

# **AGENDA**

**Council**

**Thursday 24 July 2025 at 9.30am**

## Northland Regional Council Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Thursday 24 July 2025, commencing at 9.30am

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

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

# Tauāki ā roto

Tēnei au

Tēnei mātou

He kaikaunihera

He kawenga i ngā whakataunga

I ngā tikanga

Ki uta, ki tai

Kia rewa ai ngā iwi katoa o

Te Taitokerau

Haumie hui e

TĀIKI E!

Here I am

Here we are

Your councillors

The bearers of sound

decision making power

Reaching inland and coastal

To uplift all peoples of

Northland

Bring forth unity

Tis Done!



**TITLE:** Confirmation of Minutes - 24 June 2025

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

**Authorised by:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 15 July 2025


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**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 24 June 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

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**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed council minutes - 24 June 2025 [↓](#) 

Council Meeting  
24 June 2025

## Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chambers, 36 Water Street, Whangarei  
on Tuesday 24 June 2025, commencing at 10.15am

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Geoff Crawford (*Via audio-visual link from 11.15am to 12.20pm*)  
Deputy Chairperson, Tui Shortland  
Councillors:  
John Blackwell  
Joe Carr  
Jack Crow  
Peter-Lucas Jones (*Via audio-visual link*)  
Amy Macdonald  
Marty Robinson (*Via audio-visual link from 10.51 to 11.16am*)  
Rick Stolwerk (*Via audio-visual link*)

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

Independent Risk Advisor  
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer  
Pou Taumatua – GM Corporate Services  
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement  
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services  
Group Manager - Community Resilience  
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity  
Planning and Policy Manager  
Translator (*Via audio-visual link*)  
Māori Engagement and Governance Support Administration  
Governance Specialist

#### Part Meeting

Independent Investment Advisor (*Via audio-visual link*)  
Rautaki Consultant (*Via audio-visual link*)  
Sport Northland Places and Spaces Manager  
Corporate Strategy Manager  
Finance Manager  
Financial Planning Manager  
Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager  
Senior Policy Planner  
Policy Specialist – Freshwater  
Policy Specialist  
Financial Accountant  
Financial Planning Accountant  
Corporate Planning Specialist (*Via audio-visual link*)  
Digital Experience Support

Council Meeting  
24 June 2025

*Secretarial Note: In the absence of the Chair, the Deputy Chair presided over proceedings and declared the meeting open at 10.16am. The meeting commenced with an opening karakia by the GM – Governance and Engagement.*

### **Ngā whakapāha/Apologies (Item 1.0)**

#### **Moved (Blackwell/Macdonald)**

That the apologies from Councillor Robinson and the Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor, George Riley, for non-attendance be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Despite lodging an apology, Councillor Robinson joined the meeting via audio visual link from 10.51 to 11.16am).*

### **Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 2.0)**

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

### **Confirmation of Minutes - 27 May 2025 (Item 5.1)**

**Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

#### **Moved (Craw/Carr)**

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 27 May 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

**Carried**

### **Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.2)**

**Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

#### **Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)**

That the action sheet be received.

**Carried**

### **Constitution of Northport Group Limited (Item 6.1)**

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

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

1. That the report 'Constitution of Northport Group Limited' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 28 May 2025, be received.
2. That council retrospectively authorises the Chief Executive Officer's approval of the Constitution of Northport Group Limited (*included as Attachment 1*).

**Carried**



Council Meeting  
24 June 2025

## Financial Report to May 2025 (Item 6.2)

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

Moved (Shortland/Macdonald)

That the report 'Financial Report to May 2025' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 9 June 2025, be received.

Carried

Secretarial Note:

- There was a \$609k favourable surplus at the end of May 2025.
- It was anticipated there would be approximately \$1.1m of carry forwards in relation to contracts already in place for services (which would be presented to council in August).
- It was proposed that \$1.07m of the surplus be applied as a rates reduction for the 2025/26 financial year (equating to approximately 2%).
- Item 7.2 was addressed prior to Item 7.1 based on legal advice.

## Rates for the year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 (Item 7.1)

Report from Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager; Casey Mitchell, Financial Planning Manager and Kim Harvey, Financial Planning Accountant

Moved (Craw/Stolwerk)

1. That the report 'Rates for the year 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026 by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager; Casey Mitchell, Financial Planning Manager and Kim Harvey, Financial Planning Accountant and dated 11 June 2025, be received.
2. That the Northland Regional Council considers that the section 100T Biosecurity Act 1993 analysis set out in the funding impact statement of the Amended Long Term Plan 2024-2034 continues unchanged for the purpose of setting the Pest Management Rate.
3. That the Northland Regional Council resolves to set the following rates under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002 (LGRA) for the financial year commencing 1 July 2025 and ending 30 June 2026:

### a. Targeted council services rate

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is calculated on the total projected capital value, as determined by the certificate of projected valuation of each constituent district in the Northland region. An additional \$1.73 (including GST) per each rateable separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit is to be assessed across the Whangārei constituency to provide funding for the ongoing maintenance of the Hātea River Channel. The rate is differentiated by location in the Northland region and assessed as a fixed amount per each rateable separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the Far North and Whangārei Districts, and on each rateable rating unit (RU) in the Kaipara district. The rate is set as follows:

|                    | <u>Including GST</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Far North District | \$195.63 per SUIP    |
| Kaipara District   | \$262.32 per RU      |
| Whangārei District | \$229.89 per SUIP    |

The Whangārei District targeted council services rate amount of \$229.89 (including GST) per SUIP **includes** funding for the Hātea River Channel amount of \$1.73 (including GST).

