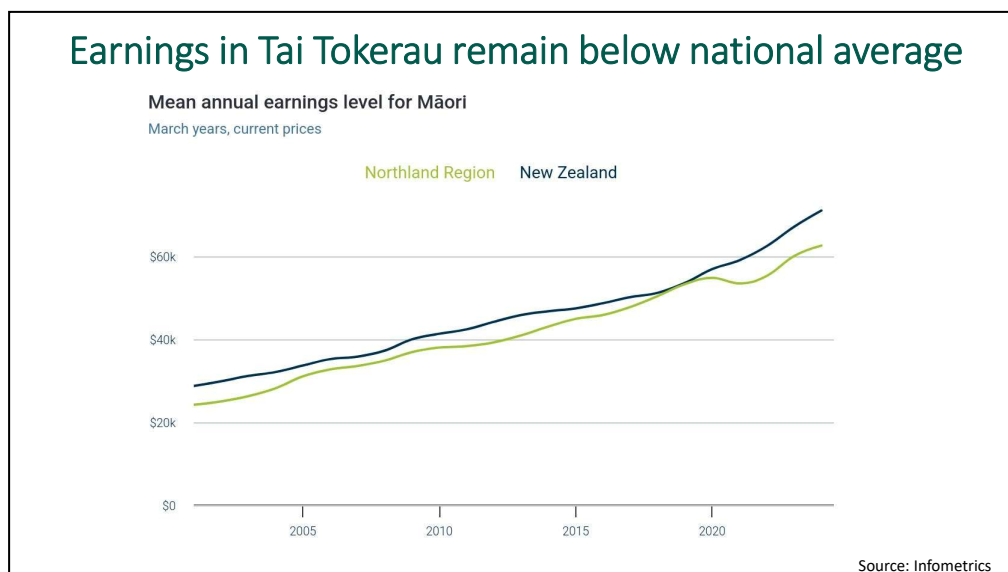
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1/05/2025



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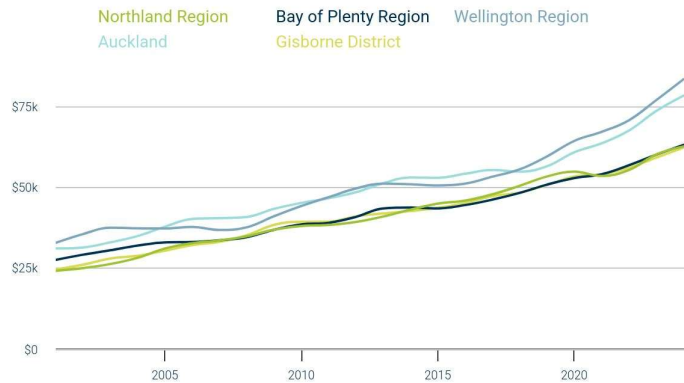
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6

But are very similar to other “regions”

Mean annual earnings level for Māori

March years, current prices

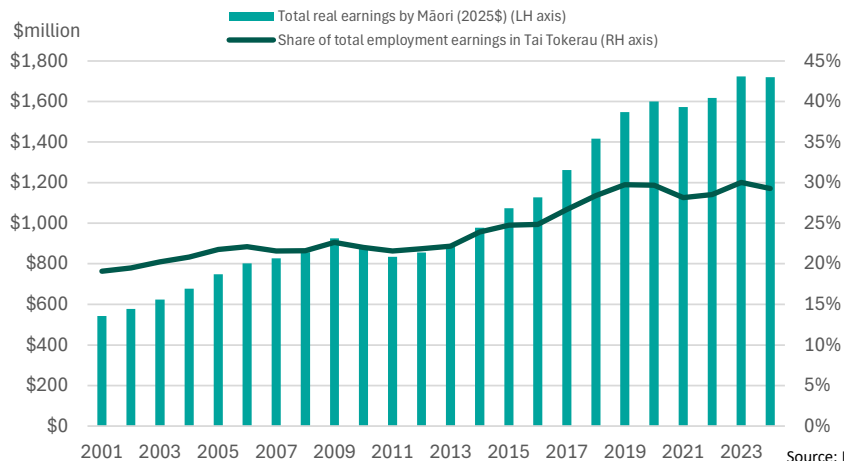


Source: Infometrics

13

Māori receiving an increasing share of earnings

Total employment earnings by Māori in Tai Tokerau



Source: Infometrics

14

1/05/2025

Māori business data from TPK

Aim – to identify and count all businesses with Māori ownership in Aotearoa New Zealand

Uses of Stats NZ’s Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI), Longitudinal Business Database2 (LBD)

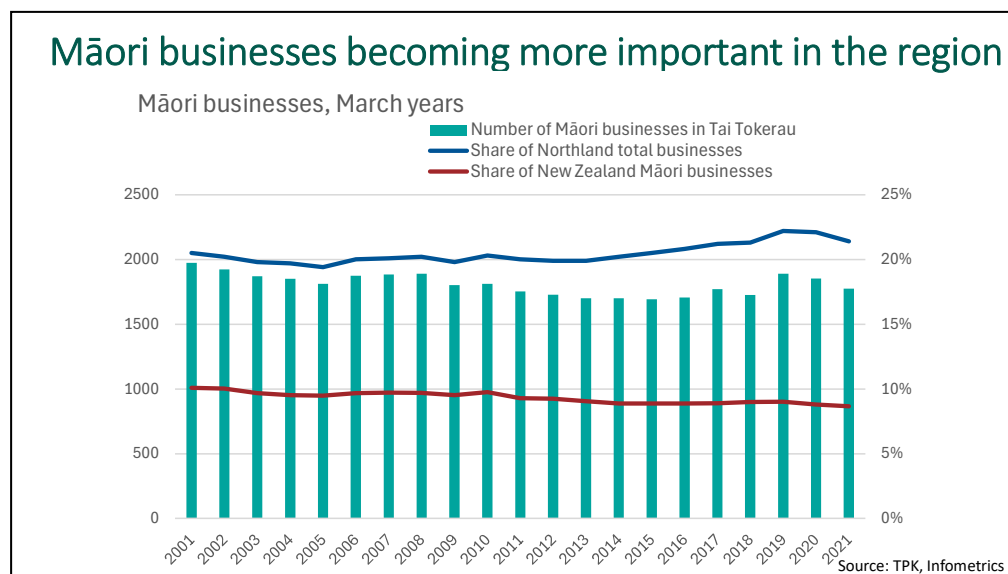
Business – entity where the employer and employee(s) are two distinct legal entities and is considered economically significant. Most of these businesses are Companies and Partnerships.

Excludes sole-traders and businesses that are not private-for-profit, including Māori Authorities, iwi-owned businesses, locally-owned trading entities, and charities.

Māori – a business where at least one Working Proprietor (WP) is of Māori ethnicity or descent and receives a non-zero ownership income in a financial reporting year.

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
Te Puni Kōkiri
Te Matapaeroa 2021
Data on the Māori Economy

15



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1/05/2025

Similar trend to the national average in recent years

Māori business growth

Annual % change, March years



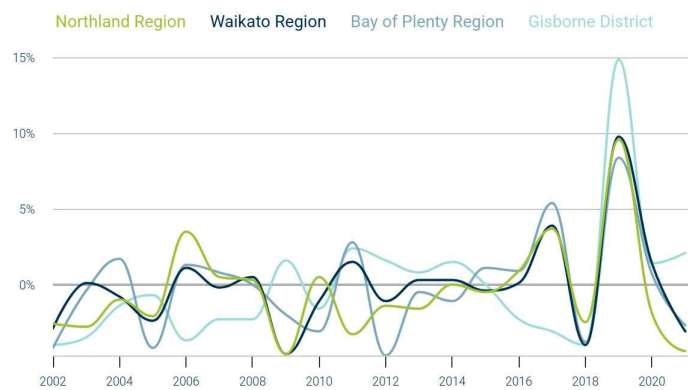
Source: Infometrics

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Plenty of regional variation

Māori business growth

Annual % change, March years



Source: Infometrics

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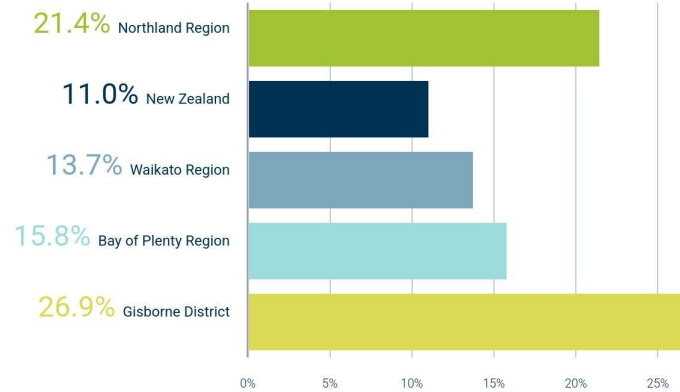
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1/05/2025

Māori businesses relatively important in Tai Tokerau

Māori business share, 2021

% of businesses that are Māori owned, year to March 2021



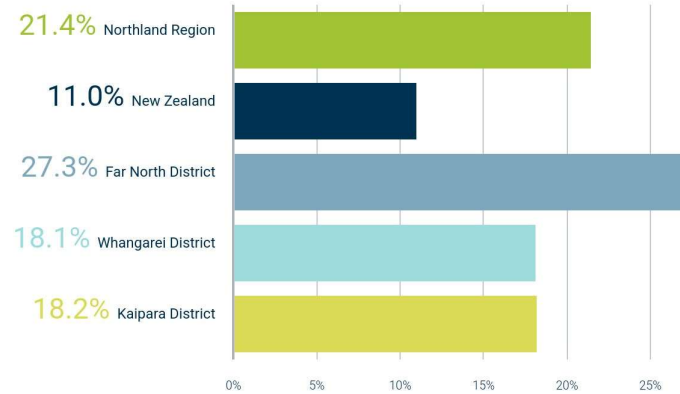
Source: Infometrics

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Especially in the Far North

Māori business share, 2021

% of businesses that are Māori owned, year to March 2021

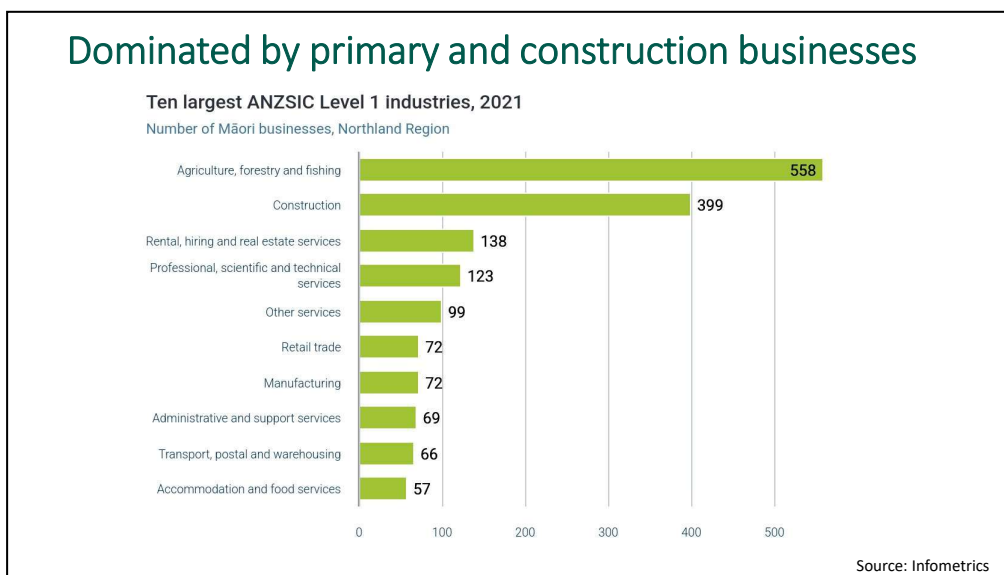


Source: Infometrics

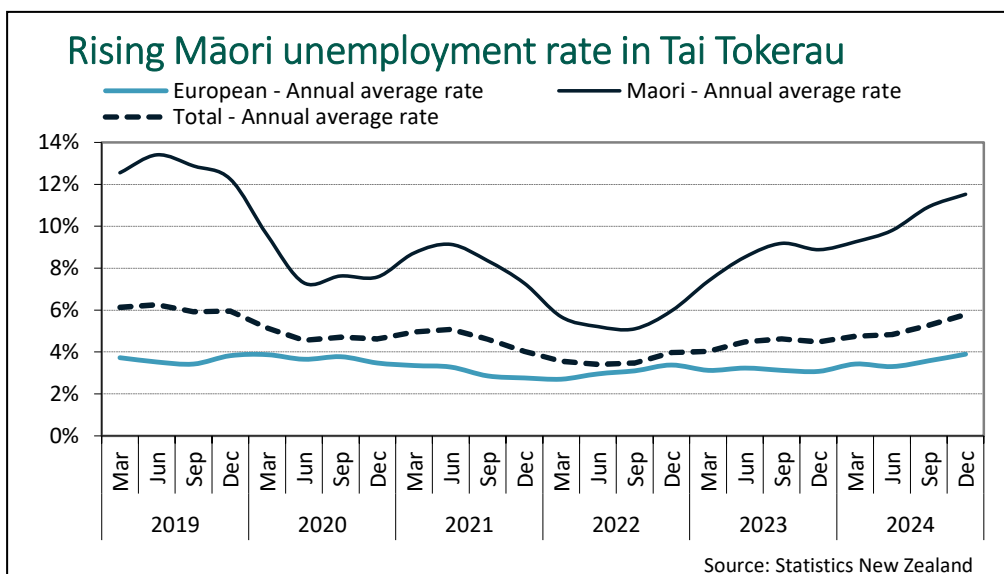
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1/05/2025

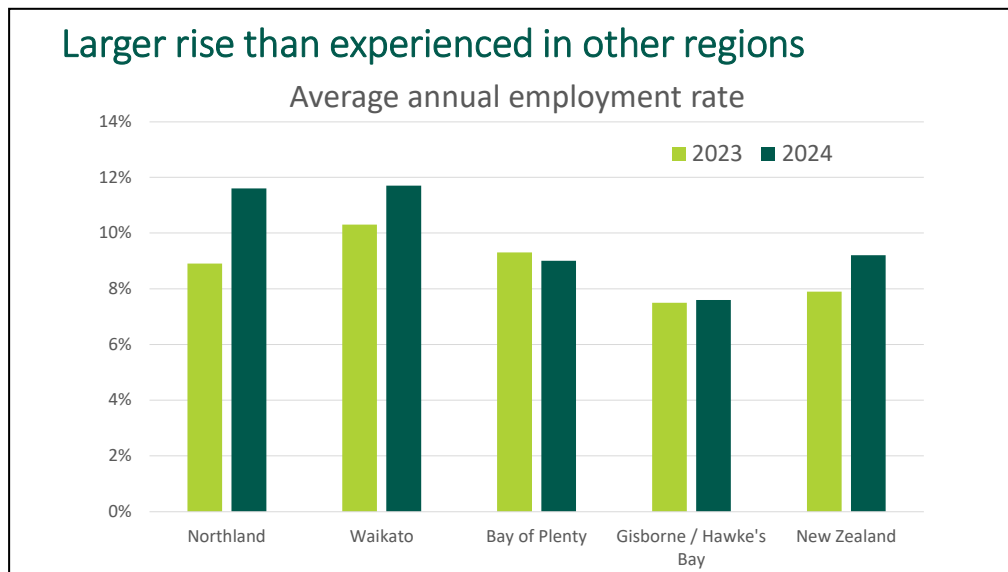


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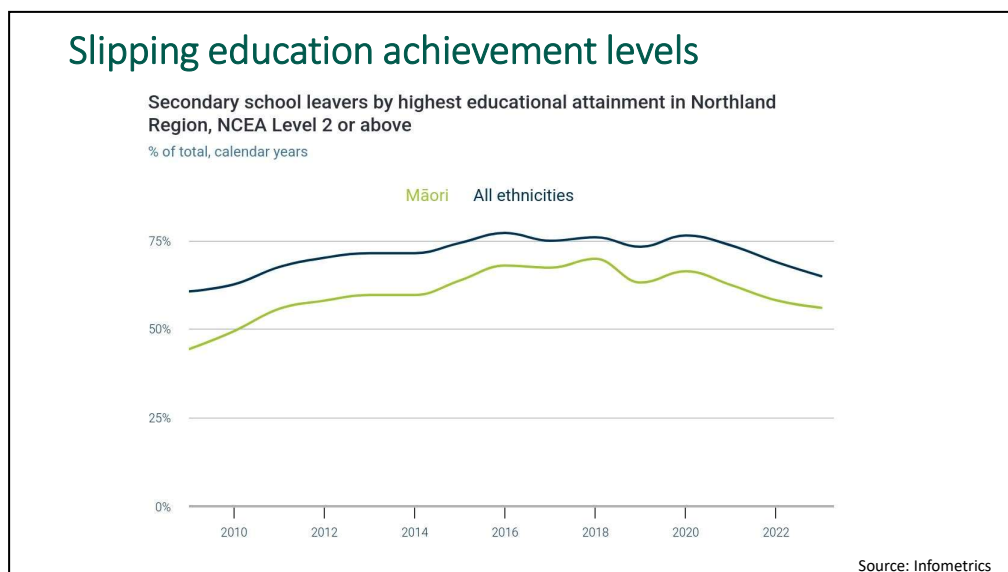


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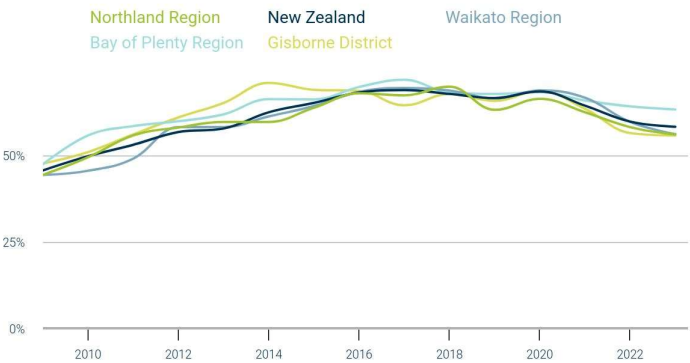
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12

1/05/2025

Unfortunately following national and regional trend




Secondary school leavers by highest educational attainment for Māori,
NCEA Level 2 or above
% of total, calendar years



Source: Infometrics

25

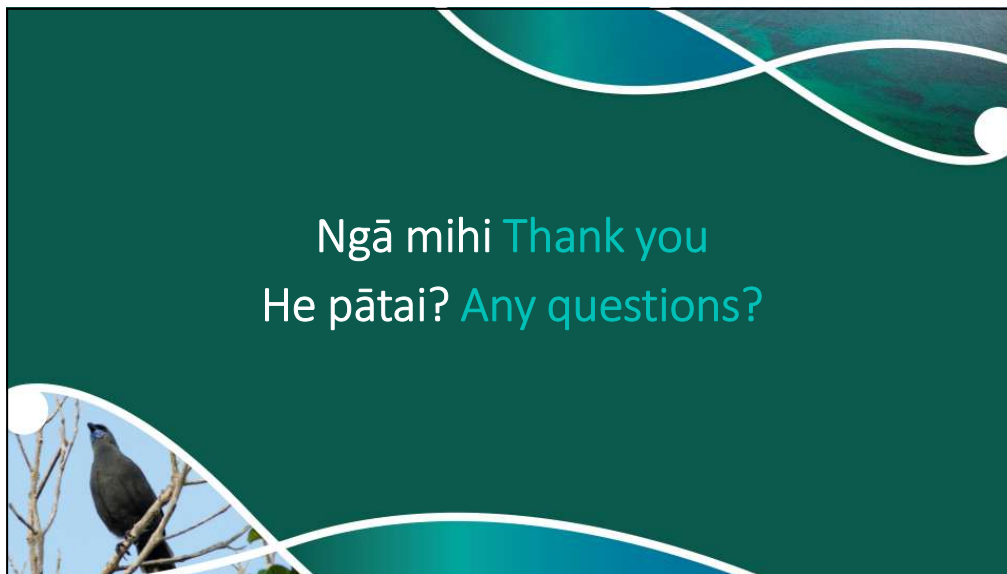
Government interventions to address challenges “Going for Growth with Māori | Tōnui Māori ”

	Current initiatives to unlock new investment in whenua Māori, infrastructure and accelerate exports	Towards long-term outcomes, by 2035:
 Competitive Business Settings	1. Reform the regulatory and legislative framework applying to Māori-owned land & lift capital access <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Simplify planning and related processes<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a National Papakāinga Direction Statement and enable granny flats on Māori land• Amend Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993b. Facilitate capital access and inflows<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Optimise tei and Māori funding collaboration with government• Facilitate lending options for Māori land development (e.g. Regional Infrastructure Fund)• Amend the Māori Trustee Act 1993	Improved land asset utilisation and productivity
 Infrastructure for Growth	2. Infrastructure Investment <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Elevate cross-agency work to activate tei and Māori co-investment in infrastructure (PPP, energy, water storage)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expedite significant tei and Māori led or partnered fast track projects• Facilitate tei and Māori co-investment in the infrastructure pipeline (e.g. PPP and Infrastructure Summit 2025)• Progress RfF support for tei and Māori led or partnered regional projects (e.g. geothermal, water)• Advance project feasibility to “investment ready” status in emerging sectors (e.g. aquaculture)b. Tei led system innovation and investment collaboration<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support tei infrastructure partners (e.g. Rauawa)	Asset diversification and wealth creation through regional co-investment
 Promoting global trade and investment	3. Boost export receipts of Māori business <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Strengthen the pipeline of fast-growing Māori exporters and shore up Māori tourism<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliberately focus Māori primary sector investment to lift export receipts• Accelerate Export Partnership Programme and Digital Scale for Export• Leverage FTAs and Indigenous Collaboration Agreements for tei and Māori economic growth• Optimise tei and Māori participation on international trade delegations• Promote Māori tourism as unique selling proposition and platform for export growthb. Support Māori exporters’ global USP through domestic and international recognition of Māori traditional knowledge<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress biodiversity protection for indigenous flora/fauna• Address regulatory barriers to commercialisation, e.g. recognition of cultural intellectual property and provenance	Strengthen pipeline of high productivity tei and Māori exporters, and protect provenance value add

[Going for Growth with Māori | Tōnui Māori](#)

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1/05/2025



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TITLE: Igniting Northland's Potential: Light Touch Regional Deal Proposal - Update

From: Darryl Jones, Economist and Emmanouela Galanou, Economic Policy Advisor

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 02 May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Te Ruarangi with an update on the Regional Deal Light Touch Proposal that was submitted to central government on Friday 28 February 2025. This was initially discussed at the Te Ruarangi meeting on Thursday 13 February 2025.

The full application and supporting appendices have been made public and are available through Northland Inc's website ([Northland's Regional Deals Proposal Full Document](#)). This was also emailed to Te Ruarangi members on Thursday 3 April. The most recent advice from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is that government intends to announce the three successful regions on 26 May (one region for negotiation in 2025 and two for 2026).

In preparation for that announcement, council would like to obtain guidance on how to engage with iwi and hapu in the negotiations should Northland be selected as one of the three regions. This includes providing advice and input on the sector priorities.

The Joint Regional Economic Development Committee have been delegated the responsibility on behalf of all four councils make decision relating to the government's Regional Deals initiative for establishing long-term agreements between central and local government, including but not limited to submitting a proposal, finalising a Memorandum of Understanding and negotiating a deal, ensuring alignment with regional priorities and collaboration among councils.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Igniting Northland's Potential: Light Touch Regional Deal Proposal - Update' by Darryl Jones, Economist and Emmanouela Galanou, Economic Policy Advisor and dated 17 April 2025, be received.

Tuhinga/Background

Not relevant.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: Central Government Legislative Changes

From: Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor;
Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager

**Authorised by
Group Manager/s:** Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 02 May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of recent, currently progressing, and upcoming central government legislative changes that are relevant to Northland Regional Council (NRC) and tangata whenua partners. A summary report of these legislative changes is provided in Attachment 1 to this report. NRC has made submissions, or has contributed to regional sector submissions, on a number of Bills or discussion documents, and will likely have input into more legislative changes as the opportunities arise.

A presentation is also provided, in Attachment 2 to this report, on the recommendations from the Expert Advisory Group's "Blueprint for RM Reform" relating to replacement of the Resource Management Act with a Planning Act and a Natural Environment Act, and the Cabinet decisions in response. Big questions are posed about key issues, and some likely impacts and implications for council and tangata whenua are raised.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions


1. That the report 'Central Government Legislative Changes' by Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor; Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

Tuhinga/Background

Not applicable.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Central Government Legislative Changes as at 23 April 2025 [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Te Ruarangi workshop - RM Reforms presentation [↓](#) 

Central Government Legislative Changes – Update as of 23 April 2025

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
Resource Management Reforms Phase 1	Repeal of the Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act in place December 2023 Repealed the Natural and Built Environment Act and Spatial Planning Act 	NIL
	Change to Freshwater planning process under the RMA (section 80A)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act in place December 2023 Changed date for implementation of freshwater plans from 31 December 2024 to 2027 	
Resource Management Reforms Phase 2	Fast Track Approval Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act in place. Royal Assent 23 December 2024. Key additional changes to the Select Committee's recommendations, prior to the third reading, included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substantive applications (for both a listed and referred project) cannot be lodged with the EPA before 7 February 2025. Inclusion of a pathway for applicants to seek priority for listed or referred projects. The Minister determines if a project is to be a "priority project". The Act now provides a pathway for the Minister to determine that activities that would otherwise be classified as an ineligible activity under the Act can use the fast-track process.(E.g. previously, activities on identified Māori land, customary marine title areas or in a reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 not vested in the Crown or Department of Conservation were ineligible activities if they had not been agreed to in writing by landowner, customary rights group, or person in whom the reserve is vested). 	NRC Council submission lodged. Regional sector submission lodged.

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details	NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applicants can now seek to change or cancel an existing resource consent condition as part of a fast-track application. ○ Applicants can now seek a mining permit that would otherwise be applied for under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 as part of a fast-track application. ○ Decision-making timeframe for panels has changed. The panel convenor is now responsible for setting the timeframe for when the panel must issue its decision by. If no timeframe is set, the panel must issue its decision within 30 working days after comments from invited parties are received. ○ If a panel intends to decline an application, the Act now requires the panel to provide a copy of its draft decision to the applicant before it is issued, to enable the applicant to make amendments to the proposal. ○ A test allowing the expert panel to decline an approval where the adverse impacts of the activity would outweigh the purpose of the Bill has been changed and now allows the expert panel to decline the approval where the adverse impacts of the project are "sufficiently significant to be out of proportion to the project's regional or national benefits", even after taking into account any conditions or modifications that the applicant may agree to or propose to manage those adverse impacts. ○ A new provision has been added limiting the timeframe for judicial review applications to 20 working days after the notice / publication of the relevant decision. <p>Key issues for hapū and iwi with regard to the Act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There is no requirement when applying any provisions under Part 2 of the RMA to take into account section 8 	

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<p>relating to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, so Māori Treaty rights could be disregarded in decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Protections of existing laws are bypassed or subordinated to the purpose of the FTA Bill — this diminishes iwi/hapū ability (especially unsettled entities) to ensure proper assessment of environmental and cultural effects. ○ Prohibited activities may be eligible — this fails to protect iwi/hapū. For example, in Northland, Proposed Regional Plan Rule C.1.1.14 prohibits new aquaculture in significant areas (including Sites of Significance to Tāngata whenua, Significant ecological areas, etc. There is also a regional plan rule prohibiting release of GMOs in the coastal marine area. ○ Conflicts may also arise between a prohibited activity and a Treaty settlement (particularly those that provide for a specific function in plan making). ○ Only one person can be nominated by the relevant local authorities to become a member of the expert panel. There is no formal role for iwi / hapū in this process. ○ The Bill has no specific provisions for recovery of costs incurred by relevant Māori groups in commenting on applications. MfE is instead considering providing for financial contributions to Māori groups invited to comment, via Regulations. The fixed contribution amounts initially proposed by MfE were very limited. 	
	Resource Management (Extended Duration of Coastal Permits for Marine Farms) Amendment Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act in place. Royal Assent 2 September 2024. • Universally extends the terms of marine farm consents by 20 years. • In response to feedback on the Bill the Act now provides ability for Council to review consents. 	NRC Council submission lodged

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
	Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act in place. Royal Assent 24 October 2024. Overall, very few changes were made to the initial Bill. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove the hierarchy of obligations contained in the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) from resource consenting requirements. Outcome: no change. Amend the NPS-FM, the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (NPSIB), and the National Environment Standards for Freshwater (NES- F) to align the consenting pathway for new and existing coal mines with other mineral extraction activities. Outcome: no change. suspend requirements under the NPSIB for councils to identify and include in district plans new significant natural areas (SNAs) for three years. Outcome: Minor change. Amend the Resource Management (Stock Exclusion) Regulations 2020 to remove the map of “low slope land” and associated requirements. Outcome: no change. Amend the NES-F to repeal the permitted and restricted discretionary activity regulations and associated conditions for intensive winter grazing. Outcome: Minor change. Require any area of land that is used for intensive winter grazing to be located at least five metres away from the bed of any river, lake, wetland, or drain and protection for critical source areas. Streamline processes for preparing and amending national direction instruments so that they are less onerous and more efficient. Outcome: Changes. Exempted all national direction from S32 evaluation requirements. 20 working days for submissions. Section 107 (not in original Bill): Inserted new clause to amend section 107 of the RMA. This would enable a 	NRC Council submission lodged

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		discharge permit or a coastal permit to be granted where the discharge may contribute to significant adverse effects on aquatic life, if the consent authority has satisfied specific tests.	
	Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill introduced 9 December 2024. Submissions closed 10 February. Select Committee report due 17 June. • Key changes included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Compliance, monitoring and enforcement. The Bill included increased penalties, the ability to revoke consents, and removing the ability to obtain insurance. ○ Consenting. The Bill provided some process improvements, together with some further support for renewable and infrastructure consenting and extending consent timeframes in relation to port activities. ○ Managing discharges. The Bill makes amendments to section 70 to respond to recent caselaw relating to the consentability of discharges in degraded catchments. ○ Strengthening provisions planning for and responding to natural hazards. This includes abilities to refuse consents and more flexible powers association with emergency works and recovery. ○ Farming and the primary sector. The Bill clarifies the interface between the RMA and the Fisheries Act 1996, to balance marine protection with fishing rights. It amends certification and auditing of farm plans, ensures timely consent processing for wood processing facilities, and enables national direction to facilitate aquaculture improvements. ○ Heightened Ministerial intervention powers. The Bill contains new powers for the Minister to intervene directly 	Staff feedback provided to inform regional sector submission .

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details	NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
	<p>in local authority plans and other documents in response to National Direction implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium density residential standards (MDRS). The Bill provides the ability to 'opt out' of MDRS and provides for a process to enable the opt out but foreshadows a future 'revised NPS-UD', and the obligations to give effect to it. This is primarily focused on Territorial Authorities and District Plans. The following feedback was provided by NRC staff to inform the regional sector submission: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes to s36(1) – supported ability to cost recover for monitoring permitted activities. Controls on fishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern raised that approach elevated the rights of commercial fishers (via MPI veto on proposals) over a local community desire/aspiration for protection rather than going through robust planning process. Section 71 amendment: Concern that the proposed provisions limit fishing rule proposals to that specified in plan notifications, constraining local democratic processes and potentially restricting tangata whenua rights and interests. Section 70 amended (Rules about discharges): Supported intent behind new s70(3) but noted it was likely difficult to implement in practice as currently worded. Section 100 replaced (Obligation to hold a hearing): Consent authority can't hold hearing if it has 'enough' info. Acknowledged that hearings can add costs but concern that often hearings are the opportunity to challenge s42 	

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current





In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<p>report and provide opportunity for more detailed evidence. Also raised concern that councils are very likely to be challenged on decision on whether there is sufficient info, no matter what the decision is (e.g. judicial review).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Section 104 amended (Consideration of applications): Supported change to enable consideration of previous or current abatement notices, enforcement orders, infringement notices, or convictions and ability to decline consent on basis of previous record. ○ Natural hazards: Supported new Section 86B subsection(f) re natural hazard rules having immediate effect. Supported new s106A consent authority may refuse land use consent in certain circumstances. ○ Supported change to Section 128 to enable review when holder of the consent has contravened a condition of the consent. ○ Section 217H amended (Audit of farm for compliance with certified freshwater farm plan): Noted intent to allow industry organisations to deliver audit services but noted unclear why audit requirements stripped back to extent proposed. 	
	Package of National Direction	Discussion documents on changes, and additional instruments, are expected in June 2025. Subject to further Cabinet decisions, the Government will consult on targeted changes to national direction in mid-2025.	
		<p>Amendments to NZCPS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff briefed by Doc, MPI and MfE on changes in late September • Amendments to mitigation hierarchy, carve outs for specific priority activities 	Staff feedback provided to MPI and MfE staff.
		<p>Amendments to NPS-Freshwater Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.

 Complete

 Current

 In development

Initiatives	Where at and details	NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
	Amendments to NES-Freshwater <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL
	Amendments to NPS-Indigenous Biodiversity (in addition to 2024 amendments around SNAs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL
	Amendments to NES-Commercial Forestry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information received through media release Proposal to repeal regulations which say a plan may be more stringent or lenient than the NES CF Improve slash management 	NIL
	Amendments to NES-Drinking Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL
	Amendments to NES-Marine Aquaculture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff briefed on changes in September. Provide for changes to farm structures without changing species New pathway for research and trials Simplify process to add spat catching to existing consents Improve pathway for changing consent conditions. 	Staff feedback provided to MPI staff.
	Amendments to Stock Exclusion Regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL
	New National Direction for Water Storage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff met with Ministry staff and asked to identify potential barriers in plans to inform review 	NIL
	Amendments to NPS-Highly Productive Land <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPI briefed staff in 2024. Information on proposed changes included in package of Bill 1 changes (but then not included) Propose to remove mapping of class 3 land 	NIL
	Amendments to NPS-Urban Development	NIL

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details	NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government will consult on an urban development and housing policy package to incorporate into the new system, including by making use of new system tools such as standardised zones and spatial planning. 	
	<p>New National Direction for housing targets, granny flats and Papakāinga</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation in September around series of changes to allow the construction of a granny flat up to 60m² without building or resource consent. some issues noted relating to lack of compliance checking for granny flat proposal Staff attended briefing in September by TPK around Papakāinga. Primary implications for TAs. 	Staff feedback provided to Ministry staff.
	<p>New national direction for Natural Hazard Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information received through media release Proposing new national direction on natural hazards New natural hazards NPS to provide direction to councils on how to identify natural hazards, assess the risk they pose, and how to respond to that risk through planning controls. 	NIL
	<p>New national environmental standards for heritage (within housing package)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL
	<p>Amendments to NPS-Renewable Electricity Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL
	<p>Amendments to NPS-Electricity Transmission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL
	<p>Amendments to NES-Electricity Transmission Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL
	<p>Amendments to NES-Telecommunications Facilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detail provided on changes yet 	NIL

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		New National Direction for range of renewable energy activities without consent • No detail provided on changes yet	NIL
		New NPS-Infrastructure • No detail provided on changes yet	NIL
		New NES for infrastructure • No detail provided on changes yet	NIL
Resource Management Reforms Phase 3	Legislation to replace the RMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislation is expected to be introduced to Parliament this year and be passed into law by mid-2026. An Expert Advisory Group has developed a blueprint for replacing the RMA. The Minister for RMA Reform has sought Cabinet agreement to key aspects of the replacement legislation early 2025. See attachment 2 for more information. Policy work and legislative drafting will now begin. 	NIL
Other Bills and Consultation	Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act in place 30 July 2024. Changes to Māori constituencies/wards with requirements for binding referenda in 2025 for Councils that resolved to retain Maori constituencies/wards. <p>The council submission opposed the Bill and advocated for the status quo. Key submission points included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The binding poll requirements ignore the 2010 Waitangi Tribunal finding that the Crown must ensure that its Te Tiriti 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. Reversion to a poll system will make it more difficult for councils to meet legislative requirements to facilitate Māori participation and representation, and will likely 	NRC Council submission lodged

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<p>result in reduced Māori roles in decision-making functions in councils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binding polls unfairly give to majority groups in the population the right to make decisions on a matter affecting the rights of a Māori minority (in most districts/regions). • Decisions on representation and relationships should be made via a deliberative, balanced and considered dialogue — not through a binary choice offered by a poll that could divide communities and damage race relations, and fail to protect Māori rights to equitable representation. 	
	Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) (Customary Marine Title) Amendment Bill (2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select Committee report released 3 December 2024. Second and third readings in 2025. • Amends tests for customary marine title (retrospective to 25 July 2024) and overturns existing Court decisions on CMT. • Legislation has significant implications for tāngata whenua as tests for CMT will be virtually impossible to meet and MACA claims will have to be reheard. 	NRC Council submission lodged.
	Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions closed 14 January 2025. • Redefines Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles and articles in all legislation with three principles: civil government, rights of iwi/hapū, and right to equality. <p>The council submission opposed the Bill and stated that it should be abandoned. Key submission points included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRC supports the findings and recommendations of the Waitangi Tribunal Interim Reports WAI 3300 and the recommendations of the <i>Regulatory Impact Statement: Providing certainty on the Treaty Principles</i>. • NRC is committed to giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to being an active Te Tiriti partner to ensure that tāngata 	NRC Council submission lodged. Regional Sector submission lodged.

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<p>whenua have a long-term influential role in decision-making and planning for the region. The Bill, if enacted, would undermine these commitments, and would have considerable detrimental impacts on the ongoing implementation of key projects conducted in partnership with iwi and hapū in the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing principles as developed by the courts and Waitangi Tribunal are clear, workable and judicially sound. In contrast, the narrow definitions proposed in the Bill would create conflicts of law, lead to legal challenges, and increase legal uncertainty and operational complexity. 	
	Proposed amendments to the Biosecurity Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback period extended till 13 December 2024. Consultation on range of proposals to update the Biosecurity Act. 	NRC Council submission lodged.
	Proposed Regulatory Standards Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions on discussion document closed 13 January 2025. This phase of consultation was prior to the release of a Bill. The Bill is proposed to be released later this year. The idea of a Regulatory Standards Bill was first proposed in 2006 when the Regulatory Responsibility Bill was introduced as a private member's Bill. It did not pass its first reading. In 2009, the Government established the Regulatory Responsibility Taskforce to consider what should be in a Regulatory Standards Bill. The Taskforce's Bill formed the basis of the Regulatory Standards Bill that was introduced in 2011 and again in 2021. Neither progressed at the time. The 2024 Regulatory Standards Bill proposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a new set of principles of responsible regulation. The principles prioritise the protection of individual liberties and private property. Agencies would be required to 	<p>Regional Sector submission lodged on discussion document.</p> <p>NRC submission to be made later in the year when the Bill is formally released.</p>

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current




In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<p>ensure that new regulatory proposals are assessed for consistency with these principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o mechanisms to assess the consistency of new legislative proposals and existing regulation with the principles o a mechanism for independent consideration of the consistency of existing regulation, primarily in response to stakeholder concerns. o provisions to support the Ministry for Regulation in its work to improve the quality of regulation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Sector submission noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Concern that the Bill fails to provide a cohesive and balanced approach to public good and the Treaty of Waitangi. o A focus on individual liberties and property rights may not adequately accommodate the collective rights and interests of iwi and hapū. o Individual rights are protected under the Bill of Rights Act, and this may be a better place to strengthen the protection of economic liberties. o The need for any principles to be balanced and take into account wider societal benefits and management of externalities, and the interests of future generations. o The narrow set of design principles does not require Ministers to consider or disclose inconsistencies with the Treaty. Further, a bias in the principles against retrospective action may actively impede redress for Māori through future Treaty settlements. o Noted a lack of clarity as to whether Bill would apply to local government and sought that local government regulations be clearly placed outside. 	

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.

 Complete

 Current

 In development

Initiatives	Where at and details	NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
	<p>Local Government (Water Services) Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduced 10 Dec 2024. Submissions closed 23 February 2025. Select Committee report due 17 June. Legislation expected in September 2025. This is the third bill as part of its “Local Water Done Well”. The first bill repealed the previous Government’s water services legislation. The second bill established the preliminary arrangements for the new water services system. This third bill establishes the settings for the new water services system. RMA changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gives wastewater and stormwater performance standards equivalent status as regulations National performance standards and infrastructure design solutions for wastewater / stormwater prevail over regional rules (cannot be more permissive or stringent) Environmental performance standards / infrastructure design solutions developed by Order in Council – may set activity status under RMA and / or preclude public notification Councils must remove conflict/duplication with standards from regional plans Extends expiry date for wastewater network discharges by 2 years from commencement date (if they will expire earlier) – consent authority must update expiry date Consent duration for wastewater treatment plant discharge to 35 years Taumata Arowai / Water Services Act changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Removes reference to Te Mana o te Wai (would not apply when developing wastewater/stormwater performance standards) 	<p>Staff feedback provided to inform Regional Sector submission</p>

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current




In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greater consideration of regulatory burden / costs of water supply <p>NRC identified the following concerns to inform the Regional Sector submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National performance standards and infrastructure design solutions for wastewater / stormwater prevailing over regional rules and not being able to be more permissive or stringent to achieve local water quality outcomes The limited opportunity for communities to participate in decision-making Removal of reference to Te Mana o te Wai when developing wastewater/stormwater performance standards 	
	Help Shape New Zealand's Wastewater Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opened for consultation on 25 February and closed on 24 April. Consultation webpage is here. Proposes a set of four national wastewater environmental performance standards. The four proposed standards cover the most common consenting topics (discharging treated wastewater to water or land, safe biosolid use, and managing overflows and bypasses) – with requirements tailored to appropriately manage the level of risk to public health and different environments. For topics that fall outside the standards (e.g. treatment requirements for PFAS or heavy metals like iron and aluminium) the existing Resource Management Act consenting process would apply. Proposed standards would only apply to public networks, which are primarily owned and operated by local councils. They would not apply to privately-owned wastewater treatment networks or septic tanks. 	NRC Council submission lodged

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.

 Complete

 Current

 In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wastewater standards are a key part of Local Water Done Well, the Government's approach to addressing long-standing water infrastructure challenges. Standards are intended to reduce the consenting burden and provide local councils with greater certainty of costs for wastewater network investments, while ensuring appropriate public health and environmental outcomes. 	
	Gene Technology Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submissions closed 17 February 2025. Replaces parts of the HSNO Act with a new standalone regulatory regime to regulate gene technology and genetically modified organisms. Establishes a Gene Technology Regulator within the EPA to be the independent decision-maker Establishes a Technical Advisory Committee and a Māori Advisory Committee to provide the Regulator with expert advice Creates an authorisation framework to regulate gene technologies and GMOs Creates a process to enable the management of risks to Māori kaitiaki relationships with indigenous species Establishes offences and penalties for breaches of the regime Creates a nationally consistent approach to regulation of gene technology Changes to RMA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amends functions of regional councils and territorial authorities. Must not treat any genetically modified organism differently from any other organism Amends the matters to be considered when preparing a regional or district plan. The Plan must not treat any 	NRC Council submission lodged.

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<p>genetically modified organism differently from any other organism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plans prepared in contravention to above are to be treated as void (on commencement of the Act), and must be amended as soon as practicable to comply ● NRC oppose the Bill in its current form ● NRC sought the following amendments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To not void existing plan provisions ○ Provide a system for Plans to be reviewed in a way that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enables public participation by requiring consultation with regional stakeholders when making GMO regulatory decisions. ▪ Honours te Tiriti obligations by involving iwi and hapū to reflect local kaitiakitanga responsibilities. ▪ Allows for regional differentiation in regulation to acknowledge the diverse environmental, cultural, and economic needs of different areas. 	
	Review of legislation with the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to replace or repeal current references.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently in development. Expected to be introduced to Parliament mid-late 2025. ● Media release 14 Oct 2024 noting that there are 28 pieces of legislation that are having their Treaty of Waitangi provisions scrutinized/reviewed. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crown Minerals Act 1991 ○ Resource Management Act 1991 ○ Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 ○ Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998 ○ Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act 2000 ○ Climate Change Response Act 2002 ○ Local Government Act 2002 	NIL

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land Transport Management Act 2003 Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 Urban Development Act 2020 Taumata Arowai–The Water Services Regulator Act 2020 	
	Local Government Act Changes. Back to Basics for local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government has signalled changes to LGA 2002. Bill expected to be introduced in June 2025. Changes signalled include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGA purpose - put the focus back on core services (and specify these) Reinstate s11A or similar (core services to be considered in performing role – focus on infrastructure, public transport, waste, management of natural hazards and community infrastructure – economic development also likely to be a feature). Revenue cap on non-core expenditure Benchmarking councils on key metrics Review of the bylaws system, including enforcement Looking into how councils recover costs from fees and charges Exploring a collective approach to reduce insurance costs Reviewing councils' transparency and accountability processes Addressing constraints in councils' consultation and decision-making processes Exploring whether there are efficiencies in the conduct of council business Consider the greater use of shared services 	NIL
	Emissions Trading Scheme Amendment Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government has signalled (through a media release) changes to the ETS to limit farm-to-forestry conversions from 	NIL

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<p>entering the ETS to protect productive land. Not clear how fast this is progressing within MfE. The farm-to-forestry changes signalled include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A moratorium on exotic forestry registrations for Land Use Classification (LUC) 1-5 actively farmed land. ○ An annual registration cap of 15,000 hectares for exotic forestry registrations on LUC 6 farmland. ○ Allowing up to 25% of a farm's LUC 1-6 land to be planted in forestry for the ETS, ensuring farmers retain flexibility and choice. ○ The ability for landowners to have their LUC categorisation reassessed at the property level. ○ Excluding specific categories of Māori-owned land from the restrictions, in line with Treaty obligations, while ensuring pathways for economic development. ○ Transitional measures for landowners currently in the process of afforestation who can demonstrate an intent to afforest prior to 4 December 2024. 	
	Emergency Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A discussion document was released in mid-April 2025. Likely to open for submissions in mid-2025. Legislation expected late 2025. • The Government will implement a programme of changes in five broad areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Give effect to the whole of society approach to emergency management. ○ Support and enable local government to deliver a consistent minimum standard of emergency management across New Zealand. ○ Professionalise and build the capability and capacity of the emergency management workforce. 	

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development

Initiatives	Where at and details		NRC feedback /submission/ consultation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enable the different parts of the system to work better together. ○ Drive a strategic focus on implementation and investment to ensure delivery. 	
	Te Ture Whenua Māori Amendment Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A discussion document was released by Te Puni Kōkiri early April 2025, and consultation will close on 23 May. Legislation expected late 2025. ● Aims to amend Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993 to “better enable Māori economic development”. ● The government is suggesting a set of targeted changes to improve the workability of the Act, and support landowners to make timely decisions about their land. These changes seek to improve the use and productivity of whenua Māori. ● The proposed changes relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Making court processes clearer, more efficient and accessible for both the Māori Land Court and landowners. ○ Widening the types of land an agent can be appointed for and the powers of an agent. ○ Supporting access and development of whenua Māori for housing. ○ Clarifying processes for beneficiaries and administrators of Māori land to manage land interests when an owner dies under intestacy (without a will). ○ Enabling landowners to have more decision-making powers regarding certain types of leases. ○ Miscellaneous provisions to tidy up the Act and clarify minor or non-controversial processes to reduce administrative burdens. 	

Items highlighted in yellow are likely to be of interest to Māori.