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**b. Targeted land and freshwater management rate**

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is assessed on the land value of each rateable rating unit in the region. The rate is set per dollar of land value. The rate per dollar of land value is different for each constituent district because the rate is allocated based on projected land value, as provided for in section 131 of the LGRA. The rate is set as follows:

**Including GST**

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Far North District | \$0.0002886 per dollar of land value |
| Kaipara District   | \$0.0002983 per dollar of land value |
| Whangarei District | \$0.0003026 per dollar of land value |

**Targeted pest management rate**

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is calculated on the total projected capital value, as determined by the certificate of projected valuation of each constituent district in the Northland region. The rate is a fixed amount, differentiated by location in the Northland region. The rate will be assessed on each rateable separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the Far North and Whangarei Districts, and each rateable rating unit (RU) in the Kaipara District. The rate is set as follows:

**Including GST**

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Far North District | \$93.86 per SUIP  |
| Kaipara District   | \$125.86 per RU   |
| Whangarei District | \$109.47 per SUIP |

**c. Targeted flood infrastructure rate**

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is a fixed amount assessed on each rateable separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the Far North and Whangarei Districts, and each rateable rating unit (RU) in the Kaipara District. The rate is set as follows:

**Including GST**

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Far North District | \$41.66 per SUIP |
| Kaipara District   | \$41.66 per RU   |
| Whangarei District | \$41.66 per SUIP |

**d. Targeted emergency and hazard management rate**

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is calculated on the total projected capital value, as determined by the certificate of projected valuation of each constituent district in the Northland region. The rate is a fixed amount, differentiated by location in the Northland region. The rate will be assessed on each rateable separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the Far North and Whangarei Districts, and each rateable rating unit (RU) in the Kaipara District. The rate is set as follows:

**Including GST**

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24 June 2025

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Far North District | \$57.71 per SUIP |
| Kaipara District   | \$77.38 per RU   |
| Whangarei District | \$67.31 per SUIP |

**e. Targeted regional rescue services rate**

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is a fixed amount assessed on each rateable separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the Far North and Whangarei Districts, and each rateable rating unit (RU) in the Kaipara District. The rate is set as follows:

|                    | <u>Including GST</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Far North District | \$8.87 per SUIP      |
| Kaipara District   | \$8.87 per RU        |
| Whangarei District | \$8.87 per SUIP      |

**f. Targeted regional sporting facilities rate**

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is a fixed amount assessed on each rateable separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit in the Far North and Whangarei Districts, and each rateable rating unit (RU) in the Kaipara District. The rate is set as follows:

|                    | <u>Including GST</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Far North District | \$16.09 per SUIP     |
| Kaipara District   | \$16.09 per RU       |
| Whangarei District | \$16.09 per SUIP     |

**g. Targeted regional economic development rate**

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. This rate is assessed on the land value of each rateable rating unit in the region. The rate is set per dollar of land value. The rate per dollar of land value is different for each constituent district because the rate is allocated based on projected land value, as provided for in section 131 of the LGRA. The rate is set as follows:

Including GST

|                    |                                      |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Far North District | \$0.0000290 per dollar of land value |
| Kaipara District   | \$0.0000300 per dollar of land value |
| Whangarei District | \$0.0000304 per dollar of land value |

**h. Targeted Whangārei transport rate**

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A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is a fixed amount assessed on each rateable separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (SUIP) in the Whangarei District. The rate is set as follows:

|                    | <u>Including GST</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Whangarei District | \$30.40 per SUIP     |

**i. Targeted Far North transport rate**

A targeted rate as authorised by the LGRA. The rate is a fixed amount assessed on each rateable separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (SUIP) in the Far North District. The rate is set as follows:

|                    | <u>Including GST</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Far North District | \$8.54 per SUIP      |

**j. Targeted Awanui River management rate**

A targeted rate set under the LGRA, set differentially by location and area of benefit as defined in the Awanui River Flood Management Plan, and as defined in the following table:

The rate is set differentially as follows:

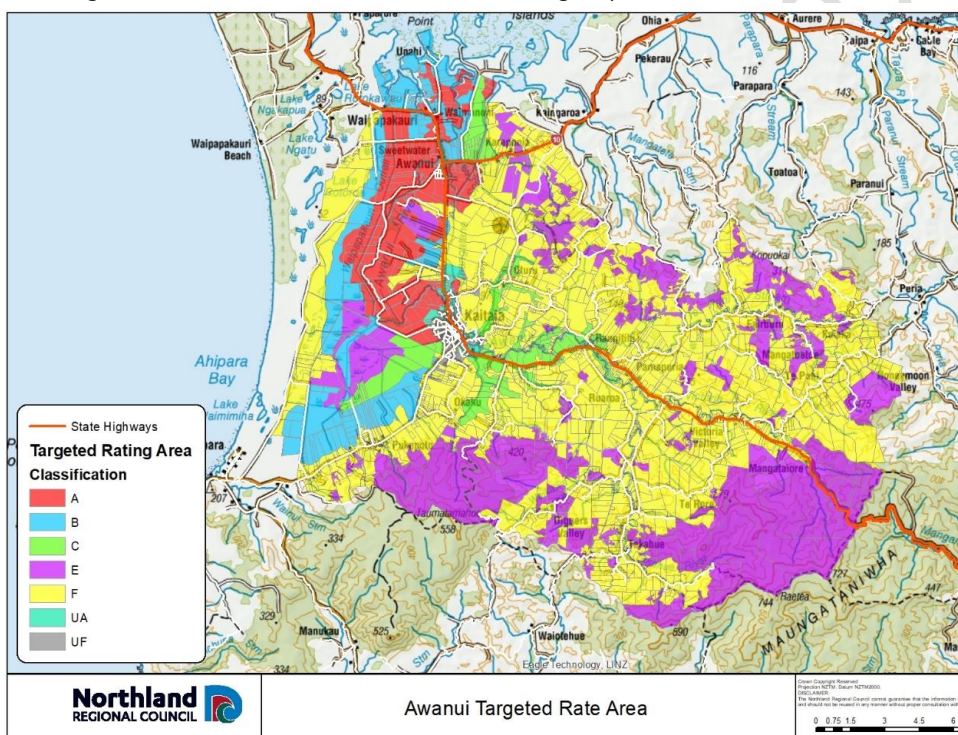
| Category | Description   | Rate <u>including GST</u> |
|----------|---|---------------------------|
| UA       | Urban rate class UA (floodplain location) \$268.31 direct benefit plus \$26.23 indirect benefit per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (SUIP).  | \$294.54 per SUIP         |
| UA       | Urban rate class UA – commercial differential.  | \$883.62 per SUIP         |
| UF       | Urban rate classes UF (higher ground) \$26.23 direct benefit plus \$26.23 indirect benefit per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (SUIP).   | \$52.46 per SUIP          |
| UF       | Urban rate class UF – commercial differential.  | \$157.38 per SUIP         |
| Rural    | Rural rate differentiated by class, \$10.99 per separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit (SUIP) of indirect benefit plus a rate per hectare for each of the following classes of land in the defined Kaitia flood rating district as illustrated in the following maps and table. | \$10.99 per SUIP          |

| Class | Description   | Rate <u>including GST</u> |
|-------|---|---------------------------|
| A & B | High benefit: rural land which receives high benefit from the Awanui scheme works due to reduced river flooding risk and/or reduced duration of flooding and/or coastal flooding – all rateable land other than in the commercial differential. | \$23.39 per hectare       |