Complete



Current



In development



Purpose

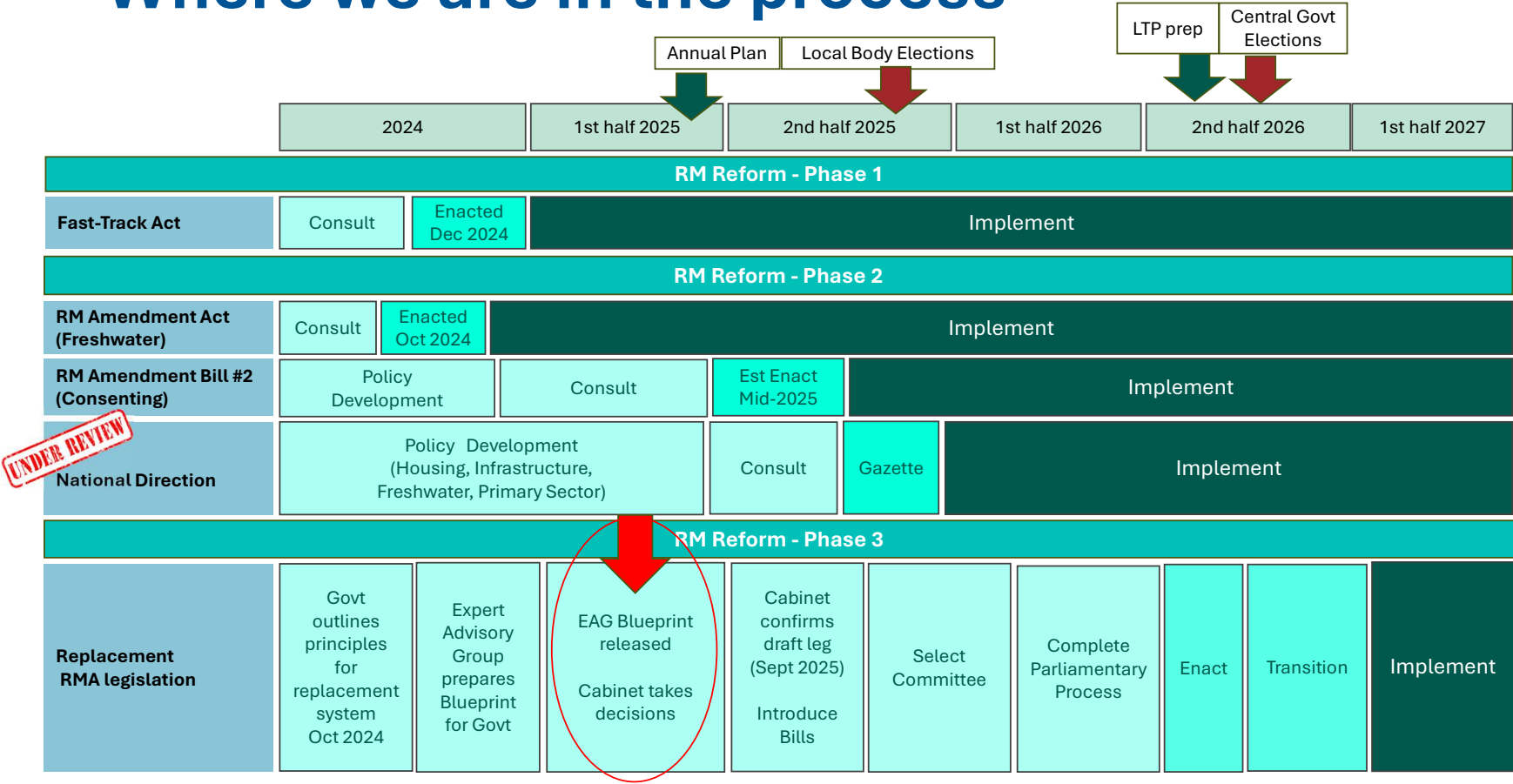
The purpose of this presentation is to:

- advise Te Ruarangi on recommendations from the Expert Advisory Group's "*Blueprint for RM Reform*" and Cabinet decisions in response; and
- consider potential impacts and implications for council work programmes and communities, including tangata whenua




Background

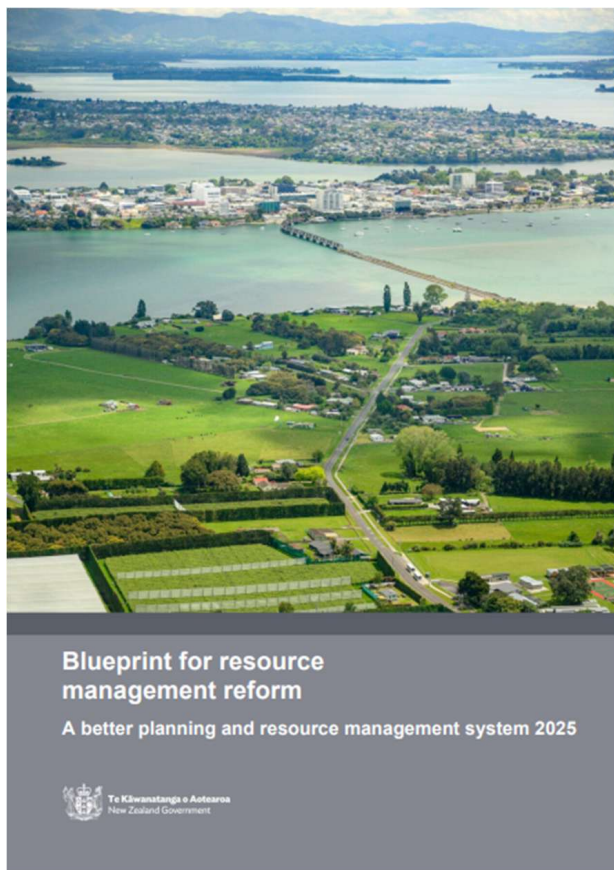
- The Government intends to replace the Resource Management Act.
- Bills to replace the RMA will be introduced this year with legislation enacted this parliamentary term.
- Changes to the resource management system are significant because:
 - the RMA underpins most of council's statutory functions and responsibilities;
 - decisions have implications for commitments made through the Long-Term Plan; and
 - decisions have implications for governance, local voice, functions, roles and responsibilities, environment / te taiao, community outcomes and institutional arrangements.

Where we are in the process



Rescoped National Direction package

Phase 2 Programme		Progress later
 Freshwater Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Policy Statement for Freshwater • NES Freshwater • NES Drinking Water • Stock Exclusion Regulations • Enabling changes for vegetable growing and water storage 	 Infrastructure/ Housing Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NES Granny Flats • NES Papakāinga • NES Electricity Transmission (including EV charging) • NES Telecommunication Facilities • National direction on management of natural hazard risks • Targeted changes to NPS Indigenous Biodiversity, NPS Highly Productive Land and NPS freshwater to provide for quarrying and mining activities. • Targeted changes to NPS for Highly Productive land to remove Class 3 soils 	<p>New national direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Papakāinga • NPS Historic Heritage <p>Existing national direction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Highly Productive Land (except class 3 soils) • NPS Indigenous Biodiversity • NZCPS to amend the framework for managing effects from infrastructure
 Primary Sector Changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NES Marine Aquaculture • NES Commercial Forestry 		

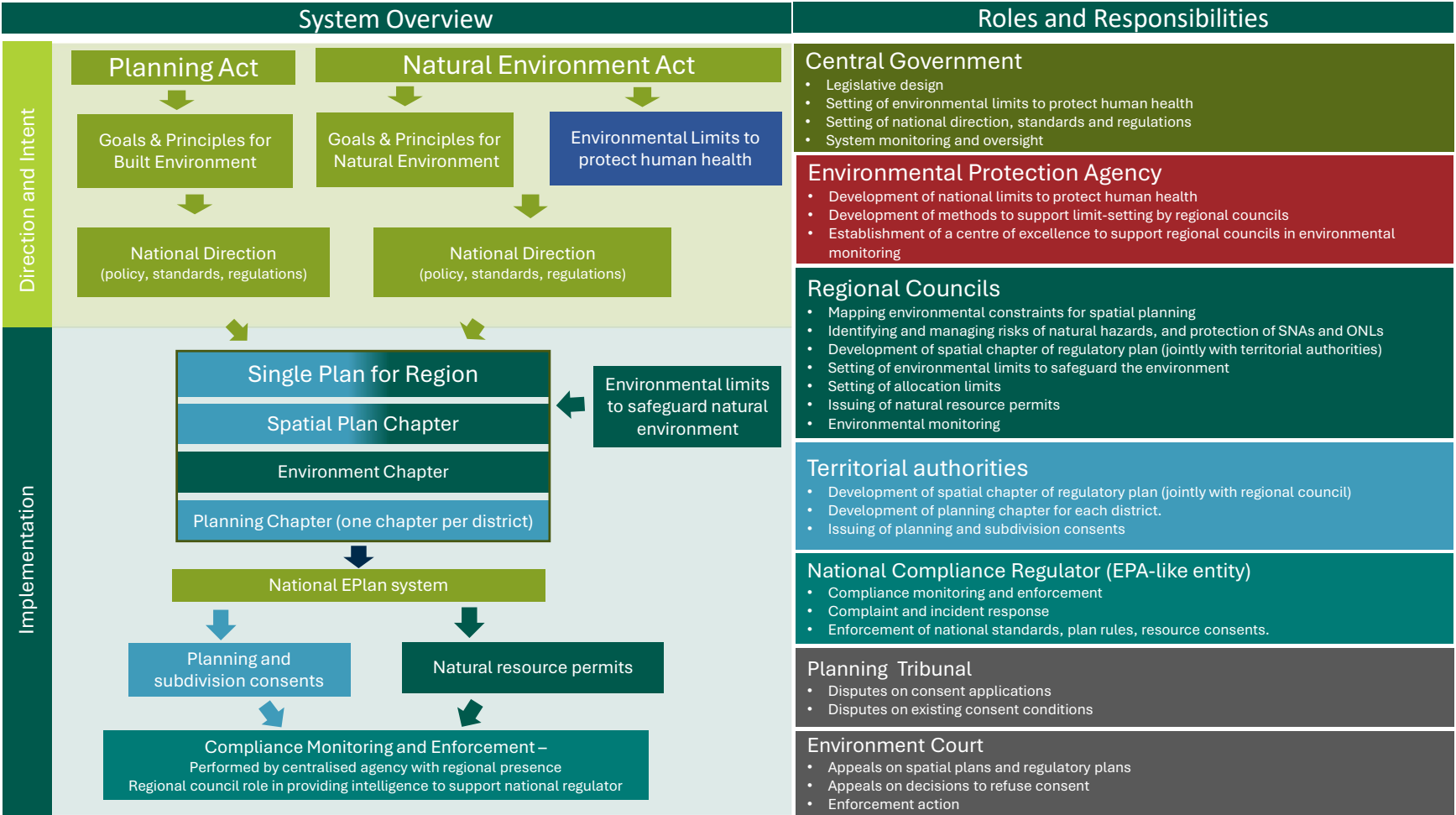


Expert Advisory Group

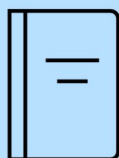
- Appointed to prepare recommendations on a replacement resource management system.
- Directed to provide advice that:
 - aligns with Cabinet’s objectives and legislative design principles;
 - builds on the Phase 2 RM work programme;
 - make changes in areas of greatest impact;
 - minimises uncertainty and economic disruption;
 - enables a rapid transition to the new system.
- Blueprint covers functions, roles, responsibilities, and institutional arrangements.

Government response

- Cabinet has taken decisions on the EAG blueprint.
- Agreement blueprint provides “*workable basis for the design of the replacement resource management system*”.
- Many EAG recommendations adopted, but two rejected outright:
 - Transfer RMA section 8 “Treaty Principles” clause into new legislation; and
 - reduce boundary of the Coastal Marine Area to three nautical miles.
- Some recommendations are to be progressed in parallel, pending further advice, including recommendations relating to institutional change.



The Big Shifts ... (as recommended by EAG)

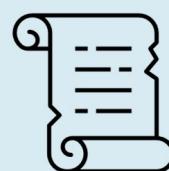


RMA replaced with two separate Acts

- **Natural Environment Act** to regulate use, protection and enhancement of the environment.
- **Planning Act** to regulate use, protection and enjoyment of land.
- Each Act to have separate set of goals.



Cabinet agreed to two Acts but will take further advice on how to frame goals of each Act.



Treaty of Waitangi provisions...

- Carry over RMA s8 Treaty Principles clause to new legislation.
- Develop decision-making principles to guide how Treaty matters are to be reflected in exercise of functions.

Cabinet has ruled out inserting s8 Treaty clause into new leg.



Cabinet has committed to further work to develop a Treaty clause that aligns with RM objectives and Treaty review objectives



Reconfigured Planning System

- More standardisation and greater use of national direction to regulate activities.
- RCs and TAs to prepare a joint spatial plan
- Regional councils prepare a Natural Environment Plan
- Territorial authorities prepare a Combined District Plan
- Councils to have less discretion on plan content.
- Fewer consents and consent classes

In Part..

Cabinet has agreed to most changes. The exception is the proposal for separate spatial and regulatory plans.



A national regulator for CME?

- Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement (CME) to be undertaken by a national regulator.
- Regulator funded through tripartite contributions (CG, LG and contributions from CME action)
- Option to transfer CME functions away from national regulator if efficient & effective to do so.

In Part..

Cabinet has agreed to progress changes to institutional arrangements for CME. These **will not** be included in the RM Bills, but will be progressed in parallel

The Big Shifts (as recommended by EAG)

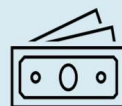


A bigger role for the EPA?

- EPA sets national limits to protect public health
- Regional councils set limits to protect natural environment.
- EPA manages coast beyond 3 nautical mile zone, including consenting in this zone.

In Part..

Cabinet has agreed to limit setting-approach but deferred decisions on institutional arrangements. Changes to CMA boundary ruled out.



Charging for use of resources

- Regional councils to set charges for use of natural resources (two types).
 - **Admin** charge - applies to all users
 - **Levy** – applies in over-allocated catchments, with contributions used to fund environmental improvement action over time.

In Part..

Cabinet has agreed to enable charges to be imposed on users to operationalise allocation methods and address over-allocation.



Stronger protection for property rights

- Councils to justify use of rules that are more restrictive than national controls.
- Property owners able to challenge councils if provisions “significantly impair land value”, with compensation possible.
- Focus on management of actual effects.
- Lift the threshold for determining “adverse” effects.



Cabinet has agreed to these



New approaches to resource allocation

- Progress Māori rights and interests in freshwater alongside alternatives to first-in-first served approach
- In over-allocated catchments, allow new users to purchase allocations or demonstrate activity will make use of clawed-back resources.

In Part..

Cabinet has agreed to work with Māori to explore alternatives to FIFS
Cabinet has deferred decisions on when to transition from FIFS to new allocation methods but anticipate this will be on a longer timeframe

The Big Questions ...

Environment / te Taiao

- 1. NEA goals focus on protection of high-value areas and human health but do not promote restoration of degraded areas.**

How will this affect council's ability to deliver on community aspirations for te taiao?

What are the opportunities to deliver community aspirations (social, economic, cultural, environmental) through other means? (i.e. non-statutory actions? Revenue from resource charging to fund environmental improvement?)

Te Tiriti / Partnership

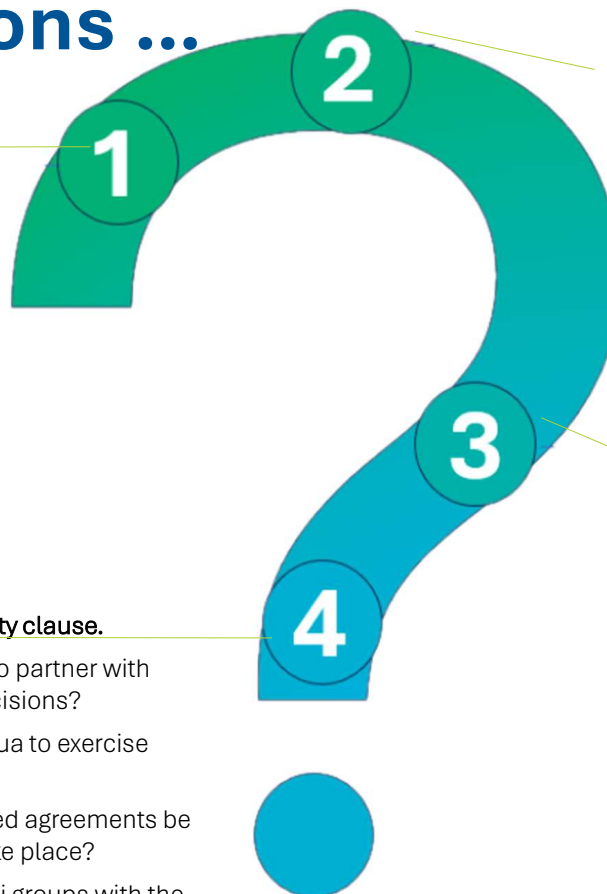
- 4. New legislation to have a much narrower Treaty clause.**

What effect will this have on council's ability to partner with tangata whenua in resource management decisions?

Where are the opportunities for tangata whenua to exercise rangatiratanga through the system?

How will existing Treaty settlements and related agreements be upheld, given that legislative redrafting will take place?

How will the provisions for interaction of Māori groups with the planning system ensure meaningful participation?



Community Voice

- 2. More activities regulated through national standards with councils having less discretion on plan content.**

How will community voice and aspirations be accommodated in the new system?

What impacts could standardisation have on council's ability to deliver on outcomes for communities and te taiao?

Functions and Responsibilities

- 3. Functions and responsibilities to be narrower and split across two Acts.**

How will functions be split between local authorities?

What impact could narrower functions have on council's ability to borrow and fund commitments made to communities?

The Big Questions

Decision-making

- 5. Some resource management decisions to be made jointly by local authorities (e.g. joint chapter of spatial plan)**

What are the impacts of shared decision-making for delivery of council functions?

What will decision-making arrangements look like? (e.g. spatial chapter?)

How will changes to plan-making processes affect council's partnership approach with tangata whenua?

Property Rights

- 8. Proposals to strengthen property rights mean Council plans can be challenged if they 'significantly impair land value', with compensation available where thresholds are met**

What impact will this have on council's ability to regulate activities to achieve environmental outcomes?

What safeguards are needed to ensure councils aren't exposed to increased legal and financial risk?

Institutional Arrangements

- 6. Cabinet has deferred decisions on institutional arrangements (EPA, CME) but states these will be progressed in parallel.**

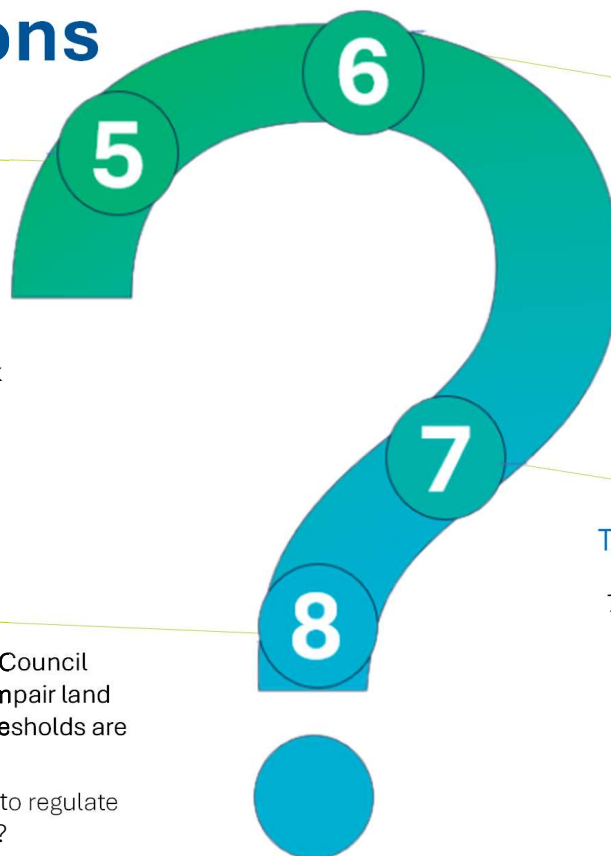
What are the opportunities and risks for environmental outcomes if CME functions are transferred?

Transition and sequencing

- 7. The Government is focused on a swift transition to the future system with implementation soon after enactment.**

What does council need to be planning for now to support a smooth transition (e.g. Local Body elections? LTP?),

How can council utilise the work it's currently delivering to be ready for the future?



Impacts and Implications ...

Partnership

- Opportunities for Te Tiriti partners to participate in resource management decisions may be reduced.
- Extent of impact will depend on how legislation is framed.
- Tāiki ē becomes even more important in driving how council delivers partnership despite legislative change.

Impacts and Implications ...

Long-Term Plan

- Legislation to pass into law 2026 with implementation in 2027.
- Preparation for next LTP commences in 2026.
- Government announcements indicate direction of travel, but some matters are still to be decided
- Need to consider potential change now, so council is ready for LTP discussions in 2026.

Key Impacts and Implications ...

Planning Programme

- National direction and legislation will continue to change over the next 24 months.
- Quite an epic amount of uncertainty
- Current planning work includes:
 - Freshwater Plan Change (mostly paused other than work with TWWAG / PSLG)
 - Te Oneroa ā Tōhē Plan Change

Key Impacts and Implications

Other impacts

- No impact for delivery of the Council's current regulatory functions
- If proposals proceed as announced future implications include:
 - reduction in number of consents required;
 - more activities managed through permitted activity rules;
 - changes to delivery of Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement functions (pending further decisions);
 - changes to how environmental limits are set and regional council functions:
 - EPA sets limits for human health nationally (e.g. *E.coli*)
 - Regions set for environmental outcomes only
 - New charges for resource use



TITLE: **Wastewater standards submission**

From: Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager

Authorised by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 02 May 2025
Group Manager/s:

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The Water Services Authority Taumata Arowai (the Authority), on behalf of the Minister of Local Government, released a discussion document on a set of proposed wastewater environmental performance standards under section 138 of the Water Services Act 2021. These would set national standards on the discharge of wastewater from public treatment networks. There are also associated proposals to change related provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) through the Local Government (Water Services) Bill.

The proposed standards, along with the changes to the RMA brought about by the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, have the potential to significantly limit a council's discretion to determine standards for wastewater network discharges. The proposed changes to the RMA may also limit the potential for public notification of applications for wastewater discharges from public networks, and thereby limit opportunities for participation by interested parties.

The consultation closed on 24 April 2025. Council lodged a submission on the proposed standards, which is attached for the information of Te Ruarangi members.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Wastewater standards submission' by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 15 April 2025, be received.
 2. That the NRC submission on the proposed wastewater standards be noted.
-

Tuhinga/Background

The Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai (the Authority), on behalf of the Minister of Local Government, recently consulted on a set of proposed wastewater environmental performance standards under section 138 of the Water Services Act 2021. There are also proposals to change related provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) through the Local Government (Water Services) Bill.

Although the Water Services Act already enables the establishment of wastewater performance standards, there are a series of amendments to that Act and the RMA, currently before the Finance and Expenditure Committee, via the Local Government (Water Services) Bill. The amendments set out by the Bill, together with the proposed standards, would create a significantly different regulatory framework for wastewater that limits the discretion of a consent authority to notify a consent application, set discharge standards through consent conditions, or determine the consent term. The proposed standards have been released before the amendments proposed by the Bill have been determined by Parliament.

Amendments to the Water Services Act through the Local Government (Water Services) Bill include:

- Wastewater standards will be made via Order in Council on the recommendation of the Minister and following public consultation (with some exceptions).

- Repeals the requirements to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.
- Provides for infrastructure-design solutions to be made through regulations.

Amendments to the RMA include:

- Regional councils will be unable to impose conditions that are more restrictive or more lenient than the wastewater standards, nor will regional councils be able to apply more restrictive provisions through regional plan rules.
- Specifies the duration of a resource consent to be 35 years where wastewater infrastructure has been renewed or upgraded to meet wastewater standards.
- Clarifies that, where there are inconsistencies between a wastewater standard and national direction, the standards prevail.

The Authority has proposed wastewater standards in the context of the amendments proposed by the Bill, despite the Bill having not progressed to legislation. The proposed new standards would apply to public network discharges to water (lakes, rivers, estuaries and coastal waters); these include numeric 'end of pipe' standards for key contaminants such as *E.coli*, nutrients, biological oxygen demand and suspended solids, with standards varying based on the 'sensitivity' of waterbodies (sensitivity is based on a dilution factor) and the nature of the receiving environment. There would also be a separate (lower) standard for very small treatment plants. Standards are also proposed for discharges to land, beneficial reuse of biosolids, and wastewater overflows.

The standards are expected to have status equivalent to a National Environmental Standard under the RMA, could set the activity status for wastewater network discharges, and may also include restrictions/direction on public notification of applications. The proposal as it stands would prevent regional councils applying more restrictive or permissive regional plan rules and / or conditions of a resource consent. There are some exceptions proposed where standards would not apply and regional councils would have full discretion (e.g. streams with very low dilution or within certain distances of drinking water takes).

Implications

The proposed standards, along with the changes to the RMA brought about by the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, have the potential to significantly limit a council's discretion to determine standards for wastewater networks. For example, where the standards apply, councils would have minimal ability to impose consent conditions to protect specific sensitivities of waterbodies, such as popular swimming areas or mahinga kai sites. Additionally, the default term for consents would typically be 35 years. Regional councils would also be restricted from including more stringent provisions for wastewater network discharges in regional plans, such as setting a more restrictive activity status. Public or limited notification of applications may also no longer be an option where the standards are met.