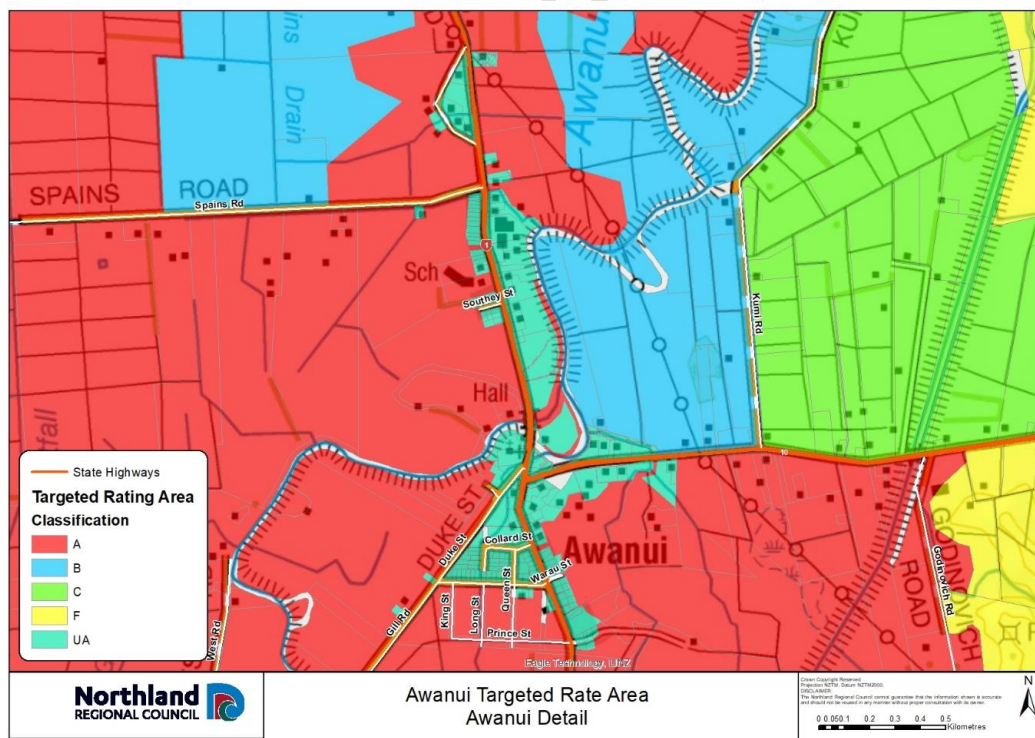
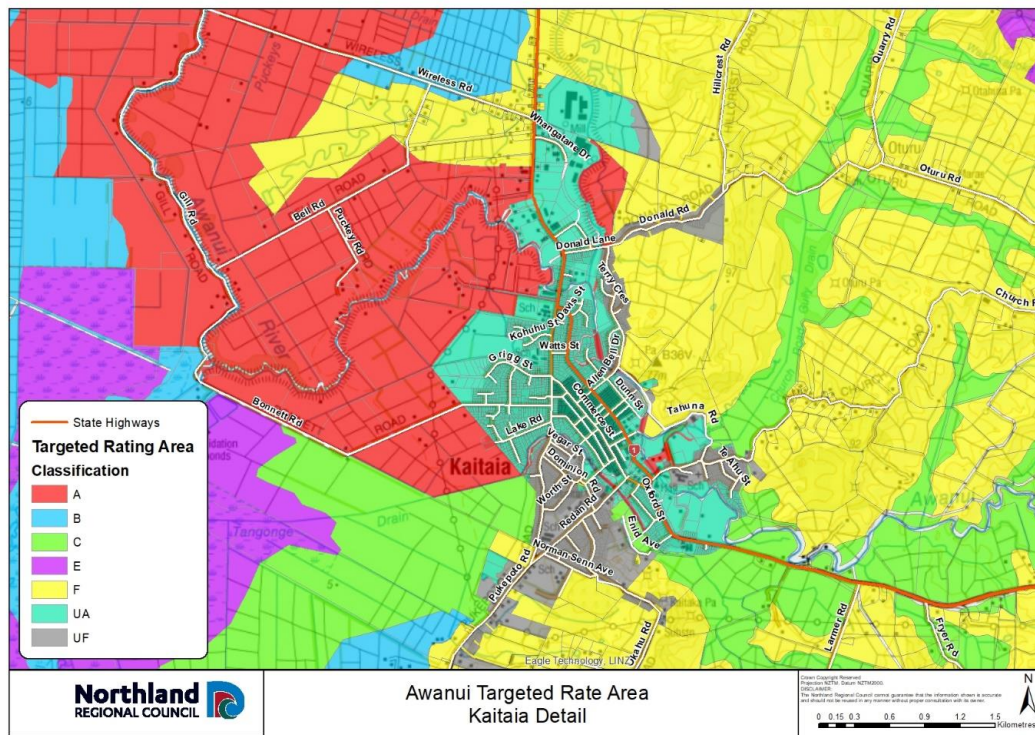
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|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| A & B commercial differential  | \$70.17 per hectare |
| C<br>Moderate benefit: land floods less frequently and water clears quickly – all rateable land other than in the commercial differential. | \$10.52 per hectare |
| C commercial differential  | \$31.56 per hectare |
| F<br>Contributes runoff waters and increases the need for flood protection - all rateable land other than in the commercial differential.  | \$0.72 per hectare  |
| F commercial differential  | \$2.16 per hectare  |

The rating classifications are illustrated in the following maps:



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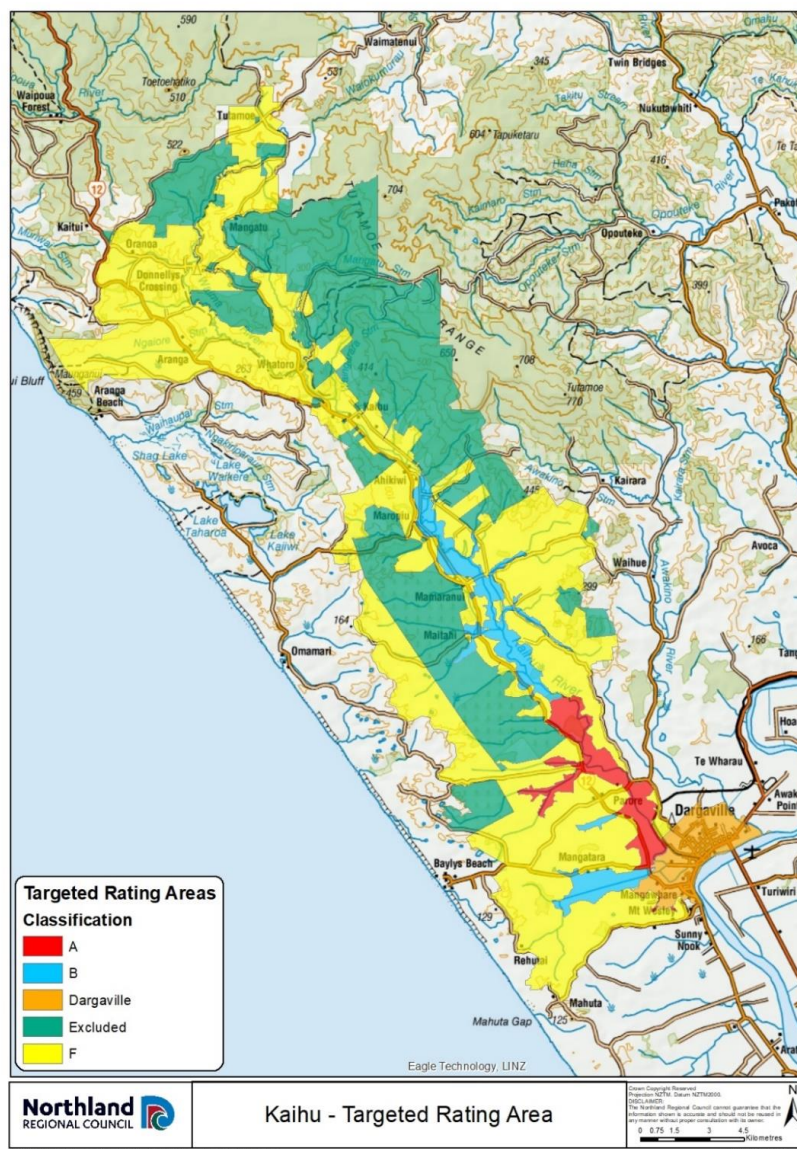
**I. Targeted Kaihū River management rate**