The consultation closed on 24 April 2025. Council lodged a submission on the proposed wastewater standards that was informed by a workshop on 9 April 2025. The council submission is attached for the information of Te Ruarangi members.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: NRC submission - Proposed Wastewater standards [↓](#) 



22 April 2025

Taumata Arowai – The Water Services Authority
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Wellington 6140
New Zealand
By email: korero@taumataarowai.govt.nz

Northland Regional Council Submission on Proposed Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards

1. Introduction

Northland Regional Council (council) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the proposed wastewater environmental standards. Council supports the intent to improve efficiency and consistency in consenting wastewater network discharges and the performance of public wastewater networks generally. Council also acknowledges the challenges facing the country as outlined in the discussion document. We note however that consenting represents a minor component of the costs of establishing, upgrading, maintaining and operating wastewater network infrastructure and many of the issues affecting wastewater networks across the country are ultimately linked with the challenges associated with how these assets are funded, not with how they are regulated.

As drafted, we estimate that 9 of the 24 wastewater systems that discharge to water in Northland would fall within scope of new standards. We estimate that the remainder will not achieve the minimum dilution required by the standards; or they discharge into receiving environments excluded by the standards. The efficiencies anticipated by the standards is unlikely to be significant for Northland in the context of existing wastewater assets. For the reasons outlined further in this submission, council nevertheless has significant concerns with the proposed standards.

While council sees merit in applying minimum performance standards to discharges from public wastewater networks, we have concerns, over these being expressed as ‘environmental’ performance standards with limited ability to apply greater stringency to protect local values. Council supports the intent to provide a ‘smoother’ consenting pathway where standards are met but we believe it is essential consent authorities retain discretion to apply conditions of consent to manage local issues / sensitivities, which vary significantly across our region and Aotearoa New Zealand. The discussion document suggests variation in the management of wastewater across New Zealand and within regions is a significant problem – we expect there are valid reasons for this in most cases given the variation in the sensitivity of receiving environments, the level/type of treatment provided and consideration of local priorities and values.

We note that the consultation document is provided in the context of both the relevant provisions of the Water Services Act 2021 and the changes proposed through the Local Government (Water Services) Bill – which include changes to the Resource Management Act. Council has accordingly provided feedback in that same context.

2. Submission points

2.1 Alignment with national direction / RMA requirements

The regime established through the Local Government (Water Services) Bill and changes to the RMA effectively elevate wastewater standards above other national instruments such as National Policy Statements. This is likely to frustrate implementation of national direction, especially in relation to freshwater. For example, it is unclear how councils would deal with a situation where a wastewater discharge (either on its own or in conjunction with other contaminant sources) results in a national bottom line or limit being exceeded given there is no discretion to impose greater stringency. It would appear the standards prevail over a bottom-line leading to gross inconsistency across the freshwater regulatory framework.

The change to s107 RMA proposed through Clause 275 of the Local Government (Water Services) Bill would exempt wastewater discharges that meet standards from the requirement to address significant adverse effects on aquatic life – this seems to assume that the standards would avoid further degradation which may not be the case. We also note that the s107 tests would still apply to other contaminants not covered by the standards – this is likely to create complexity where contaminants not covered by standards (but may not be the primary cause of degradation) would be subject to conditions required by s107 while those covered by the standards wouldn't. As an alternative it is recommended that where s107(2A) applies, regional councils retain discretion to impose more stringent conditions – i.e. there would be an exception where s107(2A) applies and the standards would not apply in these cases.

2.2 Local Decision Making

Decisions on resource consents for wastewater network discharges are of significant interest to local communities and tāngata whenua. Consent processes should recognise Te Taitokerau's (Northland's) unique freshwater and marine environments, cultural values, sites of significance to tāngata whenua, and the local economic contexts. These vary widely across the region and need to be considered by a consent authority to ensure a robust and balanced decision that take into account economic drivers alongside social, environmental and cultural values specific to an area. Removing regional council's ability to tailor discharge limits where needed to reflect community values or protect sensitive sites will potentially drive decisions that significantly affect communities and the environment.

Council supports the intent to provide a 'smoother' consenting pathway where standards are met but considers there should always be discretion available to apply conditions of consent to manage local issues / sensitivities, which vary significantly across our region. We therefore strongly encourage the government and Taumata Arowai to ensure standards (and the regulatory regime) are applied as a minimum but not a maximum standard and that more stringency can be applied through consent conditions.

2.3 Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Council is committed to giving effect to its obligations as a Te Tiriti Partner. Part of this commitment includes partnering with iwi and hapū in regional governance processes, include regional plan development. The standards as proposed, in conjunction with the changes to the RMA through the Local Government (Water Services) Bill, undermines our commitment to partner with Iwi and Hapū in regional decision making because it seriously inhibits the ability for regional councils to regulate a matter that is of major interest to our partners.

Council has involved tāngata whenua throughout the implementation of the National Policy Statement for freshwater Management 2020 (NPS-FM) and in particular how to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai in Te Taitokerau – this has reinforced numerous iwi and hapū environmental management plans that seek to avoid or prohibit the discharge of contaminants into natural waterways (especially human waste) at all times. This is due to the tapu nature of the water being discharged, even after undergoing treatment, and the significant effects on cultural values such as the mana and mauri of the water, waahi tapu and other sites

of significance. We note that this was a key theme raised by iwi and hapū and reported in the wastewater standards consultation document.

The involvement of iwi and hapū during the consenting process is crucial to adequately consider the effects and sensitivities of the receiving environment, which can only be determined through the active participation of tāngata whenua. We note that from tāngata whenua perspectives, the RMA is already considered very limiting in terms of iwi and hapū involvement and the changes along with the standards means that in some instances they could be excluded from consenting processes altogether, despite this being a major issue for them.

2.4 Māhinga kai and drinking water

Council understands that the intent behind the standards is that discharges to water will meet limits deemed safe for recreational bathing in receiving environments. However, we have significant concerns that this standard may adversely affect the cultural value of māhinga kai and may not ensure the safety of tāngata whenua or the wider community for drinking water purposes. The cultural significance of māhinga kai is profound, and any degradation of these areas can have far-reaching impacts on the mana and mauri of the water, which are integral to Māori well-being and cultural practices.

2.5 The proposed standards

- i. Dilution factors: Categorising the sensitivity of receiving environments based on dilution alone is very coarse and will mean councils cannot consider community / tāngata whenua values or site-specific sensitivities to the discharge. The basis for calculating dilution factor is also problematic. In many cases there is unlikely to be accurate data on median flows and estimating. We recommend enabling more stringency in consent conditions by regional councils so impacts on site specific sensitivities / values can be managed.
- ii. Contaminants that are not included in the standard need to be consented separately and will likely mean the discharge will need to be 'artificially' separated into component parts for consenting – this is likely to add complexity. We encourage Taumata Arowai to investigate the practicality of this further – we have similar concerns relating to managing cumulative effects.
- iii. Council supports the option to apply QRMA where shellfish are regularly gathered – this will enable site specific risks to be managed. We recommend a similar risk management approach could also be applied to other values such as swimming sites, aquaculture activities or sites of cultural significance.
- iv. A number of the metrics for the standards use annual medians only (cBOD, suspended solids, nitrogen and phosphorus) - this could allow very high contaminant concentrations at times. We recommend that metrics are also applied to ensure 'spikes' in contaminant discharges are also managed (e.g. similar to 90% percentiles applied to *E.coli*).
- v. A higher standard for more pristine environments is logical but it is doubtful the proposed approach is meaningful – for example very few (if any) waterbodies in Northland are likely to meet the 'A' state for all NPS Freshwater attributes). It is recommended that the standards not apply to waterbodies identified in regional plans as: a) outstanding freshwater bodies, b) a site of significance to tāngata whenua, c) significant ecological areas. Doing so will enable a policy connection between the standards and those areas identified in our regional plan that require special consideration for environmental or cultural reasons.
- vi. The categorisation / definitions of 'receiving environments' needs to be very clear and certain (e.g. low, moderate and high dilution rivers, low energy coastal or estuarine receiving environments) – this is likely to be an issue for Northland as a number of treatment plants discharge to estuaries, tidal

rivers and harbours. We see some risk that this becomes a point of contention and uncertainty. We therefore recommend the standards include clear definitions for receiving environments subject to the standards.

- vii. Regarding the exception for discharges above / in proximity to drinking water takes in rivers and lakes – it is unclear which drinking water takes this would apply to - i.e. any registered drinking water take (e.g. single dwelling), or just those registered takes that serve a specified number of people? This needs to be clearly stated for certainty.
- viii. There appears no ability to apply adaptive management to wastewater discharges where standards are met – this is likely to be a concern where the scale and / or nature adverse effects are uncertain, which could be quite likely over a 35 year consent duration. We recommend that the standards (and the regulatory regime they sit within) enable adaptive management and complementary receiving environment monitoring regime where effects are uncertain.
- ix. Council supports a consistent monitoring regime for network discharges but note the standards do not require monitoring of the receiving environment – this could be a concern where total loads / concentrations are high. We recommend discretion for regional councils to require receiving environment monitoring through consent conditions. This should include both scientific and cultural monitoring to provide a holistic understanding of the impacts.

3. Relief sought

- i. Council's preference is for the Local Government (Water Services) Bill and associated changes to the RMA to revert to the current approach adopted in National Standards whereby councils can be more stringent but not more lenient – i.e. the standards should set the minimum required but allow regional councils to apply more stringent consent conditions.
- ii. Council recognises the above relief is beyond the ambit of Taumata Arowai - as an alternative, there should be additional exceptions in the standards that enable councils to impose greater stringency (through consent conditions) in the following circumstances:
 - To give effect to s107(2A) RMA, and
 - To meet a national bottom line / limit, or target state for a mandatory freshwater attribute;
 - Where the discharge is into an outstanding freshwater body, a site of significance to tāngata whenua, or a significant ecological area identified in a regional plan.
 - The water body is subject to Treaty settlement arrangements or joint management agreements with iwi.
 - Where the scale and nature of effects in receiving environments is uncertain over the duration of the consent and adaptive management should be applied.
- iii. Council recommends that the standards enable regional councils to require monitoring of receiving environments as a condition of consent – this would be particularly important where contact recreation, māhinga kai, cultural practices or commercial aquaculture are potentially affected (by the discharge by itself or in combination with other contaminant sources), or where effects are uncertain over the term of the consent.
- iv. Council recommends that the standards clearly define receiving environments, especially the estuary and low energy coastal categories.
- v. The standards should provide greater certainty on calculating dilution factors, especially in regard to estimating the impacts of rainfall on the network discharge volume over a 35 year consent term. We

also recommend detailed assessment of dilution levels in the receiving environment (for discharges to water) to ensure it meets safety standards taking into account other contaminant sources / total concentrations.

- vi. Council recommends the standards include maximum values for cBOD, suspended solids, nitrogen and phosphorus to ensure maximum concentrations are managed (do not just rely on annual medians).
- vii. Standards / regulations should not preclude public notification of applications for wastewater discharges even if standards are met.
- viii. Council supports a consistent approach to overflows and their management and reporting requirements.

4. Conclusion

Council thank Taumata Arowai for the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed standards. We are not convinced the regime proposed will streamline the consenting process or materially reduce costs – in fact we see real risk that the approach will complicate consenting in some cases. We would be happy to provide more information on the above as needed.

Signed on behalf of Northland Regional Council

Chair Geoff Crawford



Dated 22 April 2025

TITLE: Wānanga Waiora - report and presentation

From: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 02 May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the outcomes achieved from Te Wānanga Waiora. Te Ruarangi representative Nyze Manuel will present a report highlighting the successes and feedback received from those that attended.

As a commitment to wānanga that highlight the experiences of kaitiaki across the region and the partnership with council to enable a better understanding of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) and its functions, the second Wānanga Waiora was held at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds Tahuaroa Function Centre on March 26. Hosted by Whangaroa Taiao Ltd with support from Northland Regional Council (NRC), the event provided a unique opportunity for Te Taitokerau kaitiaki and hapū to come together and share te mātauranga o te taiao (knowledge of the environment).

The main purpose of Wānanga Waiora for kaitiaki and convenors is to foster kotahitanga (unity in purpose) and provide a measurable tool for understanding the relationships between wai and kaitiaki (guardians, trustees), as well as NRC's operational capability and positive outcomes with tangata whenua.

Overall, the kaupapa and the day were a great success. Approximately 150 people attended, with 220 registered from across Aotearoa. It was an excellent opportunity to come together to share and learn from each other's mātauranga of te taiao (knowledge of the environment).

Wānanga Waiora allows kaitiaki to see what NRC is doing as an authority and to specifically measure the relationships between kaitiaki and the council, as well as their practices on an operational level. It provides a qualitative way to measure policy, governance, and the 'hands-on' mahi being done. This year's event highlighted how the relationship between NRC and the kaitiaki has grown. Enduring relationships ensure that these connections continue to achieve meaningful outcomes and shared success.

Opened by Te Ruarangi Co-Chair Pita Tipene speaking to the importance of the work being done in partnership with council and the commitment to hear the collective voices of kaitiaki as a key purpose of Wānanga Waiora followed by Deputy Chair Tui Shortland acknowledging the challenges of the mana i te wai as a commitment encapsulated in wānanga Waiora for kaitiaki to share their experiences and knowledge.

Special guest Hokianga and māramataka tohunga (expert) Rereata Makiha sharing the work being done to grow kumara and maara kai whilst explaining the traditional ways of our tupuna (ancestors) to grow and sustain their ahikaa and homes.

Special guest, Rereata Makiha, Hokianga and māramataka tohunga (expert), shared the work being done to grow kumara and maara kai, explaining the traditional methods of our tūpuna (ancestors) to grow and sustain their ahikaa and homes.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Wānanga Waiora - report and presentation' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

Tuhinga/Background

Presentations were given by:

Ngāti Hine Manu Taupunga Roopu – Jaycee Tipene presented the process of Houhake Tohora and the mātauranga of healing that can be provided to restore and protect kauri, with special guests Tohunga Hori Parata and Tohe Ashby in attendance.

Ngāti Rehia – Presented by Nora Rameka and kaitiaki highlighted the importance of preserving the taiao and passing on mātauranga to our young leaders and kaitiaki for future success.

Te Runanga o Te Rarawa iwi – Maihi Makiha and his team delivered a dynamic and interactive presentation on the benefits of their science and protection of the wai, including monitoring with their mobile science lab that was on display at the event.

Whangaroa Taiao Ltd CEO, Nyze Manuel and Taiao Advocate/Hearing Commissioner Dallas King served as engaging and thought provoking MCs keeping councils, stakeholders and agencies aware of the pressures and challenges facing kaitiaki in protecting our taiao.

Oturu Marae – The Popata whānau presented an approach to kaitiakitanga that includes growing education in te reo Māori for tamariki mokopuna to embrace, whilst recognising their own journey and commitment as kaitiaki.

Ngāti Tara me Parapara Marae – Kaitiaki demonstrated their work and partnerships with Mountain to Sea, focusing on achieving meaningful environmental monitoring with limited resources.

Te Rūnanga o Te Aupōuri – Presented their hard work in fencing, pest removal, planting and data capture with drones, which has been a successful model for building employment and training opportunities.

Te Taumata Arowai – Presented new wastewater standards out for submission, and were there to support iwi and hapū to engage on what this means kanohi ki te kanohi (face to face).

Te Uri o Hikihiki – Holly Hetaraka presented their work on implementing marine protected area in Mimiwhangata in partnership with NRC, including training, education, and employment of kaitiaki to monitor and educate recreational fishers on the no-take zone.

Nga Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori – Showcased their strong presence and achievements when appropriately resourced, including developing a strong GIS tool to monitor kaitiaki mahi and improvements in the wai and presence of tuna as a result.

Nga Kaitiaki – ngā hapū me ngā hapori o Whangaroa – Representatives of community and Ngā Kaitiaki o Whangaroa are now capturing monitoring with our team and have released the first kaitiaki monitoring in partnership with our science and monitoring team so that we can demonstrate in real data and time the work being done together.

The wānanga conclude with a guest panel consisting of experts and representatives Te Kahika Kelly Stratford, FNDC, Tui Shortland Deputy Chair NRC, Trudy Allen, Maihi Makiha (Te Runanga o Te Rarawa), Jono Gibbard, CE NRC and Taumata Arowai representatives. They faced some tough questions about their approaches and commitment to Wānanga Waioara, their roles and responsibilities and issues of te taiao.

Feedback received from attendees is **attached**.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Wānanga Waioara survey feedback [↓](#) 

Feedback received from survey that went out to participants

Id	What did you like about today?	What didn't work for you?	What should we do more or less of?	Any ideas for next time?
2	Kai, wai me te whanaungatanga	Aircon	More groups, more presentations, more kōrero, two days pea	Two days wānanga
3	Networking....being in the presence of ngā rangatiri nui..hearing the reo..seeing rangatahi speak with confidence and pride i also loved the opportunity to sit outside and see..hear the talks	Nil	More breaks	Keep the venue..it is wonderful
4	The venue, manaaki, the weather, he tāngata	The late notice	Reduce MC of repeating basics and insinuations	Frequent rotation of MC, more time with Papa Rereata, quality over quantity presentations
5	Collaboration of hapū, iwi, Councils & agencies	N/A	N/A	Keep doing what you're doing!
6	Everything, I loved everyone's presentations and I will be taking on board all the learning. I loved the MCs 💎💎	Nothing it was amazing	For a Maori hui it ran amazingly	Workshop spaces
7	The stories and connections	Nil	Meet more and hands on mahi together	Wānanga over a couple days
8	Hapū leading!	-	More hapū stories	Was great.
9	The sharing and the aligned aspirations	Air conditioning too cold	Maybe shorten some of the talks a bit. Really enjoyed the ones where innovation was involved. Marine space talks very good.	As above. Ngā mihi nui for a great wānanga.

Id	What did you like about today?	What didn't work for you?	What should we do more or less of?	Any ideas for next time?
10	I really enjoyed Dallas as the emcee I think she kept the crowd entertained and engaged. I also liked the sharing of all the kaupapa going on out there in the hapu spaces and on the ground, I loved the sharing and the knowledge, I gained lots of great ideas and made some new networks as a result of today's conference.	I didn't like the seating arrangements, I liked it better last year when we had round tables, it allowed me to write notes better. I felt like some of our regulators were dancing around questions and didn't really have anything valuable to add- they were my least favorite	The expert panel at the end seemed a waste of time, the answers to the questions didn't add any value for me personally	Instead of the panel time at the end it would've been awesome to have half an hour extra at lunch or during the day to network a bit more. I spent time looking through me he wai's mobile lab which was awesome and I really wanted to catch up with someone from NRC but didn't get the time. I also wanted to talk to the mountains to sea guy or someone at whangaroa about their "map book" they created and I had a tonne of questions for the crew from Te Kao- didn't get the chance to catch up with them in a natural way without rudely bowling them over lol I love these wananga and am super grateful for what they provide in terms of knowledge, ideas and networking so thank you for a beautiful day!

TITLE: **Mōtatau marae-based hui - report**

From: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 02 May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

A presentation will be shared with Te Ruarangi including pictures of the meeting by Auriole Ruka.

On Thursday 10 April, a Te Ruarangi marae-based meeting was held at the Motatau marae, hosted by Ngāti Hine, to discuss water catchments and raise awareness about ongoing work in the area. The kaupapa focused on various Ngāti Hine projects related to the taiao (environment) and waimaori (freshwater), providing an opportunity updates on their efforts for each catchment.

The event began with a pōwhiri, followed by a presentation from Te Ruarangi Co-Chair, Pita Tipene, on the history and leadership of Ngāti Hine. The council was honoured by the respect and manaaki (warm hospitality) extended to them.

The overall intention of the hui was to showcase the mahi being done and the alignment and collectivisation of the different kaupapa into a clear and coherent strategy, and how collaboration and sharing ensured that all whānau, marae, and hapū will be included in the work ahead with Ngāti Hine, Te Ruarangi, and Northland Regional Council. (NRC)

The council was appreciative to hear about the work being done on the ground, as were the kaikorero (speakers) and those involved in taiao mahi (environmental efforts) around Taitokerau. It was also acknowledged that this was the first time the Deputy Chair of NRC, Tui Shortland, was at her marae with Te Ruarangi. A highlight was having Te Kura Reorua o Motatau at the pōwhiri, with tamariki mokopuna (children and grandchildren) showing their kaha (strength) and tautoko (support) for the kaupapa – kawanatanga (governance) and tino rangatiratanga (self-determination) working together for the protection and preservation of the taiao.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Mōtatau marae-based hui - report' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

Tuhinga/Background

Not relevant,

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: Local government elections 2025

From: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Authorised by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 01
Group Manager/s: May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

Under the Local Electoral Act 2001, council is responsible for conducting local government elections and polls, ensuring fair representation, and managing the electoral process in accordance with legislative requirements. Local elections take place every three years, and this year will be held on 11 October 2025. A crucial element of this year's elections is a poll on Māori seats, mandated by government legislative changes.

On 26 July 2022, council adopted Tāiki ē – Northland Regional Council Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan and on the 23 April 2024 adopted the more fulsome document as the Tāiki ē - NRC and TTMAC Te Tiriti Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan. Specifically relevant to this paper is Action 22 which states "To 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."

This report seeks to provide an overview of the key aspects of the local government elections and the poll on Maori constituencies and to provide an opportunity to seek and obtain any feedback from Te Ruarangi.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Local government elections 2025' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

Tuhinga/Background

Council planning has commenced for the 2025 local body triennial elections. Dale Ofsoske of Independent Election Services has been reappointed as the Electoral Officer for Northland Regional Council (NRC). A report from the Electoral Officer is included as **Attachment 1**, which outlines the election process and provides a timetable and fact sheet (pages 7 and 8 of the report, respectively).

Local government elections

Voter turnout in local elections has been declining since the 1980s. Notably, however, in 2022 the average nationwide elector turnout experienced an uptick to 45.6% (compared to 41.7% for the 2019 election and 42% for the 2016 election).

For Northland, the regional voter turnout in 2022 was 43.2%, down from a 45.6% turnout in 2019. By each territorial local authority, voter turnouts in 2022 were:

- Far North District Council: 41.5%
- Kaipara District Council: 47.6%
- Whangarei District Council: 43.3%.

A major focus for Northland councils for the 2025 local body triennial elections is to increase voter turnout. Key initiatives to achieve this include, but are not limited to, heightened awareness campaigns across the councils to encourage the community to enrol, stand and vote. This will entail council attendance at a raft of events, many in conjunction with the Electoral Commission. Additionally, there will be an increased number of voting locations across the region, including mobile units and supermarkets.

Whilst the Northland councils are working closely together in preparation for the 2025 local body triennial elections, each council will be conducting its own communication campaign, given the need to nuance messaging specific to its audience.

Section 99A of the Local Government Act 2002 requires each local authority to prepare a pre-election report, whose purpose is to provide information to promote public discussion about the issues facing the local authority. The pre-election report is prepared by the council's chief executive, and must contain financial and major project information, and should be completed by the end of June 2025.

Section 42(2)(da) of the Local Government Act 2002 requires the chief executive of a local authority to promote their elections to increase voter participation. As a chief executive legislative requirement (not a governance matter), such promotion should focus on an effective communications/education strategy about the council - what it does, its services and relevance to the community and the importance to stand for office and to vote/have your say to help determine the future of the region.

Council's approach to promote local government elections to Māori will include:

- Actively encourage Māori to put themselves forward as candidates (for general and Māori constituencies).
- Actively support Te Ruarangi members to engage with whānau, hapū and iwi regarding local government elections.
- Collaborate and engage with targeted communications to encourage Māori to enrol, stand and vote in local government elections.

Poll on Māori Constituencies

In October 2020, Northland Regional Council voted to establish Māori constituencies (Te Raki Māori) for the 2022 regional council elections. Following a representation review in 2021, one Māori constituency with two seats (Te Raki Māori) was created for the 2022 regional council elections.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 (LEA) was amended in July 2024 - the changes required council to decide whether to retain or disestablish its Māori constituency. NRC resolved to retain the Māori constituency at its meeting of 27 August 2024. Under the amended LEA, the council is required to hold a binding poll on whether to retain the Māori constituencies in conjunction with the 2025 local government election. The poll outcome will apply for the 2028 and 2031 elections.

While council does not conduct the poll itself (this is undertaken by an independent electoral officer), it has responsibilities under the LEA and Local Government Act 2002 (LGA) – these include:

- Giving effect to the principles in section 4 of the LEA (see appendix 1), including ensuring that members of the community can vote in an informed manner.
- Meeting Te Tiriti obligations in accordance with section 4 of the LGA
- Providing opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision-making processes (under ss 14 and 81 LGA).

Council has also made Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments through Tāiki ē – a plan to implement council's Te Tiriti obligations, including actions to improve Māori representation.