A targeted rate set under the LGRA, and set differentially by location and area of benefit as defined in the following table:

| <b>Class</b>  | <b>Description</b>   | <b>Rate Including GST</b> |
|---|--|---------------------------|
| A   | Land on the floodplain and side valleys downstream of Rotu Bottleneck.   | \$23.13 per hectare       |
| B   | Land on the floodplain and tributary side valleys between Ahikiwi and the Rotu Bottleneck and in the Mangatara Drain catchment upstream of SH12. | \$11.39 per hectare       |
| F   | Land within the Kaihū River rating area not falling within Class A and Class B, or the excluded area.  | \$1.60 per hectare        |
| <b>Urban Contribution</b> – A contribution from the Kaipara District Council instead of a separate rate per property. |  | \$5,015 per annum         |

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The rating classifications are illustrated in the following map:



**m. Targeted Kaeo-Whangaroa rivers management rate**

A targeted rate set under the LGRA, set on a uniform basis in respect of each rateable separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit falling within the former Whangaroa Ward rating rolls of 100-199, as illustrated in the map below:

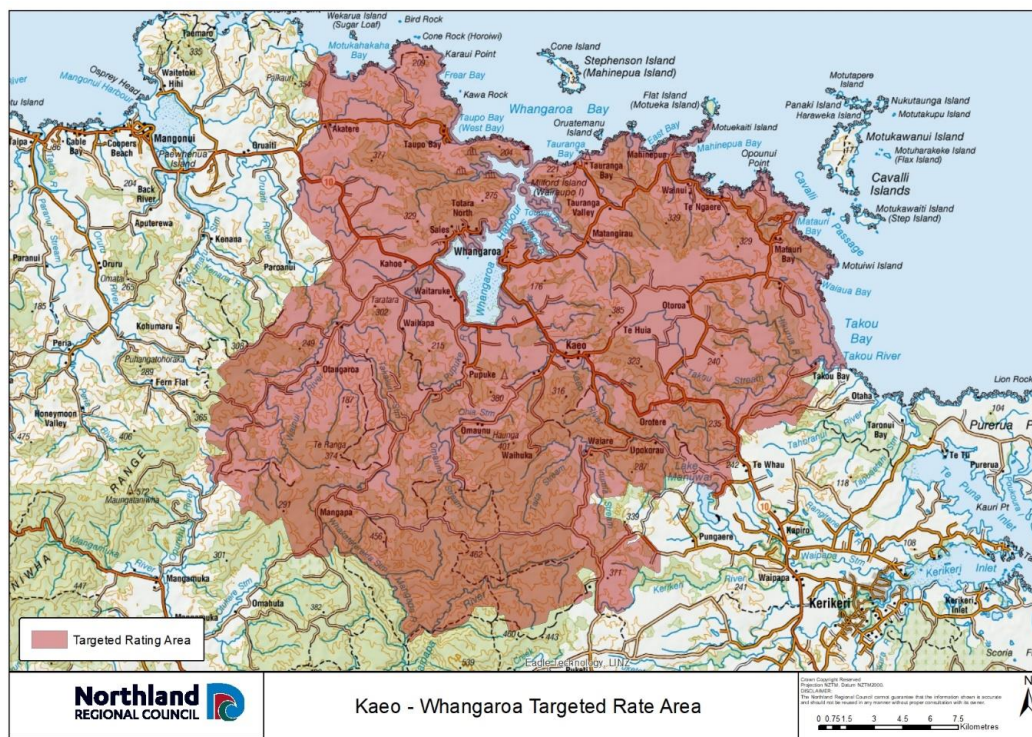
Former Whangaroa Ward

**Including GST**

\$47.67 per SUIP



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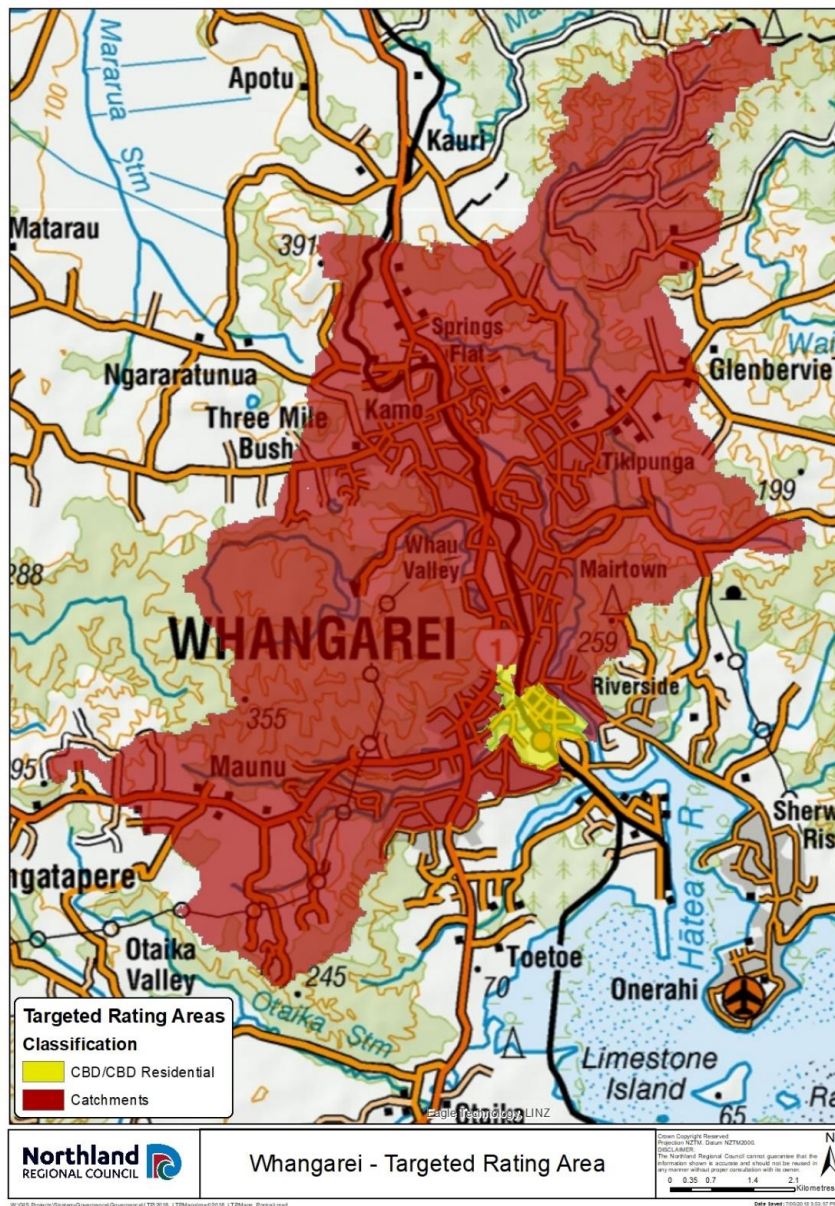


#### n. Targeted Whangārei urban rivers management rate

A targeted rate set under the LGRA and assessed on all rateable properties defined by reference to the differential categories and differentiated by location (illustrated in the map below) and, for some categories, land use. It is set as a fixed amount per each rateable separately used or inhabited part (SUIP) of a rating unit, as follows:

| Category |   | <u>Including GST</u> |
|----------|---|----------------------|
| 1        | Commercial properties located in the Whangārei Central Business District flood area:  | \$333.97 per SUIP    |
| 2        | Residential properties located in the Whangārei Central Business District flood area:   | \$175.76 per SUIP    |
| 3        | Properties located in the contributing water catchment area (including properties falling in the Waiarohia, Raumanga, Kirikiri and Hātea River Catchments): | \$40.34 per SUIP     |

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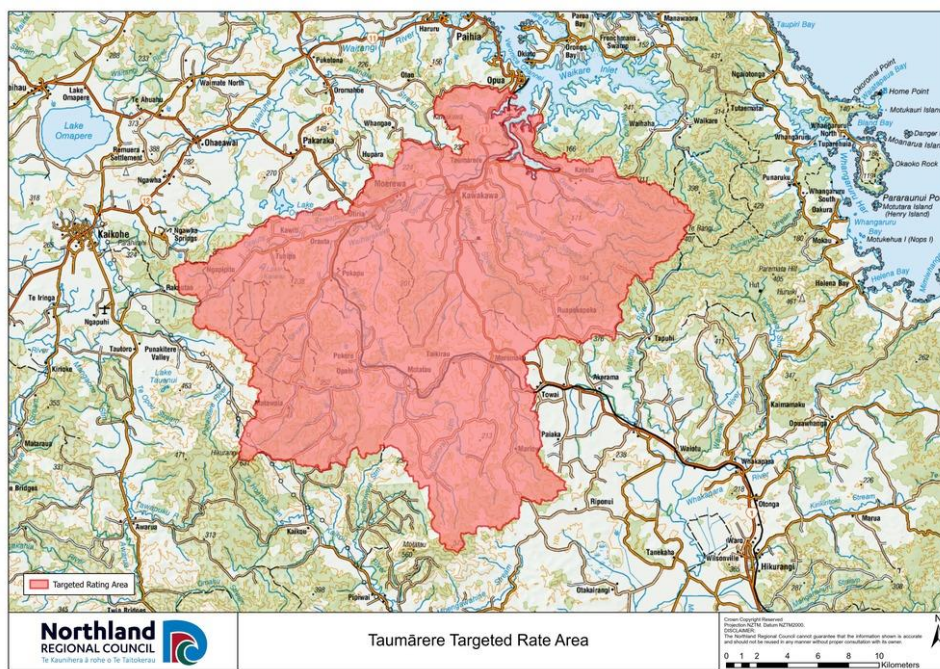
**o. Targeted Taumārere rivers management rate**

A targeted rate set under the LGRA, set on a uniform basis in respect of each rateable separately used or inhabited part of a rating unit located within the Far North District and/or intersecting the Taumārere Rivers Management Rate catchment area, as illustrated in the map below:

Taumārere

**Including GST**

\$68.15 per SUIP



4. That the Northland Regional Council resolves the following with respect to payment dates for rates and the penalty regime:

**Far North District constituency:**

The Northland Regional Council resolves that all rates within the Far North District constituency are payable in four equal instalments, on the following dates:

| Instalment   | Due date for payment |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Instalment 1 | 20 August 2025       |
| Instalment 2 | 20 November 2025     |
| Instalment 3 | 20 February 2026     |
| Instalment 4 | 20 May 2026          |

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The Northland Regional Council resolves to add the following penalties to unpaid Far North District constituency rates:

- In accordance with section 58(1)(a) of the LGRA, a penalty of ten percent (10%) will be added to any portion of each instalment of Far North District constituency rates assessed in the 2025/26 financial year that is unpaid on or by the respective due date for payment as stated above. These penalties will be added on the following dates:

| Instalment   | Date penalty will be added |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Instalment 1 | 27 August 2025             |
| Instalment 2 | 27 November 2025           |
| Instalment 3 | 27 February 2026           |
| Instalment 4 | 27 May 2026                |

The Northland Regional Council resolves to charge postponement fees in accordance with its rating and postponement policies for the Far North District constituency as follows:

- application fee: \$300
- administration fee: \$50 per annum
- financing fee on all postponements: currently set at 3.00% per annum but may vary to match council's average cost of funds.

**Kaipara District constituency:**

The Northland Regional Council resolves that all rates within the Kaipara District constituency are payable in four equal instalments, on the following dates:

| Instalment   | Due date for payment |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Instalment 1 | 20 August 2025       |
| Instalment 2 | 20 November 2025     |
| Instalment 3 | 20 February 2026     |
| Instalment 4 | 20 May 2026          |

The Northland Regional Council resolves to add the following penalties to unpaid Kaipara District constituency rates:

- In accordance with section 58(1) (a) of the LGRA, a penalty of ten percent (10%) of so much of each instalment of the Kaipara District constituency rates assessed in the 2025/26 financial year that are unpaid after the relevant due date for each instalment will be added on the relevant penalty date for each instalment stated below, except where a ratepayer has entered into an arrangement by way of direct debit authority, and honours that arrangement. These penalties will be added on the following dates:

| Instalment   | Date penalty will be added |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Instalment 1 | 21 August 2025             |

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|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| Instalment 2 | 21 November 2025 |
| Instalment 3 | 21 February 2026 |
| Instalment 4 | 21 May 2026      |

- In accordance with section 58(1)(b) of the LGRA, a penalty of ten per cent (10%) of the amount of all Kaipara District constituency rates (including any penalties) from any previous financial years that are unpaid on 01 July 2025 will be added on 03 July 2025.
- In accordance with section 58(1)(c) of the LGRA, a penalty of ten per cent (10%) of the amount of all Kaipara District constituency rates to which a penalty has been added under the point immediately above and which remain unpaid on 05 January 2026 will be added on 06 January 2026.

**Whangarei District constituency:**

The Northland Regional Council resolves that all rates within the Whangarei District constituency are payable in four equal instalments, on the following dates:

| Instalment   | Due date for payment |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Instalment 1 | 20 August 2025       |
| Instalment 2 | 20 November 2025     |
| Instalment 3 | 20 February 2026     |
| Instalment 4 | 20 May 2026          |

The Northland Regional Council resolves to add the following penalties to unpaid Whangarei District constituency rates:

- In accordance with section 58(1)(a) of the LGA, a penalty of ten percent (10%) will be added to any portion of each instalment of Whangarei District constituency rates assessed in the 2025/26 financial year that is unpaid on or by the respective due date for payment as stated above. These penalties will be added on the following dates:

| Instalment   | Date penalty will be added |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Instalment 1 | 22 August 2025             |
| Instalment 2 | 24 November 2025           |
| Instalment 3 | 24 February 2026           |
| Instalment 4 | 22 May 2026                |

- In accordance with section 58(1)(b) of the LGRA, a penalty of ten per cent (10%) will be added to any Whangarei District constituency rates (including any penalties) from any financial year prior to 1 July 2025 that still remain unpaid as at 1 July 2025. This penalty will be added on 9 September 2025.

The Northland Regional Council resolves to charge postponement fees in accordance with its rating and postponement policies for the Whangarei District constituency.

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No discount will be given for early payment of rates.