Council cannot act to influence the outcome of any poll. Promoting a 'council position' on the question that is to be the subject of the Poll would likely constitute a breach of the principles in section 4 of the LEA. Such a breach would be an irregularity that could cause the Poll to be declared void by the District Court, in the event of a petition challenging the conduct of the Poll.

However, this does not prevent council from providing relevant information on the subject matter of the poll. The line between making information available to support informed decision-making by voters and advocating for an outcome on the poll that would undermine the validity of the poll, is not clear-cut and there is consequently risk associated with any approach taken.

Councillors considered this matter during a workshop on 13 March 2025 and have asked staff to prepare a communication plan that gives effect to council's obligation to ensure that the community is informed of the issues relevant to Māori constituencies, consistent with the principles of the LEA, while also ensuring council is not in any way advocating for a particular outcome or seeking to influence the outcome of the poll.

It's proposed that the council approach include:

- Not making any statements about the potential or preferred outcome of the poll.
- Provide information on why the council adopted its previous position in support of Māori constituencies.
- Inform potential voters about how the Māori constituency system works and collaborate with relevant stakeholders, other councils, agencies, hapū and iwi to support constituents to vote in the poll on Māori constituencies.

Overarching approach

Effectively engage the Te Taitokerau community in the upcoming elections. This includes encouraging enrolment, candidacy, and voting, while raising awareness and understanding about council's role and relevancy.

Engage and educate our communities:

- Provide clear, accessible information about the election process and candidates.
- Educate voters on the importance of local election and encourage them to have their say
- Clearly communicate what regional council is and why our mahi (work) is important and relevant (This will predominately be covered by a separate but connected 'what we do' campaign)

Boost electoral participation:

- Engage Northlanders and encourage a diverse range of candidates to stand, including under-represented groups - specifically youth, females, and Māori.
- Increase enrolment and boost voter turnout, particularly from underrepresented groups like young people and Māori
- Ensure our community understands the importance of having a voice in the elections process and why the regional council is relevant to them.

Inform voters on Māori constituencies poll:

- Provide clear and balanced information to help voters make informed decisions regarding the future of Māori constituencies
- Ensure that everyone, regardless of which roll they are on, understands they can have their say on the future of Māori seats through the poll.

Key Timeframes

The project has 3 main phases: enrol, stand, vote. Information on Māori polls will be woven through the phases, e.g. highlighting the need to enrol to have your say on the Māori polls. Additionally, FAQs will address supporting questions during these phases.


What	When
Enrol	May – August National ratepayers roll campaign underway 1 July – Electoral Commission Enrolment update campaign starts
Stand	July - August Friday 4 July – Nominations open Friday 1 August – Nominations close
Vote	September – October 9 September – 11 October – Delivery of voting documents Saturday 11 October – Election Day

Next steps

Below is a summary of next steps:

- Seek Te Ruarangi feedback on Council’s approach to implementing Tāiki ē Action 22.
- Council staff to take into account Te Ruarangi feedback in developing a communication and engagement campaign for council elections for sign off by the Chief Executive.
- Councillors to take into account Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū feedback with respect to raising awareness and understanding relating to the poll on Maori constituencies. It’s anticipated that councillors will workshop and endorse the approach relating to raising the community’s awareness and understanding of Maori constituencies in May.
- A further report will be provided to Te Ruarangi prior to the commencement of the council election and Maori constituency poll communication and awareness campaign.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Local Electoral Act 2001 (as at 01 April 2025), section 4 [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Election Services Report - 2025 Triennial Elections [↓](#) 

Local Electoral Act 2001 (as at 01 April 2025)

4 Principles

- (1) The principles that this Act is designed to implement are the following:
- (aa) representative and substantial electoral participation in local elections and polls:
 - (a) fair and effective representation for individuals and communities:
 - (b) all qualified persons have a reasonable and equal opportunity to—
 - (i) cast an informed vote:
 - (ii) nominate 1 or more candidates:
 - (iii) accept nomination as a candidate:
 - (c) public confidence in, and public understanding of, local electoral processes through—
 - (i) the provision of a regular election cycle:
 - (ii) the provision of elections that are managed independently from the elected body:
 - (iii) protection of the freedom of choice of voters and the secrecy of the vote:
 - (iv) the provision of transparent electoral systems and voting methods and the adoption of procedures that produce certainty in electoral outcomes:
 - (v) the provision of impartial mechanisms for resolving disputed elections and polls.
- (2) Local authorities, electoral officers, and other electoral officials must, in making decisions under this Act or any other enactment, take into account those principles specified in subsection (1) that are applicable (if any), so far as is practicable in the circumstances.
- (3) This section does not override any other provision in this Act or any other enactment.

Section 4(1)(aa): inserted, on 21 March 2019, by [section 9](#) of the Local Government Regulatory Systems Amendment Act 2019 (2019 No 6).

Election Services

Level 2, 198 Federal Street, Auckland
PO Box 5135, Victoria Street West
Auckland 1142
Phone: 64 9 973 5212
Email: info@electionservices.co.nz

Report to the
Northland Regional Council
regarding the

2025 Triennial Election

From the
Electoral Officer

11 February 2025



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Outline

The 2025 triennial local government elections will occur on Saturday 11 October 2025. An update on preliminary matters relating to the election is provided to Council, including consideration of the order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents.

Background

The 2025 triennial elections for local authorities are due to occur on Saturday 11 October 2025 and are required to be undertaken according to the Local Electoral Act 2001, the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 and, to a limited extent, the Local Government Act 2002.

Certain pre-election information and tasks are outlined in this report for Council's information and attention.

The Local Electoral Regulations 2001 provides for Council to resolve the order of candidate names to appear on the voting documents (alphabetical, pseudo-random or random order). If no decision is made, the order of names defaults to alphabetical.

Narrative

Māori Wards and Constituencies Polls

Where a local authority has established Māori wards or Māori constituencies since 2020 without undertaking a poll, legislation now requires a poll to be undertaken in conjunction with the 2025 local elections (Local Government (Electoral Legislation and Māori Wards and Māori Constituencies) Amendment Act 2024).

Separate polls will therefore be required for the Northland Regional Council and for two constituent territorial authorities (Far North District Council and Whangārei District Council). A Māori wards poll will not be required for Kaipara District Council as they resolved in 2024 to dis-establish their Māori ward (and negate the need for a poll).

The outcome of the polls will be binding for two triennial elections (2028 and 2031).

The question will be simple and easy to understand:

'I vote to keep the Māori ward/constituency' or

'I vote to remove the Māori ward/constituency'.

2025 Elections

Elections will be required for the following positions:

- Councillors (9)
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency (1)
 - Coastal Central General Constituency (1)
 - Coastal South General Constituency (1)
 - Far North General Constituency (1)
 - Kaipara General Constituency (1)

- Mid-North General Constituency (1)
- Te Raki Māori Constituency (2)
- Whangārei Central General Constituency (1)
- Northland Regional Council Māori Constituency Poll

Electoral Systems

Council has resolved to retain the FPP (First Past the Post) electoral system for the 2025 local elections.

For constituent territorial authorities, Kaipara District Council has also adopted the FPP (First Past the Post) electoral system and both Far North District Council and Whangārei District Council will be using the STV (Single Transferable Vote) electoral system for their 2025 local elections.

Legislative Changes

The Local Electoral Regulations 2001 were amended on 30 July 2024 to allow a greater period for the delivery of voting mailers (from six days to 14 days) and a longer voting period (from 22.5 days to 32.5 days).

Although election day remains the second Saturday in October every three-years (11 October 2025), the commencement of the electoral process now starts earlier with nominations opening on Friday 4 July 2025.

2025 Election Timetable

With an election date of **Saturday 11 October 2025**, the following key functions and dates will apply:

Nominations open/roll open

Friday 4 July 2025

Nominations close/roll closes

Noon, Friday 1 August 2025

Delivery of voting mailers

Tuesday 9 to Monday 22 September 2025

Close of voting

Noon, Saturday 11 October 2025

A more detailed timetable is attached ([Appendix 1](#)).

2025 Election Fact Sheet

A 2025 Election Fact Sheet summarising the key functions of the election ([Appendix 2](#)) is also attached.

Order of Candidate Names

Regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001 provides the opportunity for Council to choose the order of candidate names appearing on the voting documents from three options – alphabetical, pseudo-random (names drawn randomly with all voting documents printed in this order) or random order (names randomly drawn by computer with each voting document different).

Council may determine which order the names of candidates

are to appear on the voting documents, but if no decision is made, the order of names defaults to alphabetical.

Council adopted the alphabetical order for their 2022 triennial elections.

For Council's information, Auckland Council has undertaken analysis on the effect on the order of candidate names, and research showed no observable effect of candidate order on actual election outcomes.

Alphabetical Order

Alphabetical order is simply listing candidate surnames alphabetically and is the order traditionally used in local and Parliamentary elections.

Comments regarding alphabetical order are:

- voters are easily able to find names of candidates for whom they wish to vote. Some candidates and voters over the years have argued that alphabetical order may tend to favour candidates with names in the first part of the alphabet, but in practice this is generally not the case – most voters tend to look for name recognition, regardless of where in the alphabet the surname lies;
- the order of candidate names on the voting document matches the order listed in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

Pseudo-Random Order

Pseudo-random order is where candidate surnames are randomly selected, and the same order is used on all voting documents for that position. The names are randomly selected by a method such as drawing names out of a container.

Comments regarding pseudo-random order are:

- the candidate names appear in mixed order (not alphabetical) on the voting document;
- possible voter criticism/confusion as specific candidate names are not easily found, particularly where there may be many candidates;
- the order of candidate names on the voting document does not match the order listed in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

Random Order

Random order is where all candidate surnames are randomly selected and are listed in a different order on every voting document. The names are randomly selected by computer so that the order is different.

Random order enables names to be listed in a completely

unique order on each voting document.

Comments regarding random order are:

- the candidate names appear in mixed order (not alphabetical) on the voting document;
- possible voter criticism/confusion as specific candidate names are not easily found, particularly where there are many candidates;
- the order of candidate names on the voting document does not match the order listed in the candidate directory (candidate profile statements).

There is no price differential in printing costs between the three orders of candidate names.

Number of Electors

The number of electors in the northern region for the 2025 triennial elections is expected to be 139,000. This compares to 131,727 electors for the 2022 triennial election or + 5.5% growth.

Pre-Election Report

Section 99A of the Local Government Act 2002 requires each local authority to prepare a pre-election report, whose purpose is to provide information to promote public discussion about the issues facing the local authority. The pre-election report is prepared by the Chief Executive, must contain financial and major project information, and should be completed by the end of June 2025.

Promotion of Election

Section 42(2) (da) of the Local Government Act 2002 requires the chief executive of a local authority to promote their elections to increase voter participation.

As a chief executive legislative requirement (not a governance matter), such promotion should focus on an effective communications/education strategy about the council - what it does, its services and relevance to the community and the importance to stand for office and to vote/have your say to help determine the future of the region.

Pre-Election Period

The period three-months before election day, known as the pre-election period, is a time where Council must be mindful not to make any significant decisions.

Business as usual must be able to continue, but best practise is that any decisions of significance should not be made in this period (11 July 2025 to 11 October 2025).

In addition, local authorities cannot promote, or be perceived to promote, the prospects of any candidate, especially a current member. This includes restrictions on elected member official communications by Council.

Any use of Council resources (websites, social media, vehicles, phones, staff etc) by elected members during the pre-election period for re-election purposes is unacceptable and possibly unlawful. This prevents a perception of an “unfair advantage” to current elected members over other candidates.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

Council resolves for the 2025 triennial election, to adopt ***either***:

- (i) the alphabetical order of candidate names; ***or***
- (ii) the pseudo-random order of candidate names; ***or***
- (iii) the random order of candidate names

as permitted under regulation 31 of the Local Electoral Regulations 2001.

Author:



Dale Ofsoske
Electoral Officer // Northland Regional Council
Election Services

APPENDIX 1



NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



TIMETABLE | WĀTAKA

2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
11 OCTOBER 2025



May 2025	National ratepayer roll qualifications and procedures campaign [Sec 39, LEA]
Monday 9 June 2025	Electoral Commission's enrolment update campaign commences
Wednesday 2 July 2025	Public notice of election, calling for nominations, roll open for inspection [Sec 42, 52, 53, LEA]
Friday 4 July 2025	Nominations open / roll open for inspection
Friday 1 August 2025	Nominations close (12 noon) / roll closes [Sec 5, 42, 55 LEA, Reg 21, LER]
Wednesday 6 August 2025	Public notice of day of election, candidates' names [Sec 65, LEA]
Friday 5 September 2025	Electoral officer certifies final electoral roll [Sec 51, LEA, Reg 22, LER]
Tuesday 9 September – Monday 22 September 2025	Delivery of voting documents [Reg 51, LER]
Tuesday 9 September – Saturday 11 October 2025	Progressive roll scrutiny [Sec 83, LEA] Special voting period (12 noon) [Sec 5 LEA, Reg 35, LER] Early processing period (12 noon) [Sec 80, LEA]
by Friday 10 October 2025	Appointment of scrutineers (12 noon) [Sec 68, LEA]
Saturday 11 October 2025	Election day [Sec 10, LEA] Close of voting (12 noon) [Sec 84, LEA] Progress and preliminary results available as soon as practicable after close of voting [Sec 85, LEA]
Monday 14 October – Friday 17 October 2025	Official count [Sec 84, LEA]
Friday 17 October – Saturday 18 October 2025	Declaration of result/public notice of declaration [Sec 86, LEA]
mid/late December 2025	Return of electoral donations & expenses form [Sec 112A, LEA]

LEA = Local Electoral Act 2001 LER = Local Electoral Regulations 2001 (incorporating 30 July 2024 changes)

APPENDIX 2



NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FACT SHEET | PEPA MEKA

2025 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
11 OCTOBER 2025



➔ WHAT DOES A REGIONAL COUNCIL DO?

While district councils are responsible for a wide range of local services in your area, the role and responsibilities of the Regional Council involve managing the region's natural resources. The Northland Regional Council manages land, air, coast and the quality of water in our lakes and rivers. They are also responsible for biodiversity, regional parks, flood protection, emergency management and regional transport. The Regional Council works closely with district councils and other agencies on some issues, to ensure they are managed to benefit the entire region.

➔ BACKGROUND

Local government triennial elections are being held by postal vote on Saturday 11 October 2025 and will be undertaken by Election Services, under contract to Northland Regional Council.

The elections are undertaken on behalf of the regional council by its three constituent territorial authorities (Far North District Council, Whangārei District Council and Kaipara District Council). In addition to their own elections (Mayor, Council etc), each constituent territorial authority is also required to undertake regional council elections.

The first past the post (FPP) electoral system will be used by the Northland Regional Council and Kaipara District Council elections. Whangārei District Council and Far North District Council use the single transferable voting (STV) electoral system.

➔ 2025 KEY DATES

Nominations open	Friday 4 July
Nominations close	noon, Friday 1 August
Delivery of voting packs	from Tuesday 9 September
Close of voting	noon, Saturday 11 October
Official results announced	Friday 17 October

➔ WHO IS BEING ELECTED?

Elections will be required for the following positions:

- ➔ Councillors (9)
 - Bay of Islands-Whangaroa General Constituency (1)
 - Coastal Central General Constituency (1)
 - Coastal South General Constituency (1)
 - Far North General Constituency (1)
 - Kaipara General Constituency (1)
 - Mid North General Constituency (1)
 - Te Raki Māori Constituency (2)
 - Whangārei Central General Constituency (1)

In addition, there will be a poll on whether the Māori constituency remains or is disestablished. The outcome of this poll is binding and will be applicable for the 2028 and 2031 triennial elections.

➔ HOW CAN I BE NOMINATED?

Nominations for these positions open on Friday 4 July 2025 and close at noon on Friday 1 August 2025.

For online nominations go to: www.esp.electionservices.co.nz.

Printed nomination papers and a candidate handbook will also be available during this period from:

- ➔ Council's Whangārei Office, 36 Water Street, Whangārei;
- ➔ Council's Dargaville Office, 32 Hokianga Road, Dargaville;
- ➔ Council's Kaitiāia Office, 192 Commerce Street, Kaitiāia;
- ➔ Council's Waipapa Office, Shop 9, 12 Klinac Lane, Waipapa;
- ➔ or download and print at: www.nrc.govt.nz.

To be eligible to stand for election, a candidate **must** be:

- ➔ a New Zealand citizen (by birth or naturalisation ceremony); **and**
- ➔ enrolled as a Parliamentary elector (anywhere in New Zealand); **and**
- ➔ nominated by two electors whose names appear on the electoral roll within the respective area that a candidate is standing for.

A candidate information handbook is available in May 2025.

WHO CAN VOTE?

Those eligible to vote are all resident electors and non-resident ratepayer electors whose names appear on the electoral roll when it closes on Friday 1 August 2025. The Preliminary Electoral Roll will be available for public inspection between Friday 4 July 2025 and Friday 1 August 2025 at the above locations.

Resident Roll: All parliamentary electors, including those on the Māori Electoral Roll, are automatically enrolled on the Resident Roll, at the address where they live. Any alterations to the Resident Roll (e.g. change of address details, including new postal addresses) should be made by:

- completing the appropriate form (available from the Electoral Commission or constituent territorial authority office or library);
- phoning 0800 36 76 56;
- accessing the Electoral Commission website: www.vote.nz

Ratepayer Roll: If a person is on the parliamentary roll in one area and pays rates on a property in another area, this person may be eligible to be enrolled on the non-resident ratepayer roll. A firm, company, corporation or society paying rates on a property may nominate one of its members or officers as a ratepayer elector (provided the nominated person resides outside the area). Ratepayer Roll enrolment forms are available at www.nrc.govt.nz or www.ratepayer.co.nz or by phoning 0800 922 822.

Those electors on the general electoral roll will be able to vote for the respective general constituency councillors and those on the Māori electoral roll will be able to vote for the Māori constituency councillors.

HOW TO VOTE?

Voting packs will be posted to all those who have enrolled from Tuesday 9 September 2025, by each constituent territorial authority.

The voting period is just over four weeks (Tuesday 9 September 2025 to noon Saturday 11 October 2025).

Electors may post their completed voting documents back to the electoral officer using the orange prepaid envelope sent with their voting document.

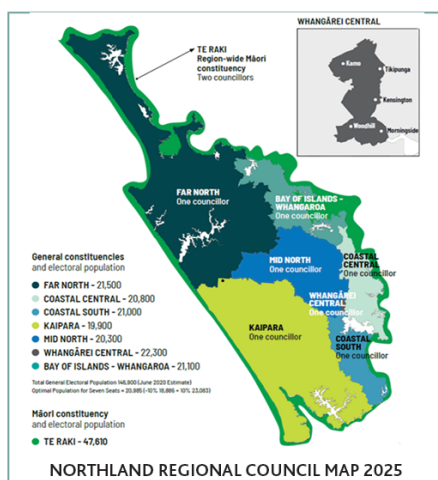
Polling places for the issuing of special voting documents and for the receiving of completed voting documents will be available from Tuesday 9 September 2025 to noon Saturday 11 October 2025 at:

- Far North District Council's main office, 5 Memorial Avenue, Kaikohe;
- Kaipara District Council's main office, 32 Hokianga Road, Dargaville;
- Whangārei District Council's main office, Te Iwitiaki, 9 Rust Avenue, Whangārei.
- Northland Regional Council's main office, 36 Water Street, Whangārei.

To be counted, all completed voting documents must be in the hands of the electoral officer or an electoral official by noon, Saturday 11 October 2025.

RESULTS

Progress results will be known early afternoon on election day, and preliminary results will be known on Sunday, 12 October 2025. Final results will be known by Friday 17 October 2025, and all results will be accessible on Council's website: www.nrc.govt.nz



Dale Ofsoske | Electoral Officer
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TITLE: **Te Ruarangi meeting schedule 2025**

From: Sally Bowron, Strategy, Governance and Engagement Team Admin/PA and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: 02 May 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to confirm the meeting schedule for the remaining Te Ruarangi formal meetings and marae-based hui for 2025. The proposed schedule is in line with clause 14 of the Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference which outlines meeting frequency, format, venues and attendance. The meetings continue to be held on the second Thursday of the month.

2025 Te Ruarangi meeting dates	Type of meeting
13 February	Formal
20 February	Additional workshop scheduled due to the tight timeline for providing regional deals feedback to JREDC.
13 March	Formal
10 April	Marae-based hui hosted by Ngāti Hine at Mōtatau Marae
8 May	Formal
12 June	Marae-based hui – Te Tāpui Marae, Matauri Bay
10 July	Formal
14 August	Marae-based hui – TBC
11 September	Formal
9 October	Nil - elections
13 November OR 11 December	TBC one further marae-based hui for 2025. Nb: following the 2022 local government election, Te Ruarangi (TTMAC) did not reconvene until February 2023.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Te Ruarangi meeting schedule 2025' by Sally Bowron, Strategy, Governance and Engagement Team Admin/PA and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement and dated 15 April 2025, be received.
2. That Te Ruarangi meets according to the schedule provided in the Executive summary.
3. That the host and location for the respective marae-based hui be:
 - i. For the 14 August 2025 _____ will host at _____ marae.
 - ii. For the final marae-based hui on either 13 November or 11 December _____ will host at _____ marae.

Tuhinga/Background

Clause 14 of the Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference outlines meeting frequency, format, venues and attendance.

14. Hokohitanga o ngā hui / Meetings

- a) The working party will meet formally up to 5 times a year at council and a further 5 times a year on marae, focusing on local issues that are important to the haukainga.*
- b) Marae based meetings will not be exclusive to Te Ruarangi membership and the schedule of marae-based meetings will ensure a good geographic spread across the region.*
- c) Whilst any working party member is welcome to attend the marae-based workshops, these workshops will not constitute a formal working party meeting and therefore no working party actions can be agreed. All working party members attending council approved marae-based workshops are eligible for meeting fee allowances and mileage.*
- d) When the full working party meets at the offices of the regional council a meeting room will be made available before or after the meeting of the working party in order for the Māori members of the working party to meet.*
- e) The working party meetings provide an opportunity for strategic workshops to focus on strategic Whāinga or goals and review annual reporting so that Te Ruarangi can plan for the year ahead.*
- f) Any decision to changes to meeting dates or locations required outside of a formal Te Ruarangi meeting shall be made by the two Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs following consultation with the council Chairperson and CEO*
- g) As a commitment to Te Tiriti partnership all councillors are members of TTMAC. Councillors, including the Chair, will endeavour to prioritise their attendance at working party meetings.*

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: **Working Party Updates Report**

From: Meloney Tupou, Maori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on
Group Manager/s: date 02 May 2025

The purpose of this paper is to provide a summary of the mahi being done across council by other working parties. It also provides an opportunity for verbal reports since the last formal Te Ruarangi meeting from other working parties which have Te Ruarangi representation.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Working Party Updates Report' be received.

Kaeo River Working Group (Cr Marty Robinson)

The Kaeo River Working Group met on 6 March 2025. The topics for discussion included:

- Stage 2 Kaeo Update
- Other River Works

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

- NRC Rivers Project Manager to share ecological impact assessment report
- NRC Rivers Manager to provide Gantt chart for Kaeo Stage 2 works to FNDC
- NRC to request NZTA representation at these meetings
- Working Group members to inform NRC Project Manager if they wish to be part of a subgroup

Taumarere River Working Group (Cr Geoff Crawford)

The Taumarere River Working Group met on 22 March 2025. The topics for discussion included:

- Nature Based Solutions – Upper Kawakawa Catchment Feasibility Update
- CIP Otiria further works

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

- NRC to raise concerns with NZTA about willows downstream of Kawakawa deflection bank in Waiomio River as it's a State Highway corridor and impacts the road – no machine access into this area
- NRC to contact Sara Brill of NRC to develop planting and maintenance plan for pest plants at Kawakawa Deflection
- NRC and Laurell Douglas to undertake a site visit to locate fill sites at the deflection bank
- NRC to contact FNDC about Noy road for raising

Kerikeri-Waipapa River Working Group (Cr Joe Carr)

The Kerikeri-Waipapa River Working Group met on 27 March 2025. The topics for discussion included:

- Kerikeri Flood Model Update
- Peer Review of Blueprint One – Detention Dam Proposal
- Kerikeri-Waipapa River Working Group integration with FNDC Kerikeri-Waipapa Spatial Plan

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

- That a recommendation is made to NRC and FNDC that both councils look closely at the Kerikeri spatial plan and identify the need for flood mitigation options for Kerikeri-Waipapa river catchments specifically noting the requirement for flood detention/storage dams (K3A) in conjunction with overland flow path diversion options to protect all current and future assets and sites of significance
- Circulate electronically the document produced by Toby Kay “Preliminary Feasibility Study – Kerikeri River Diversion Spillway – Flood Detention Dam”
- NRC Rivers Manager to ask Toby Kay where we currently lack data to enable the hydrology team to go out and visit the areas identified
- NRC will take direction from the working party on what options to run in the flood model

TITLE: Chief Executive's Report to Council

From: Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Authorised by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, on 02 May
Group Manager/s: 2025

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

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 24 April 2025, be received.