The district councils have advised that their rates adoption dates are as follows:

- Far North District Council – 25 June 2025
- Kaipara District Council – 25 June 2025
- Whangarei District Council – 02 July 2025

Should their collection and/or penalty dates change through the rate setting process we will need to amend our resolution accordingly.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *Item 7.2 was addressed prior to Item 7.1 based on legal advice.*
- *Appreciation was extended to all involved in the Annual Plan process and the 'good constructive thinking' of staff to find efficiencies and savings to reduce rates.*

**Adoption of Mahere-ā-Tau 2025-26 - Annual Plan 2025-26 (Item 7.2)**

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

**Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)**

1. That the report 'Adoption of Mahere-ā-Tau 2025-26 - Annual Plan 2025-26' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 23 April 2025, be received.
2. That in accordance with section 95 of the Local Government Act 2002, the council adopts the Annual Plan 2025/26, as included in Attachment 1 (*pertaining to Item 7.2 of the 24 June 2025 council agenda*).
3. That council authorises the Group Manager – Corporate Services to make any necessary minor drafting, typographical, rounding, or presentation corrections to the Annual Plan 2025/26 prior to final publication of the document.

**Carried**

**Proposed 2025 SIPO (Item 7.3)**

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

**Moved (Stolwerk/Blackwell)**

1. That the report 'Proposed 2025 SIPO' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 4 June 2025, be received.
2. That council approves the 2025 SIPO, as presented in Attachment 1 (*pertaining to Item 7.3 of the 24 June 2025 council agenda*).
3. That council approves the updated Treasury Risk Management Policy, as presented in Attachment 2.
4. That council approves the updated Investment Committee Terms of Reference, as presented in Attachment 3.

**Carried**

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**Secretarial Note:**

- *The Investment Committee had formally endorsed the proposed changes to the SIPO.*
- *Appreciation was extended to all involved in the review of the SIPO.*
- *It was stressed that all councillors needed to be kept abreast of the regular six month reporting on the SIPO.*

**Regional Sporting Facilities Rate Allocation for 2024-2027 (Item 7.4)**

**Report from Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Macdonald)**

1. That the report 'Regional Sporting Facilities Rate Allocation for 2024-2027' by Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager and dated 30 May 2025, be received.
2. That the full remaining quantum of Regional Sporting Facilities Rates collected (but unallocated) during the 2021–2024 financial years be added to the allocation for distribution in the 2024-2027 period.
3. That the following regional sporting facility projects receive an '*In Principle*' GST exclusive allocation from the cumulative Regional Sporting Facilities Rate collected during the 2021–2024 financial years as follows:
  - i. Ruakākā Wahitakaro and Northland Regional Volleyball Arena be allocated up to \$2,600,000 in 2025-2026;.
  - ii. Sportsville Dargaville Stage 2 be allocated up to \$1,200,000 in 2026-2027.
4. That the Chief Executive Officer has authority to distribute funds to each project, up to the amounts allocated, when he is satisfied that the following has been met to his satisfaction:
  - i. The project Governance Group is properly constituted and capable; and
  - ii. The project, or standalone stage, is fully or near-fully funded; and
  - iii. Any other criteria that he sees as relevant and material having taken advice.
5. That the Chief Executive Officer has discretion over fund distribution timing (before or after the dates in recommendation 2).
6. That the Chief Executive Officer refer to council if there is a material change in a project or proposed change in maximum allocation from the '*In Principle*' decision.
7. That the Chief Executive Officer report to council following the completed distribution of the 2024–2027 Regional Sporting Facilities Rate providing:
  - i. A schedule of projects with the respective grants and dates of distribution; and
  - ii. A recommendation for the allocation of any surplus rates collected.

**Carried**

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### **PF2050 Future Funding (Item 7.5)**

**Report from Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free; Vicky Vajda McNab, Communications and Engagement Coordinator – Predator Free and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity**

#### **Moved (Macdonald/Shortland)**

1. That the report 'PF2050 Future Funding' by Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free; Vicky Vajda McNab, Communications and Engagement Coordinator – Predator Free and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 5 June 2025, be received.
2. That council supports the reallocation of \$100,000 from the biosecurity partnerships budgets to support the PF2050 programme.

#### **Carried**

##### *Secretarial Note:*

- *Staff were investigating avenues for philanthropic funding.*
- *Assurance was provided that the reallocation of funding would not affect the funding established through the Long Term Plan process for community-led pest management action in western and northern Northland or council's High Value Areas.*

### **Approval of Submission on the Proposed Kaipara District Plan (Item 7.6)**

**Report from Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager**

#### **Moved (Blackwell/Craw)**

1. That the report 'Approval of Submission on the Proposed Kaipara District Plan' by Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 28 May 2025, be received.
2. That council approve the lodgement of the draft submission on the Proposed Kaipara District Plan included as Attachment One (*pertaining to Item 7.6 of the 24 June 2025 council agenda*).

#### **Carried**

##### *Secretarial Note:*

- *Assurance was provided that Kaipara District Council was applying the most recent version of NRC's hazard maps.*
- *Staff to clarify the terminology of 'renewable electricity generations that could also occur in space'.*

### **Predator Free 2050 Strategy 2025-2030 - Draft submission (Item 7.7)