4.13.1 HIGHLIGHTS

KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION

Key performance indicators

As at 31 March 2025, 3¼ years into delivery, KMR has delivered the following results on the ground:

Nature & Resilience

- 2.08 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant this winter
- 924 km of fencing completed or contracted – the same distance as from Cape Rēinga to Palmerston North
- 959 hectares planted or contracted, or regenerating into native forest
- Over 130,000 hectares managed under KMR plans.

Jobs & Skills

- 370,000 hours of new work – a year's work for over 237 people
- Over \$22 million invested in restoration projects supported by KMR
- 47 local businesses and nurseries accredited to supply KMR
- 184 people trained and mentored, many from local hapū, to work with landowners/groups and provide technical advice on KMR project design and delivery.

Participation

- 1,208 landowners/groups have expressed interest in KMR
- 781 plans have been completed with landowners/groups, unlocking KMR funding
- 118 more plans are in development with landowners/groups
- 92 projects led by hapū, marae, community groups, catchment groups and other collectives.

KMR Benefits Case Study

In recognition of our role as a national exemplar, KMR has been profiled by the Jobs for Nature Secretariat in a Benefits Case Study supported by an associated Technical Report.

The recently published independent and peer reviewed Case Study evaluated the cost/benefits of KMR delivery using well-tested cost/benefit valuation methodology. Key findings of the report are that:

- For every \$1 invested through KMR, \$3.94 is generated (primarily returned to the local economy and national economy) - a return on investment of almost 4 to 1!
- The primary value generated from KMR is economic (i.e. via support for local jobs, local purchase of materials, and sustaining primary production).

The updated figure reflects the release by The Treasury of a new discount rate, which affects the economic modelling underpinning the Case Study.

Cost-benefit analysis is a widely accepted methodology for assessing the relative merits of public projects. The Case Study also demonstrated that KMR will have 'paid its way' by around August 2025. While KMR is seen as an environmental initiative, the Case Study showed that the primary value generated from KMR is economic (i.e. via support for local jobs, local purchase of materials, and sustaining snapper fishery export earnings).

Earthshot Prize 2025

Due diligence continues in respect of KMR's nomination for the international Earthshot Prize 2025. While the late meetings are challenging - the process is now being undertaken on UK time – and the workload is high, the process is proving very beneficial. Firstly, the evidence dossier under development and subsequent discussions deepen KMR's strategic thinking and test future direction and opportunities. In addition, as part of the nominee cohort, KMR is now receiving specific, targeted assistance through the assessment process. We are likely to learn in late August if we have been named as a global finalist.

4.13.2 CORPORATE SERVICES

Fraud, Corruption and Dishonesty Statement

There are no new fraudulent investigations to report or any new incidents or suspected incidents of fraud at this time.

Finance

In March 2025 \$6,198.01 (excluding GST) was written off with CEO approval in accordance with council policy. The amount written off related to a 2023 invoice issued to Northport Limited who disputed a portion of the invoice in respect to the on-charging of an interpreter's travel costs, which had been incurred due to travel disruption caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

4.13.3 REGULATORY SERVICES

Current Legal Proceedings

Department	Description	Status
Consent decision appeal	Proposed port expansion project to include reclamation and port activities	The applicant is in discussions with parties attempting to resolve the appeal. The applicant is to provide the Court with a final report on progress with resolving the appeal by 17 April 2025.

Consents in Process

During March 2025, a total of 115 Decisions were issued. These decisions comprised:

Moorings	2
Coastal Permits	7
Air Discharge Permits	2
Land Discharge Permits	21

Water Discharge Permits	1
Land Use Consents	56
Water Takes	8
Bore Consents	18

Fifty-one applications were received in March 2025.

Of the 113 applications in progress at the end of March 2025:

- 28 were received more than 12 months ago;
- 10 were received between 6 and 12 months ago (most awaiting further information from the applicant);
- 75 less than 6 months.

Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

No commissioners were appointed in March 2025.

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 2025 is (by number):

Progress on Applications Previously Notified	3
Hearings and Decisions	1
Appeals/Objections	1

COMPLIANCE MONITORING












The results of compliance monitoring for the period 1 to 31 March 2025 (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
Air Discharge	29	28	1	0	0
Bore Consent	3	2	1	0	0
Coastal Discharge	16	12	1	3	0
Coastal Permit	83	34	8	39	2
FDE - Discharge permit	0	0	0	0	0
FDE - Permitted activity	0	0	0	0	0
Land Discharge	68	54	10	4	0
Land Use Consent	65	59	6	0	0
Water Discharge	37	24	6	7	0
Water Permit	37	35	2	0	0
Water Take	179	138	34	7	0
Total	517	386	69	60	2
Percentage		74.7%	13.3%	11.6%	0.4%
Year to date	4501	3466	504	467	2
Percentage		77.0%	11.2%	10.4%	1.4%











Municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance/enforcement

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
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Ahipara Expires 2033			Under ANs (reissued in September 2022). New SCUV unit commissioned in September 2024 and has resulted in improved consent compliance (reduced FC concentrations). Compliance is based on median FC concentrations of 12 consecutive samples and so it will take several months before compliance is achieved should the SCUV continue to significantly reduce FC concentrations. FC results since October 2024 have been compliant.
Kohukohu Expires 2026			Under AN Self-monitoring not being undertaken correctly. Issue being addressed.
Opononi & Omāpere Expires 2027			Under ANs Issues addressed in replacement consent. Moderate non-compliances for BOD, E. coli, and TSS. Remedial actions being undertaken.
Whatuwhiwhi Expires 2025			Moderate non-compliances for TSS exceeding RC limits.
Taipā Expires 2029			Moderate non-compliances for FC exceeding 85 th percentile and TN exceeding RC limits. Remedial actions being undertaken by CH.
Paihia Expires 2034			Under AN Moderate non-compliances due to ammoniacal nitrogen exceeding RC limits for 90 th percentile. Issue being investigated.
Rāwene Expired 2023 (replacement consent being processed)			FC and TSS exceed consent limits. Remedial work scheduled.
Kawakawa Expires 2036			Moderate non-compliance due to 90 th percentile for E Coli being exceeded in historic sample. Has been trending downwards since.

Kaitiāia Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed)			<u>Under AN</u> (for reticulation overflows). Ongoing works on reticulation system. F-specific bacteriophage exceeds 90th percentile. Some sample results missing. F-specific bacteriophage levels are trending downwards.
Kaikohe Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed but also listed Fast-track proposal)			<u>Under AN</u> Self-monitoring not being undertaken in accordance with consent requirements.
Hikurangi Expires 2025			<u>Under AN</u> TSS, BOD5 and E. coli results are above RC limits for median and 90th percentile. CH to supply a programme to remediate the issue.
Russell Expired 30 April 2024 (replacement consent being processed)			<u>Under AN</u> Leachate volumes discharged to treatment plant have exceeded RC limits. Remedial options being investigated.
Kaiwaka Expires 2049			Median and 90th percentile exceedances for FC. Improvement in more recent sample results.
Hihi Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)			Ammoniacal nitrogen and E. coli exceeding RC limits.
Maungaturoto Expires 2032			<u>Under AN; IN issued September 2024</u> Some RC limits exceeded, including discharge volume. Investigation underway.
Dargaville Expires 2043			<u>Under ANs</u> None currently.
Rangiputa Expires 2032			None currently. Moderate non-compliance for sampling not undertaken in accordance with RC conditions in 2024.

Te Kopuru Expires 2044			TSS exceeding 90 th percentile and rolling mean. TSS is trending down.
Mangawhai Expires 2042			<u>Under ANs; IN issued September 2024</u> Enforcement relates to odour. No other issues currently.
Kaeo Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)			Self-monitoring results missing for two reporting periods.
Ruakaka Expires 2046			Ammoniacal nitrogen level is trending down and investigations showed that no elevated levels were found in the receiving environment.
Waipū Expires 2030			None currently.
Tutukaka Expires 2054			Moderate non-compliance for elevated E. coli in February 2025.
Portland Expires 2054			None currently. Non-compliance for late data.
Oakura Expires 2025			None currently. Previous non-compliance for FC exceeding 95 th percentile.
Ngunguru Expires 2035			None currently. Historic result still affecting 95 th percentile for E. coli.
Whangārei City Expires 2045			<u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant. Additional odour controls being implemented. No other issues.

Glinks Gully Expires 2034			None currently.
Kerikeri Expires 2036			None currently.
Waiōtira Expires 2030			None currently.
Compliance Status			
Full compliance			
Low risk non-compliance			
Moderate non-compliance			
Significant non-compliance			

ENFORCEMENT

Court Cases Update

Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
Prosecution District Court Discharge of sediment. Now <u>Crown</u> case.	<p>On 18 February 2025, the judgement on the defendant's application for the dismissal of charges was released, in which the Court granted the defendant's application to dismiss the charges. As a result of the decision, all four defendants are dismissed from all charges.</p> <p>There are existing outstanding applications for costs by two defendants. The judge allowed the defendants to amend these applications by Friday 28 February 2025. Any response from the Crown is due by Friday 14 March 2025.</p>
Prosecution District Court Discharge of raw farm dairy effluent to a stream; wastewater washed into stream; and overflow from pond. Now <u>Crown</u> case.	<p>On 3 March 2025, a judicial conference was held to discuss the dates for a pre-trial hearing following a matter raised by the defence lawyers in late December 2024. The pre-trial hearing is set down for 14 and 15 April 2025.</p>
Interim Enforcement Orders Environment Court Discharge to air from the manufacturing of Asphalt and open burning	<p>On 12 July 2024, NRC filed an application for interim enforcement orders to prohibit the discharge to air from the manufacturing of asphalt and cease open burning on a property in Kerikeri.</p> <p>A judicial conference was held on 25 July 2024. The respondents agreed to an undertaking in terms of the orders sought. The respondents agreed to authorise the activity by applying for a resource consent. Further time</p>

Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
	<p>was granted so that the respondents could prepare a resource consent application.</p> <p>On 21 March 2025, NRC and the respondents filed a joint memorandum with the Court to update on the progress of resource consent application and seek further extension for application for enforcement orders. As the respondents need more time to prepare and formally lodge a resource consent application with the Council, the judge has granted an extension. An amended application for enforcement orders, together with a joint memorandum, shall be filed by 14 June 2025.</p>
<p>Abatement notice appeals & Enforcement orders Environment Court Discharge of raw farm dairy effluent and contaminants from silage storage</p>	<p>On 24 October 2024, appeals were filed against two abatement notices, each pertaining to two separate farms but both owned by the same appellant. The first abatement notice addresses the discharge of contaminants associated with the making or storage of silage, while the second relates to the discharge of farm wastewater into a waterway.</p> <p>On 20 December 2024, NRC filed an application for enforcement orders in respect of five FDE farms owned by the appellant (two of which are under appeal). A period for hearings on both the abatement notice appeals and enforcement orders is scheduled for the weeks of 5 and 12 May 2025, with a 10-day hearing in Whangārei.</p>
<p>Abatement notice appeal Environment Court Unauthorised structures in the coastal marine area</p>	<p>On 11 December 2024, NRC issued an abatement notice regarding unauthorised structures in the coastal marine area of Te Puna Inlet. On 13 December 2024, the appellant filed an appeal against the abatement notice along with an application for a stay, which was heard by the Environment Court on 5 and 6 March 2025.</p> <p>On 20 March 2025, the Court released its decision, confirming the abatement notice and that the unauthorised structures must be removed from the coastal marine area. The Court reserved costs and NRC will be applying for costs against the appellant.</p>
<p>Infringement notice request for a hearing Whangarei District Court Unauthorised structures in the coastal marine area</p>	<p>On 11 December 2024, NRC issued an issued an infringement notice regarding unauthorised structures in the coastal marine area of Te Puna Inlet for the offence date of 19 September 2024.</p> <p>On 11 February 2025, the defendant emailed NRC and requested a hearing in respect of the alleged offence. Consequently, NRC filed a request for a hearing with the District Court and has served summons on the defendant.</p>

Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
	The first judicial conference is set for 7 April 2025.

4.13.4 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

LAND MANAGEMENT

Kotuku Dam property 2023 planting

A recent visit to the Kotuku Street property showed the 2023 native tree planting is looking really good. Plants are healthy and surviving the drought well so far.



Photos above: current day at Kotuku Dam

BIODIVERSITY

LAKES

The biodiversity lakes team spent a week in the Dargaville and Poutō area, conducting ecological surveys of seven dune lakes. Surveys were carried out to assess the ecological health of the lakes with NIWA divers monitoring plants along underwater transects, plant surveys along the lake edge, bird and fish surveys and eDNA samples. Divers resurveyed Taharoa and found an improvement in the submerged vegetation since the de-vegetated 2023 survey, which is promising. The team spent time with Patuharakeke Kaitiaki at Ruakākā Dune Lake, explaining the lake dynamics and issues facing the lake due to surrounding land use.



Staff on Roto Humuhumu undertaking a native fish survey



Catch of the day – freshwater koura from Humuhumu. Scale is in millimetres!

COASTCARE

CoastCare staff were involved in organising the Coastal Conversation events for Seaweed in March (with the Climate Action and Natural Hazards team and Whangarei District Council) and attended the four public events at Ruakākā, Waipu, Whananāki and Ngunguru. The guest speaker was coastal scientist Jim Dahm, with special guest speaker Dr Emma Ryan at the Ngunguru event. Jim gave a presentation on coastal processes and nature-based solutions for erosion mitigation at East coast open coast sites. At each event local community speakers gave short presentations on coastal protection and restoration projects. These speakers included representatives from CoastCare groups, hapū, kaitiaki organisations and schools.

Several working bees were attended by CoastCare staff in March:

- DOC's Volunteer Wednesday at the northern end of Matapōuri to remove invasive weeds including agapanthus, ivy, gazania, and buffalo grass
- Ocean Beach weeding working bee organised by Ocean Beach Restoration Association (OBRA). Weeding and spraying was undertaken to release native plantings and old CoastCare signs were replaced.
- A Seaweed beach-clean up at Ruakākā reserve was organised with Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust and supported by DOC volunteers and staff and Patuharakeke Te Taio staff. Rubbish was removed from around the carpark and dunes by volunteers while Patuharakeke staff kayaked across the estuary to remove litter from the northern side.



Before and after photos of one of the weeded sites at Matapōuri where ivy was removed



Some of the staff and volunteers with litter collected at the Ruakākā Beach clean-up day



Guest speakers Jim Dahm and Dr Emma Ryan taking questions at the final Coastal Conversations Event at Ngunguru

MARCH 2025

Wetland

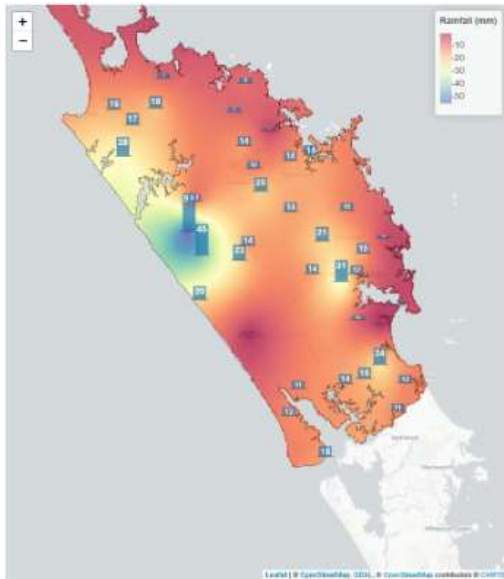
A site visit with the Compliance team was undertaken to work with the landowner to remove pine trees from a top wetland.

The team hosted two brief workshops with Wendy Ambury (Love Bittern Project) at the Water St Office for NRC staff. The aim was to support wetlands through an Australasian bittern lens. The first workshop provided tamariki education and resources for the Enviroschools team, while the second addressed species information and support across NRC teams.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Hydrology

Given the timing of this report, the full data set for March is not yet available. The Hydrology climate report for March, with a full analysis, will be posted on the NRC website in early April. Below is a brief summary of results to date.



Rainfall

- The rainfall map below shows the rainfall totals in mm recorded at NRC's rainfall recording stations for March (as at 26 March).

The Highest rainfall totals for the month were recorded along the mid-west coast at the Waimamaku at Wekaweka Road station with 55.5mm, and the Tutāmoe at Tutāmoe station with 45mm.

River Flows

- River flows were low throughout Northland.

Groundwater

- Groundwater levels were low throughout Northland.

Science

Three new monitoring bores in the Aupōuri Aquifer have been installed with data loggers to record groundwater level. The three locations are in the northwest, east and south of the aquifer (see figure below). These temporary data loggers will record the groundwater level at these locations until they can be upgraded to permanent telemetered sites and integrated into our State of the Environment monitoring network.

Our Hydrology team have upgraded a remote monitoring station within the Kaimaumau Wetland to include telemetry. The site is only accessible by helicopter, so the team were dropped off on the remote patch of land with all the gear they needed, then went to work setting up the site. At the end of the day, they called the helicopter back and were picked up and transported back out of the wetland.



Location of three new monitoring bores in the Aupouri Aquifer.



Site access via helicopter



Monitoring station within the
Kaimaumau Wetland



Staff completing checks

Water Quality Field Operations

- NRC have partnered with Ngati Kuri to sample six recreational bathing sites at three estuaries within their rohe with the aim of establishing predictive water quality models on Safeswim (safeswim.org.nz). Ngati Kuri kaitiaki rangers are undertaking the field data collection, with council covering the laboratory analysis costs.
- Shellfish Abundance surveys at Hokianga, Kellys Bay, Taipā, and Houhora have been completed for 2025. Results, including for previous years, have been uploaded to a purpose built ShinyApp (web dashboard) for the iwi and hapū that we work with.

POLICY AND PLANNING

Resource Management Reform

On 24 March the government made announcements regarding the proposed next phase of Resource Management Reforms. A Blueprint for Reform Report has been prepared by an Expert Advisory Group. This provides the starting point for the government designing the new system. The Reports recommendations are a fundamental shift in regulatory philosophy toward regulatory restraint, greater efficiency and consistency, with fewer bespoke rules and more reliance on national standards, spatial planning, and outcomes-based tools. Key elements include:

- Two new Acts:
- The Natural Environment Act to manage environmental protection and limits.
- The Planning Act to enable land use, development, and infrastructure delivery.
- A National Policy Direction under each Act to provide succinct, central guidance to resolve tensions between development and protection.
- Clear direction on how the Treaty of Waitangi is to be reflected in the exercise of functions under both Acts.
- There will be one regulatory plan per region with the aim of simplifying and standardising planning processes.

Property rights are emphasised with land use presumed allowed unless it causes harm to others or the environment. In some cases, overlays that significantly limit land use may require compensation for affected landowners.

Changes to the Emissions Trading Scheme - Limits on Forestry Conversion on LUC 1-5

On the 25 March 2025 the Ministry for Primary Industries announced further details on the limits to forestry conversion including a ban on registering exotic forest in the ETS on LUC 1-5 land converted

from farmland. There is also a limit on how much medium versatility farmland can be converted to ETS forest land. Some exemptions to the policy are detailed on the MPI website with the new restrictions due to come into force by October 2025.

4.13.5 BIOSECURITY

Incursions

Waipū Caves Goat Control

A significant increase in goat numbers around the Waipū Caves area was reported. A control plan is being developed in collaboration with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and local landowners. This work is scheduled to commence in late April to early May.

Hikurangi-Wild Pig Management

Pig control near a deer farm at Hikurangi has been undertaken due to ongoing issues with pigs breaching deer netting, leading to deer escapes. Five pigs have been captured so far and ongoing monitoring is in place to ensure continued management of the situation.

Wallaby sighting Mamaranui

A report of a possible wallaby sighting on a farm at the southern tip of the Kaihu Forest and Tutamoe Range was received this month by hunters who suspected they spotted a wallaby during a night shoot the previous weekend. Staff undertook a site visit to set up surveillance using trail cameras, and suspect droppings collected at the site was sent to EcoGene for DNA analysis. Photos of the droppings were also shared with the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Waikato Regional Council and initial feedback from their teams suggested they resembled wallaby droppings.

Additional detection efforts were carried out this week, covering 23 kilometres with a wallaby tracking dog and 9 kilometres of thermal drone surveillance over farmland. No sign of wallabies were found. However, the drone imagery revealed extensive hare and possum activity in the area.

EcoGene also confirmed the sample sent down for analysis was from a sheep and the images were reviewed, with no evidence of wallabies detected.

PARTNERSHIPS

This month the Partnerships team have been busy supporting community-led projects and attending events. The highlight of the month was a community kiwi release at Parua Bay, which is within the Whangārei Heads High Value Area, that was attended by approximately 300 people. This event, held on 23 March, was coordinated by Backyard Kiwi with support from the NRC and Kiwi Coast (see picture below).



Cr Amy McDonald, NRC Biosecurity Partnerships staff, and Kiwi Coast volunteer at the Parua Bay kiwi release (23 March 2025)

Four birds were taken from the Matakoho-Limestone Island kiwi creche and released in bush close to Parua Bay. Each bird was fitted with a transmitter so that it can be followed for a period of time to ensure that it settles into its new surrounds. Following kiwi and conducting regular health checks are particularly important now due to the very hot and dry weather Northland has experienced over the last few months. This has resulted in difficult foraging conditions for kiwi, especially on islands where these conditions are more extreme. Many offshore islands in Northland are home to kiwi populations, and there is a risk that the condition of kiwi will deteriorate if these dry conditions continue. The birds taken off Matakoho Island for release were all weighed and considered to be under weight. If these birds put on weight quickly and regain condition now that they are on the mainland, it may initiate more transfers from islands to better protect Northland's kiwi populations.

Across the Mid North High Value Area, roaming dogs (see picture below), not dry conditions, are currently more of a threat to kiwi and other wildlife. Disturbingly, nine kiwi in the last few months have been killed by roaming dogs. The dogs suspected of killing these kiwis are thought to be owned, but just poorly contained. While managing roaming dogs is not the NRC's responsibility, it is disappointing that the hard work community groups have done over many years protecting native wildlife from predators is being undermined by poorly behaved dog owners.



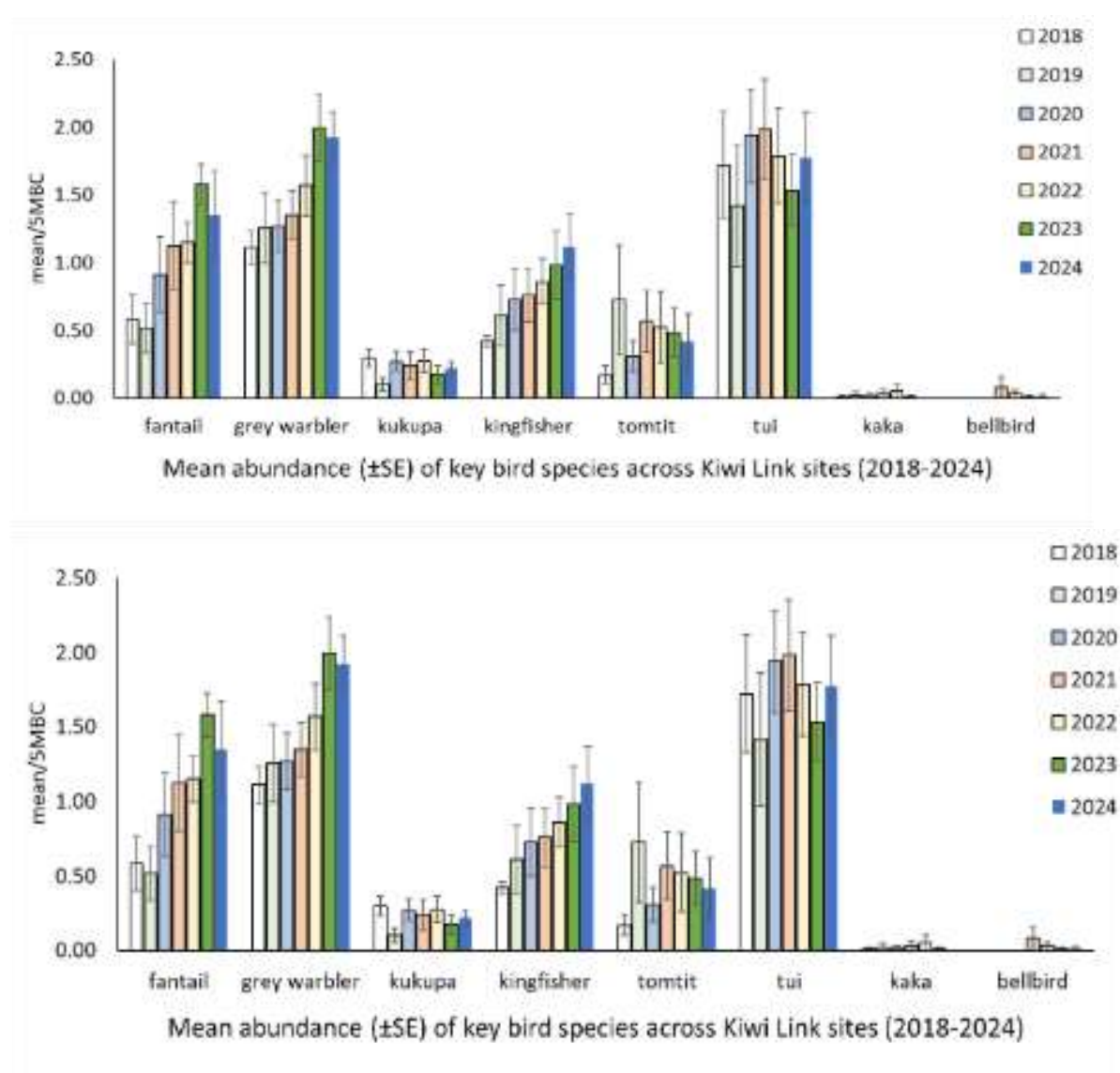
Roaming dog caught o trail camera on the Purua Peninsula: Note the collar

Across the Tutukaka, Kiwi Link, and Piroa-Brynderwyns High Value Areas it has be largely 'business as usual'; however, these projects have been working hard to complete their annual outcome monitoring reports. In the Piroa-Brynderwyns HVA, kiwi and bittern were surveyed with kiwi being detected across much of the intensively trapped project area and bittern detected at 'The Sanctuary' (see pictures below).



Far left: areas across Piroa-Brynderwyns HVA where kiwi were detected. Left: kiwi and bittern recorded at 'The Sanctuary'.

Five-minute bird count (5MBC) analyses for Kiwi Link and Tutukaka HVAs have also been completed. While 5MBC monitoring is only in its second year in the Tutukaka HVA meaning that population trends are not able to be seen yet, the Kiwi Link have finished their seventh year of surveys. This project continues to have healthy populations of key forest species. Riroriro (grey warbler), piwakawaka (fantail), and kotare (kingfisher) are showing positive population growth, while tui and kukupa have maintained stable numbers. Although the miromiro (tomtit) has experienced a slight decline in recent years, these changes fall within the margins of error for this relatively uncommon bird. It was encouraging to note that the locally uncommon korimako (bellbird) were once again recorded on the Kiwi Link (see graph).



The NRC urban programme, Tiakina Whangārei, has been supporting the Tokotoko Solutions Work Ready Programme by providing a weed workshop, practical weed management experience on the Waimahanga Track in Onerahi, and necessary field equipment. Tokotoko Solutions are wanting to support urban Landcare groups in Whangārei, which will increase the amount of weed management work that can be accomplished across Whangārei.

PREDATOR FREE

March saw a small group of the Predator Free team undertake the first possum night shoot exercise at Whangārei Heads. With help from contractor Owl Optics, a 94ha block of mixed farmland and bush was targeted using handheld thermal cameras and a thermal drone. The aim was to gauge the level of possums remaining in the area which had already had a high level of knock-down work done.

The results were very pleasing with only one possible possum sighting, indicating that the elimination work that has been done recently has been successful. In addition six kiwi were observed feeding out on the pasture.

On the back of this positive monitoring work, the project is now confident to transition an additional 500ha into the final detect & response phase – the last stage before elimination can be claimed. A combined 3,600ha is now in the final phase of elimination.



Night Shoot/Possum Monitoring:

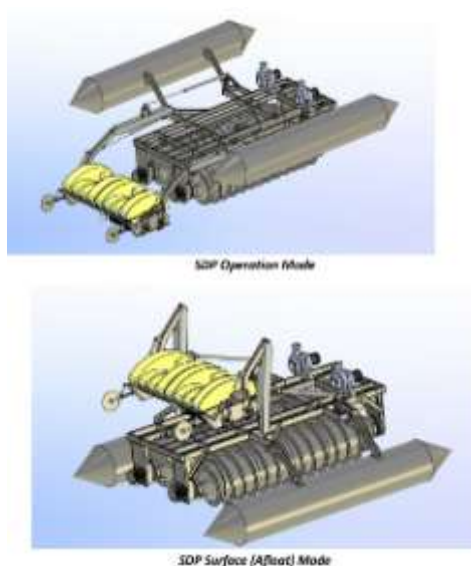
Results Logged 06.03.2025

Possum	1
Cat	2
Kiwi	6

Caulerpa Update

Phase III Exotic Caulerpa Project: A governance group with members from NRC, MPI, JBL, and Cawthron was formed to ensure clear communication among key parties. Two meetings were held on 17 and 31 March discussing:

- Equipment due diligence checks
- Risks and controls of exotic Caulerpa fragmentation
- H&S risk register update
- Construction schedule review
- Upcoming work/issues



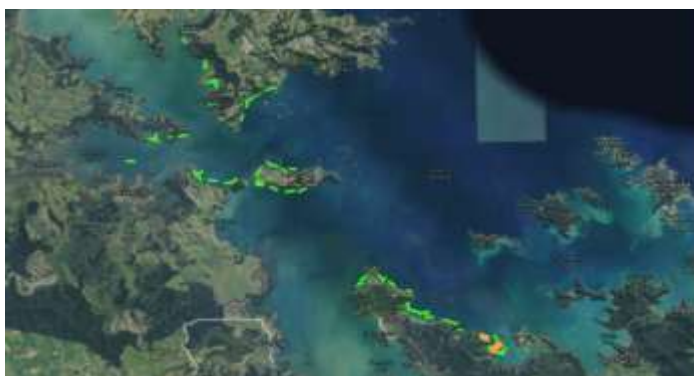
Andrew Johnson (JBL) presented updated schematics for the submersible dredge planer (SDP) and detailed the subsea hydraulic power unit/control system requirements. Key points:

- The HPU/Control system is a removable module on the SDP chassis.
- It includes a hydraulic power unit, electronic control system, navigation, video, and sonar data capabilities.
- Specifications for hydraulic and electrical connections were provided.
- Two HPU options: Surface power supply and Subsea power supply.

Figure. Updated draft schematic of the submersible dredge planer (SDP) with the addition of buoyancy pods for the dredge head.

Caulerpa Surveillance:

Surveillance at Whangaruru and Whangamumu covered 4713 meters of seafloor over 19 transects, with no exotic Caulerpa found. Further surveys at Matauri Bay confirmed sightings as native Caulerpa (*Caulerpa flexilis*). The Conquer Caulerpa Trust inspected an additional 17,890 meters of seafloor in the Bay of Islands, discovering a new incursion at Paroa Bay on 28 March, which was reported to MPI.



Transects by the Conquer Caulerpa Trust in March 2025 in the Bay of Islands, showing exotic Caulerpa absence (green lines) and presence (orange lines).

Hull surveillance

Hull surveillance was conducted in Ōpua Marina, Whangaroa Marina, Houhora Harbour and Tutukākā Marina over March 2025 by NRC divers and dive contractors. In total 440 hulls were surveyed in March 2025.

<u>Hull Surveillance Programme Results</u>	Total this period_	Total_YTD_
Pathways Plan Compliance if Moving*		—
Number of vessels surveyed this period	440	1487
% Pathways Plan Compliance* if Moving (all vessels) *	36.8_	51.6_
Vessels found with Marine Pests		
<i>Sabella spallanzanii</i> (fanworm)_	32_	155_
<i>Styela clava</i> (clubbed tunicate)_	8_	77
<i>Undaria pinnatifida</i> (Japanese kelp)_	0	0_
<i>Eudistoma elongatum</i> (Australian droplet tunicate)_	17	32_
<i>Pyura doppelgangera</i> (sea squirt)_	0_	0

** This is the percentage of vessels surveyed that complied with the acceptable level of 'light fouling' as defined in the Marine Pathway Plan. Note: actual compliance is higher given not all these vessels will move from one designated place to another.*

4.13.6 GOVERNANCE AND ENGAGEMENT

Te Tiriti Partnerships and Relationships

Wananga Waioara 2025

The second Wānanga Waioara was held at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds Tahuaroa Function Centre on March 26. Hosted by Whangaroa Taio Ltd with support from NRC, the event provided a unique opportunity for Te Taitokerau kaitiaki and hapū to come together and share te mātauranga o te taiao.



Presentations included many of our kaitiaki and hapū from across Te Taitokerau and acknowledged the importance of the partnership with council and the work we do on the ground operationally as well.



Whaea Nora Rameka (Ngāti Rehia)
Retirement from Te Ruarangi

Te Ruarangi's longest-serving member, Ngāti Rehia's Whaea Nora Rameka, has officially announced her retirement from the rūpū, leaving behind a legacy of incredible leadership and wisdom. Whaea Nora is the epitome of a mana wahine and exemplar for us all and was pivotal in helping to strengthen Te Tiriti partnerships between Te Taitokerau hapū and NRC.

A special farewell was held for Whaea Nora on April 10 at Motātau Marae following this month's Te Ruarangi hui.

Economic Development

- Joint Regional Economic Development Committee – Regular meeting held on 7 March to, among other things, initial discussion on draft Northland Inc Statement of Intent (SOI) 2025/26, and commenced preparations for next meeting on 28 April.
- Northland Inc – Interviews held for applicants short-listed for the position of director. Discussion on draft SOI were held with Te Ruarangi and council.
- Northland Economic Quarterly e-newsletter– Issue 45 distributed and available on-line at <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/online-services/enewsletters/>. This issue included analysis of recently released data on the Regional Economic Profile for Northland that is produced by Infometrics and available at <https://rep.infometrics.co.nz/northland-region>. For example, it included regional comparisons of exports to GDP, self-employment, industrial diversity and the contribution of tourism to economic activity.
- Hosted a Northland council forum on community wealth building with Gareth Hughes, Director of WEAll Aotearoa, part of the Wellbeing Economy Alliance.

Community Engagement

Rangatahi Executive Panel (REP) progresses

Work to support the design of a youth voice at council has continued with around hundreds of responses to a youth survey collected over the summer period. This gives us quantitative insights into how well young people know what council does, what matters to them, how important it is for them to have a voice at council and their appetite to see more youth leaders in our rohe. Once analysed, results will be shared with the councillor REP subgroup. The next step is in-depth qualitative focus groups running across the rohe throughout April where young people, alongside councillors from the REP subgroup can input into how a group could work. The results from this will be translated into a set of informed recommendations around youth voice being prepared for council.

Te Taitokerau Māori Business 2025 (7 March)

The awards recognise and celebrate business success. Council sponsored a newly created award in the EnTvironmental Awareness and Management category, focusing on climate action mahi. The winners were Tu Mai Rā Energy Northland General Partnership Limited, formerly known as Solartive. They are actively providing environmentally sustainable power options to whānau, marae, and hapū in our rohe.

Te Raki Councillor Peter-Lucas Jones received the Te Hiringa: Te Tihi Award for his international achievements, including being named one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in AI in 2024. Pita Tipene (Ngāti Hine) won this year's Māori Business Leader Award.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards (19 March)

This year's Regional Supreme Award Winners were Rob and Mandy Pye of Mangere Falls Farm, a beef farm in Kokopu. Rob and Mandy also won Northland Regional Council's Water Quality Enhancement Award, recognising outstanding work to enhance freshwater quality in streams and rivers on their farm. The winners' field day will be held on Wednesday, 7 May.



Regional Supreme Award Winners Rob and Mandy Pye of Mangere Falls Farm with Chair Geoff Crawford.

Te Āhuareka o Ngāti Hine (28 – 30 March)

The festival began at Otiria Marae on Thursday evening with a pōwhiri attended by council staff. Council sponsors the festival, and staff attended with an information display stall on Friday and Saturday, promoting tangata whenua funding opportunities, land management advice, marae preparedness, and conducting our rangatahi executive panel survey – engaging with tamariki and rangatahi.



Photos above: Left: Tu Mai Rā Energy – who had their NRC trophy and certificate from the Māori Business Awards, on display at Te Āhuareka o Ngāti Hine. Right – In the centre a council staff member with two wahine at Te Āhuareka o Ngāti Hine.

Whakamānawa ā Taiao – Environmental Awards

Applications closed on March 30, and we received around 40 applications. Further information will be provided in next month's report. Judging will take place during April and May.

Supporting the business

Throughout March, the Community Engagement team provided extensive support to help achieve business objectives across various departments. Of note:

- Marsden Maritime Holdings, Northport proposal – information development, promotional activity and feedback mechanisms to support council's consultation.
- Biosecurity: cross-agency planning session on high pathogenicity avian influenza, and working with MPI and other agencies on Caulerpa communications.
- Governance: Developing a communications and engagement plan for the upcoming elections and working collaboratively with internal teams and district councils.
- Transport: media and communications support around the incidents of rock-throwing at CityLink buses
- Biodiversity: production of new CoastCare banners and signage for community and education events. Production and installation of signs at designated areas to support the rules around Vehicle Exclusion Zones on beaches and dunes.
- Coastal conversations - worked with Whangārei District Council and Seaweed to provide coordinated communications support provided for Coastal Conversations events.
- Climate Action conference - created a video to promote the learnings from the Climate Action Te Taitokerau Conference 2025.
- Seaweed - We worked with Mountains to Sea, and local student to produce a musical video 'Sea Song' and publish it on social media to celebrate Seaweed and promote the marine protected areas.
- Science - Created and shared a video on social media to support the work in monitoring Air Quality in the science team.

Digital engagement

Overall performance across social media platforms:

Profile	Audience	Net audience growth	Published posts	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate (per impression)	Video views
Reporting period 1 – 31 Mar	21,496 ↑0.8%	162 ↓65.3%	79 ↑3.9%	189,837 ↓48.1%	15,736 ↑58.6%	8.3% ↑206.1%	62,660 ↓15.3%

Compare to 1 – 28 Feb	21,335	467	76	365,866	9,921	2.7%	74,012
Facebook	15,125	29	23	161,944	13,424	8.3%	38,565
LinkedIn	3,431	86	8	9,853	1,643	8.5%	0
Instagram	2,367	39	37	18,040	608	3.4%	18,597
YouTube	573	8	11	N/A	61	N/A	5,495

Top three posts reaching the most people:

Media release on [diverted bus services](#) due to stone throwing incidents, a trending video style [highlighting reporting deer in Northland](#), and a video about the [kina cull at Mimiwhangata](#).

**Reach: total number of people who saw the content.*

Sentiment: Positive responses received on video reels featuring NRC staff and community members.
Negative sentiment related to the CityLink stone throwing incidents.

eNewsletters distributed during this period:

[Economic Quarterly – Issue 45](#): Subscribers: 329 Open-rate: 13%

[Kōrero mai - User Fees & Charges](#): Subscribers: 535 Open-rate: 41.3%

[Marsden Maritime Holdings Limited and Northport](#): Subscribers: 537 Open-rate: 45.2%

Top three website pages:

[Pest Control Hub](#)

[Tsunami evacuation zones](#)

[MMH and Northport Proposal](#)

Key Performance Indicators	*Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Mar-25
WEB					
# Visits to the NRC website	35,982	36,247	54,737	44,139	54,382
E-payments made	9	16	13	8	12
# subscribed web alerts (cumulative)	1,642	No data	1,655	1,662	1,676
# subscribed to eNewsletters (cumulative)	5,553	No data	5,526	5,532	5,536
Cdem sOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)					
# CDEM Facebook fans	36,786	No data	36,907	36,861	37149
# CDEM Overall Facebook Reach (30D)	4,839	No data	144,764	30,436	336,937

** Short reporting month (completed 25 November).*

No data due to Christmas break.

Media liaison

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

- Whangaroa Ngaioitonga Trust celebrates successes with public field day
- New Sirens Tested in Northland's Six-Monthly Tsunami Siren Test
- Changes to tsunami evacuation maps for Northland
- MMH Northport deal would increase NRC shareholding
- Northland Expressway news a 'game changer', RTC chair
- CityLink bus service diverted after more stone throwing incidents

A number of media enquiries were also received and responded to during March. Combined, this activity helped generate 100 items mentioning Northland Regional Council as reported by media monitoring agency Truescope.

Education

Far North Wai Fencing course

Rangiputa Station on Karikari Peninsula hosted local youth for NCEA fencing training. They learned about keeping livestock out of waterways and choosing the right fencing. Participants visited a lake fenced by past students and planted by contractors, then fenced off their own waterway on assessment day.



Pamu farmer and Wai Fencing tutor, instructs students Rangiputa station waterway fenced by past Wai in effective temporary electric fencing.



Fencing students, then planted up by farm contractors.

Marine ecosystems education underway

A new marine ecosystems education programme is underway for children near Mimiwhangata and Cape Brett. Schools and early childhood centres can choose from snorkelling, marine biodiversity and taonga sessions, and ocean videography presentations by Experiencing Marine Reserves and Young Ocean Explorers.

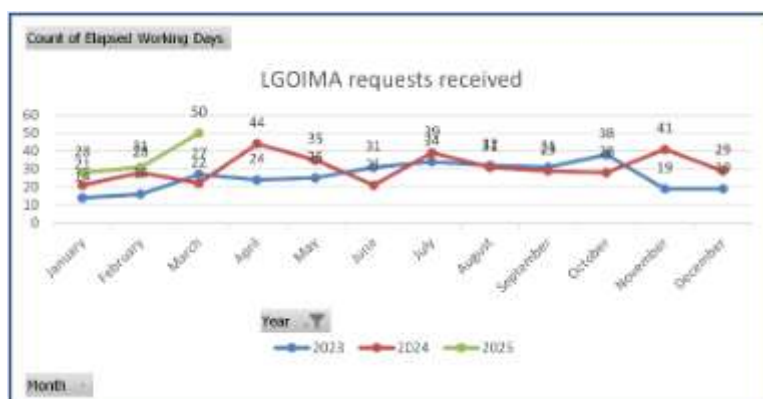
Lake Ngatu event supported

The education team supported the Graeme Dingle Foundation – Kiwi Can event at Lake Ngatu alongside Ngati Kahu. Together they delivered a wonderful day for local tamariki, packed full of activities in, about and for our wai.

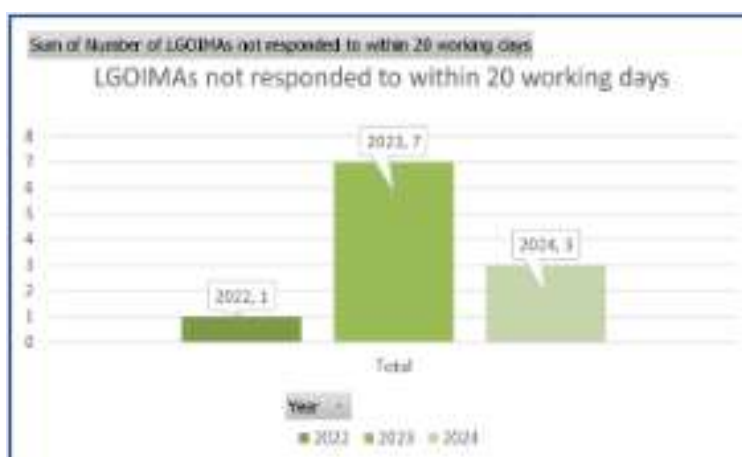
Facilitating Enviroschools communities

During March, Enviroschools Facilitators visited or held specific online interactions with over 70 enviroschools communities.

Local Government Official Information Requests (LGOIMA)



In March 2025, we received 50 LGOIMA requests, which is 28 more than in March 2024. This continues the overall upward trend for LGOIMA requests each year.



Awaiting clarification about one potential LGOIMA breach.

4.13.7 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Transport

Transport Planning

Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035

The Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035 (RPTP) has been completed. A copy of the draft document has been forwarded to NZTA for comment and to ensure all content requirements been met.

Following receipt of New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) feedback and, if required, amendment to the document, the RPTP will be finalised and presented to the Regional Transport Committee for consideration and comment. The document will then be released for public comment.

A timetable for consultation will be completed following receipt of NZTA feedback.

Transport Operations

Retendering Process for 2027 Contracts

Staff have commenced work on the NZTA requirements for the retendering of the CityLink, SchoolLink, and BusLink services. This to be completed in full by 30 June 2027 when all these contracts must be renewed.

Running alongside the tender process is the investigation into the feasibility and viability of introducing electric buses into the CityLink (Whangarei) urban service. This investigation will include a recommendation on the best way to implement any move electric buses.

Otangarei Route 4 – Stoning of Buses

Following on from a number of incidents where stones were thrown at buses, the Otangarei service (Route 4) is still avoiding Matai Street. A meeting has been scheduled between staff and Otangarei Community Leaders to try and prevent further occurrences.

T2 Lane Progress Update

Whangarei District Council plans to have the T2 lane from Kamo to Bank Street operational by the end of May or early June 2025. A policing and monitoring system is being implemented and will be operational in August. Communications will go out to the public during this period. Staff continue to engage with the bus operator in regard additional buses and drivers being available when required.

Rose Street Upgrade / Vine Street

Construction is underway on the Rose Street Bus Terminus upgrade, scheduled completion by July 2025. The CityLink services continues to operate from temporary facilities in Vine Street. Staff continue to work with the bus operator to mitigate any disruptions during the construction period.

Total Mobility Scheme (TM)

Total mobility Trips and client travel for March 2025:

Whangarei – 1,764 clients undertaking 2,030 trips

Far North – 382 clients undertaking 361 trips

Rivers

The Quarry Road Bridge extension work is progressing with 4 of the eight piles cast on 4 April. The remaining piles should be installed over the next two weeks which will lead to the pile caps and beam placement scheduled for late May.

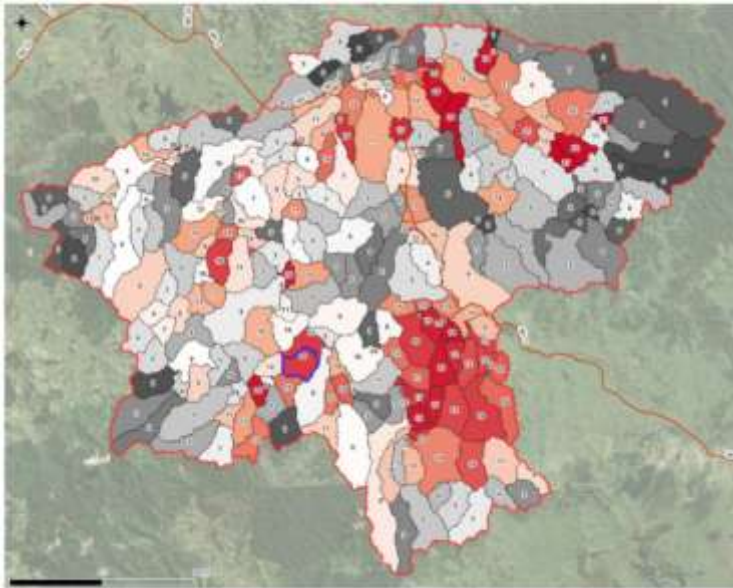
Awanui River Coastal Stop-bank Work is approaching completion for this works season, and has included a section of the coastal banks that regularly overtopped during King Tides.

Whangatane Spillway Stop-bank Set-back SH-10 work is nearing completion for the season. Staff will continue to work with local hapū over the winter to resolve the matter of the unoccupied house with a view to completing the work planned for this construction season, in the spring.

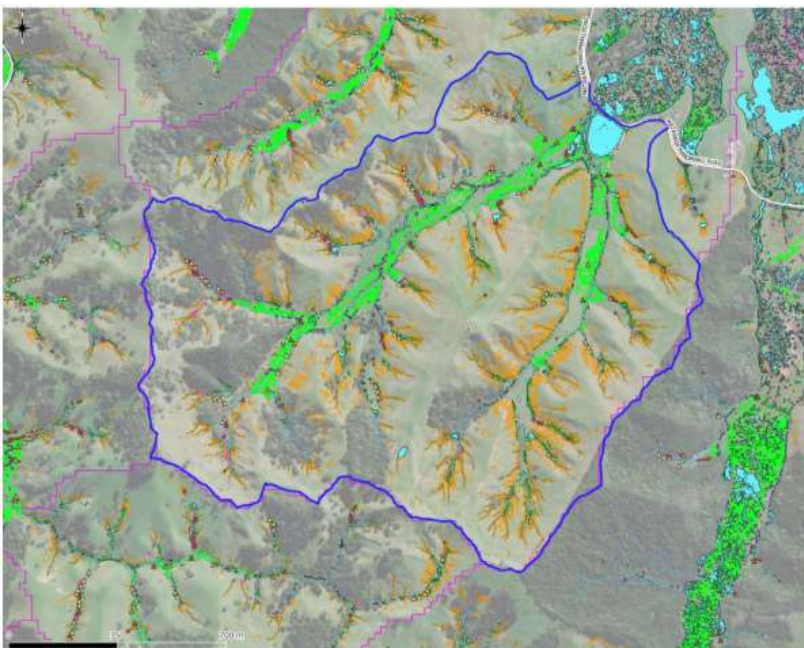
Upper Kawakawa Nature Based Solutions to Flooding

Delivery of flood modelling for 4 problem roads in the upper catchment is expected shortly. This information will assist FNDC to progress a business case to raise and install culverts where overland flow paths have been blocked causing flooding. These maps show the height needed to get the roads less interrupted by frequent flood events as well as the impact of raising the roads on surrounding whenua.

Staff have also completed a multi criteria analysis through GIS of the Taumarere catchment showing the process from site selection to implementation of nature-based solutions on site: where, what, how, funding, monitoring requirements etc. Staff will present this analysis to the community late in May 2025.



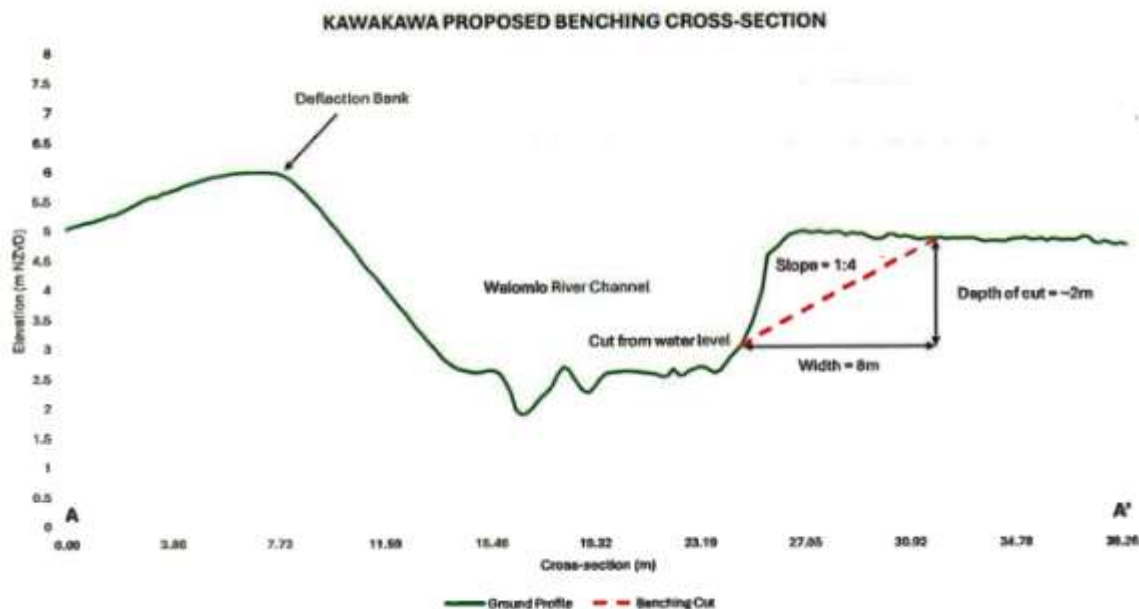
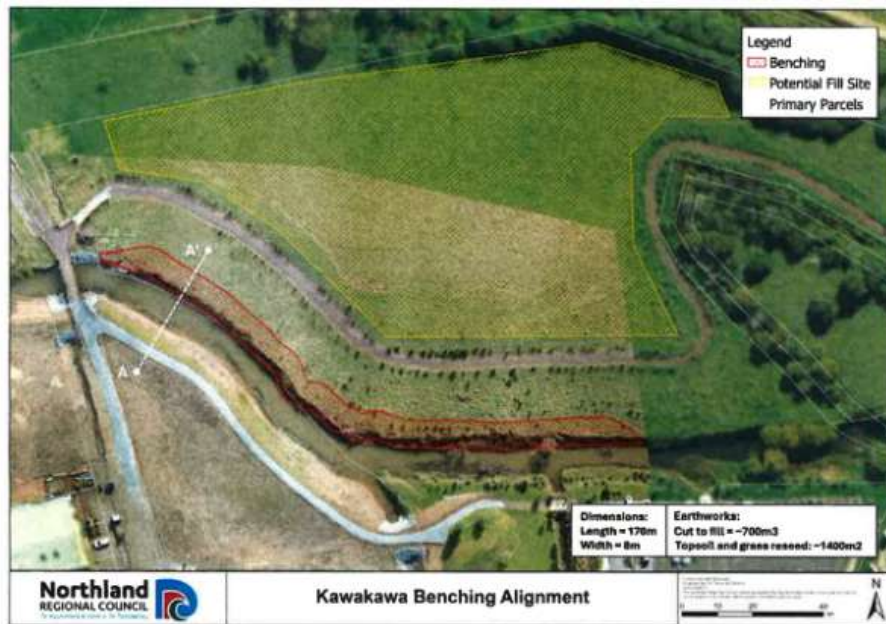
MCA showing combined risk of sediment and nutrients into waterways in the Taumarere Catchment to target sub catchments for NBS implementation for greatest gain



High risk sub catchment showing where Nature Based Solutions could be installed at a 1meter resolution. Green shows potential wetland restoration, orange, hill country planting, pink circles and triangles are silt traps and leaky barriers, dark green is riparian planting. This is available for the entire Taumarere catchment.

Kawakawa Deflection Bank

Work will start on the right-hand bank of the Waiomio Stream, to bench the right-hand bank, allowing early flood water to spill onto the floodplain. A prestart meeting with monitoring officer, hapū, contractor and interested parties is scheduled for Tuesday 8 April.

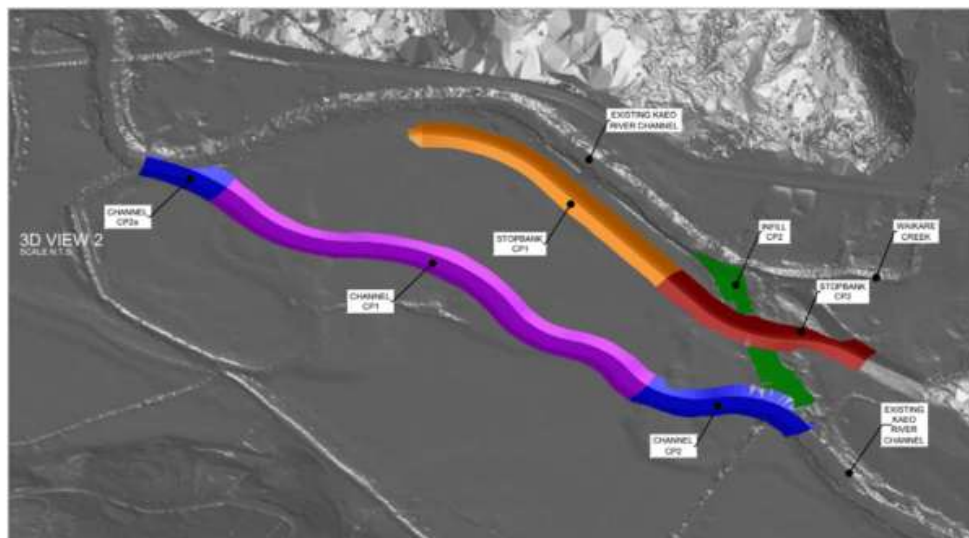


Otiria Moerewa

Staff are completing detailed design for a swale in the KiwiRail yard down Kingi Road to provide further protection to residents, marae and Kingi Road. This work will be an addition to the current contract of work with Kiwirail.

Kaeo Stage 2

Staff are working through environmental reports that are required for the work and a community meeting will take place next week for the community to feed into these plans (wetland enhancement, planting plan, fish relocation etc.). Staff are waiting for the CIA from Whangaroa Runanga before the resource consents will be granted. A project brief was sent to the local Whangaroa Whispers newspaper on request from the committee.



A 3D image of the new river channel (purple) and deflection bank (red and orange)

Northland Flood Prone Marae

The team visited 6 marae and have completed flood mitigation works on 7 marae thus far, these works were in the nick-of-time for 3 of our marae following the heavy rain event on 3 and 4 April.

CDEM

Operationally the CDEM team has been assisting the Kaipara District Council (KDC) Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to conduct debriefing sessions from the Mangawhai Tornado and Initial Action Planning considering Level 4 Water Restrictions implemented under the KDC Drought Management Plan (DMP), and minimal significant rain on the forecast for April.

Capability and capacity building continues with on-going CIMS training, WDC EOC exercise and Function Lead Training conducted in this reporting period.

Construction of the Tsunami Siren Upgrade continues with over 92.5% of the sirens now constructed throughout Northland. Tsunami Siren Testing is scheduled for 10:00 AM on Sunday, April 6, 2025. This will mark the first activation of the new Tsunami Siren network and will feature an updated testing process. Instead of the usual two activations (10 minutes at 10:00 AM and 1 minute at 10:30 AM), there will be a single activation at 10:00 AM for approximately 1 minute.

The new Tsunami inundation models went live in March. This resulted in one of the largest number of views on Facebook for the Civil Defence Northland page in its history and a fantastic effort from CDEM Public Information Manager to ensure questions were answered.

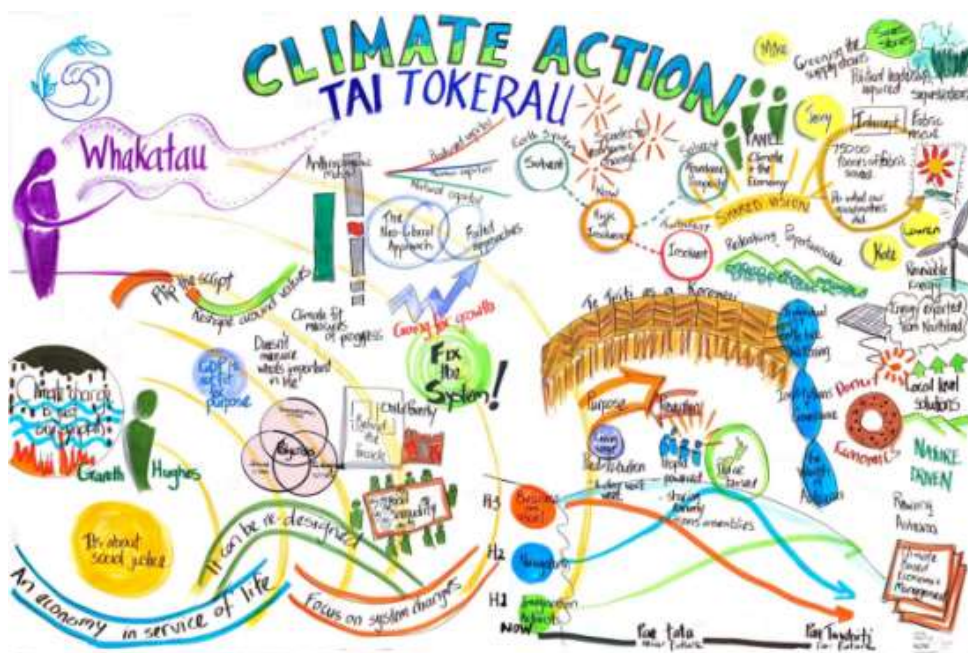
The warning boards are also being replaced at coastal locations. This work will take some time as it's a physical task with over 100 boards around Te Tai Tokerau.

The maps within our response plans are also being replaced.

Climate

Climate Action Conference

The conference fostered some rich korero focussed on enabling regional resilience and increased prosperity for the people of Te Taitokerau whilst simultaneously providing solutions to the climate crisis. David Wood did some visual scribing of the key themes, one example of which is shown below.



Te Uru Kahika Climate Collaboration workshop

A 2-day workshop was held in Christchurch which brought together climate champions from across the regional sector to foster climate leadership and collaboration and identifying funding and resources for critical projects that address climate adaptation priorities within the Specialist Interest Group (SIG) network.

The priority areas which are now being finalised as proposals to feed into the Regional CEOs 25/26 business planning process are:

Water resilience Strategy

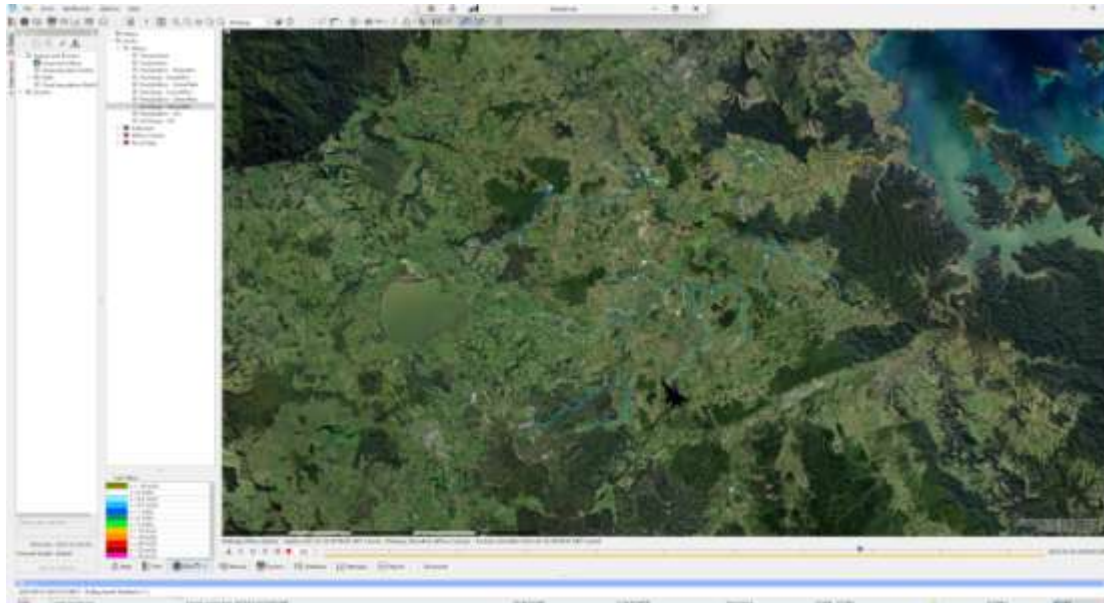
Comms package for transitioning at scale

Data/information needs for spatial planning

A longer-term cross-SIG climate work programme is also being developed.

Natural Hazards

In the week of the 24 – 28 March Ewaters staff received the trial version of the Waitangi River early flood model. This project has central government funding and is due to be completed on time. In the coming weeks Ewaters will be delivering training to Council's Hydrology, Rivers and Natural Hazards staff. Staff will work with Hydrology to assess the system before identifying a preferred region wide solution.



Snapshot of the Te Taitokararu Early Flood Forecast system on 3 April showing river levels forecast during the Orange Rain Warning.

The Wairoa Flood Model is on track for delivery by the end of April 2025. Part of the delivery for this model is delivery of the actual flood model to NRC which will allow NRC staff to use the model (e.g. local, specific modelling) and supporting Kaipara District Council works.

Staff are working to identify Peer Reviewers for these two projects to ensure that the information provided to NRC is robust and meets Good Practice.

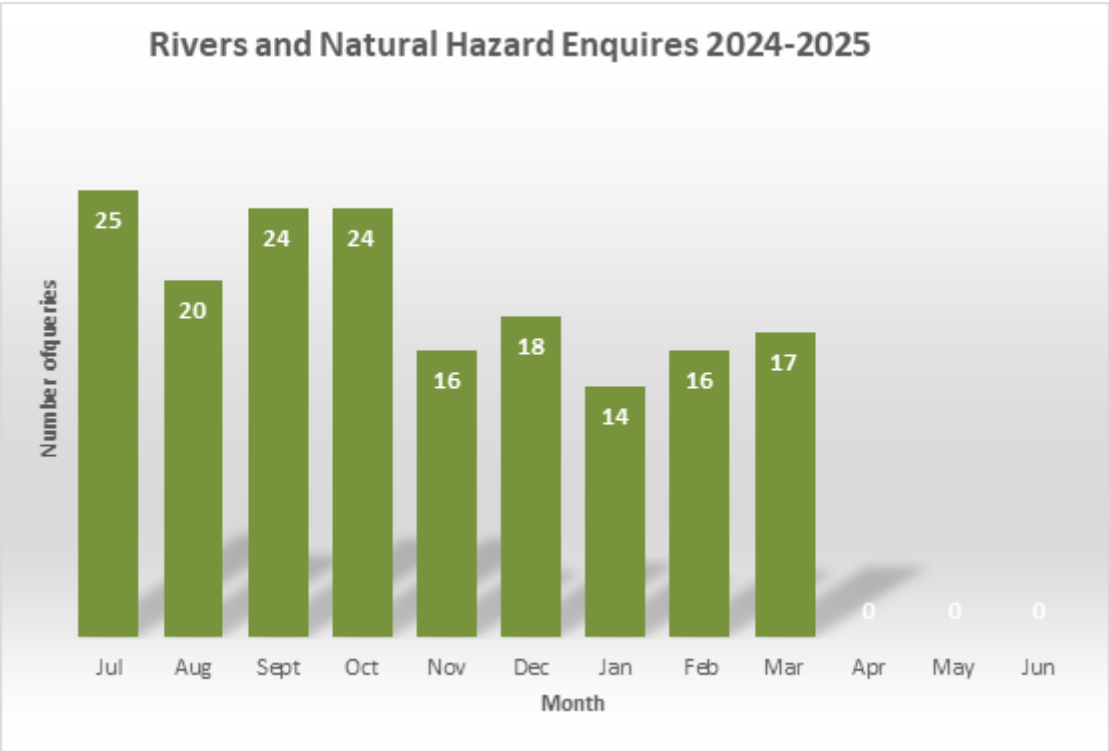
The cross-sectional survey of the Wairoa and Kaihu Rivers is scheduled for the week beginning 14 April.

Three tenders to investigate options for flood mitigation for urban Whangarei have been received an evaluation panel of staff from WDC and NRC are assessing those tenders. A decision will be made in the next few weeks.

Working with Rivers Team and external experts we have revised the methodology for modelling of 'overtopping events', i.e. those events that exceed the capacity of flood protection works. This methodology will be more cost effective We are working on a project plan for this work

Enquiries

Rivers and Natural Hazard staff have received 174 logged enquiries to date.



Note this number is the tally of logged enquiries (through the IRIS system).

Maritime

During March ten maritime incidents were reported, the majority related to abandoned vessels or offences. Scheduled maintenance was carried out on 6 aids to navigation in the Bay of Islands area, primarily servicing buoys, painting, cleaning and battery replacement. The team conducted 12 trips providing skipper assistance to other departments, mostly supporting biosecurity and water quality operations.

13 cruise ships visited the Bay of Islands with only 1 cancellation during March. The season is now drawing to a close with just 4 more ships scheduled. The total ship bookings this year was 79, of which 8 visits cancelled. Two of these were booking errors on the part of the cruise company. The forecast for next season continues to show a decline which is the case across New Zealand, below is an update from the NZ Cruise Association (NZCA) showing the decline.

	2023/24	2024/25 (CURRENT SEASON)	% DROP FROM 23/24 TO 24/25	2025/26 (BOOKINGS HELD)	% DROP FROM 24/25 TO 25/26
PORT CALLS	1,120	903	-19%	651	-28%
UNIQUE GUESTS	360,000	281,000	-22%	215,000	-23%
CREW	149,000	120,000	-19%	92,000	-23%
VESSELS	55	46	-16%	41	-11%
PASSENGER DAYS	1,818,503	1,366,640	-25%	1,127,234	-18%



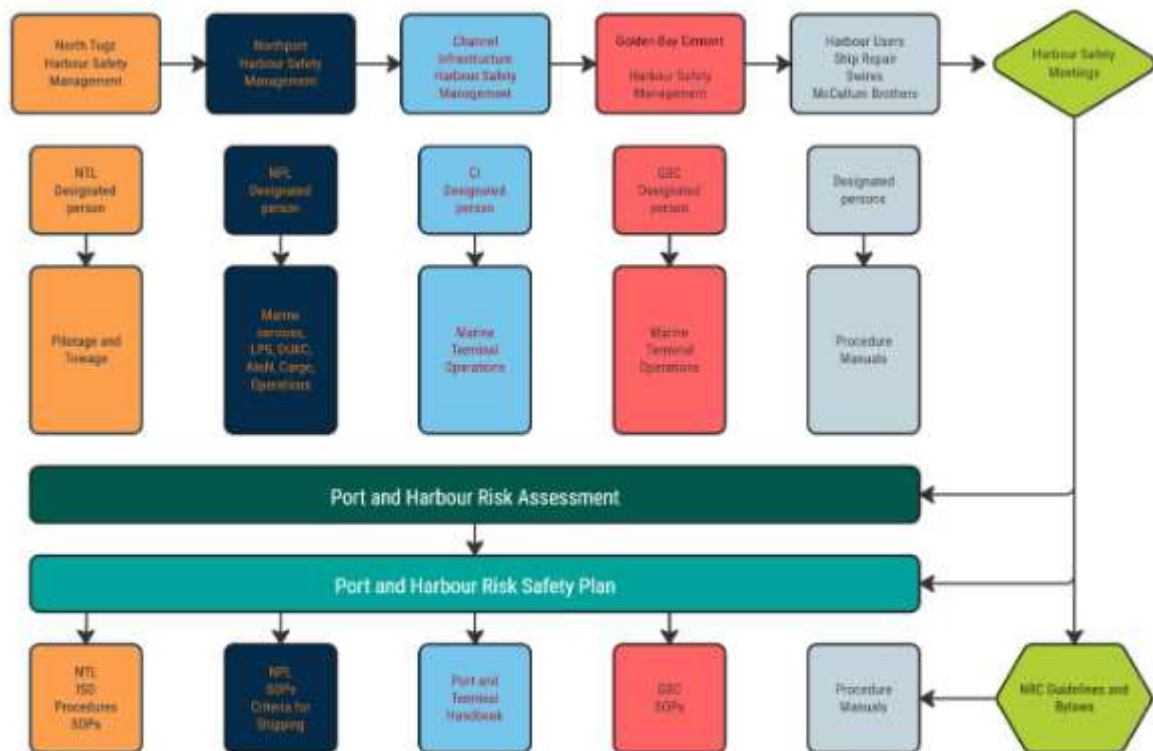
Statistics report from NZ Cruise Association

Key reasons given for the NZ reduction include:

- **Biofouling Risks:** Despite compliance with biofouling standards, the risk of denial into New Zealand persists, threatening brand reputation and leading to additional costs for passenger refunds and port cancellations. This is also a major concern to cargo and shipping lines who are key deliverers of New Zealand's supply chain.
- **Uncertainty:** Cruise lines face challenges with the timing and scope of new regulations and costs within the booking window (18-24 months). As passengers book and pay for their trips up to two years in advance, any additional costs introduced within that booking window means cruise lines can't recover these costs from passengers who have already paid for their itineraries. This unpredictability complicates planning, yield management, and resource allocation. The uncertainty regarding a possible Milford cruise ban is also very concerning.
- **Executive-Level Perception:** Senior cruise line executives have a perception that New Zealand is difficult to operate in, and an unwelcoming destination to the cruise industry.
- **Costs increasing:** Significant and compounding cost increases including from central government agencies, ports, and regional authorities are putting New Zealand at a competitive disadvantage compared to other destinations, with New Zealand now the most expensive place in the world for a cruise ship to visit.

Whangarei Harbour Safety System

Work is ongoing to update all the harbour safety system documentation for a marine safety code peer review due end of July this year. For Whangārei this involves multiple stakeholders risk assessments and safety systems.



Components of the Whangārei Harbour Safety Management System

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil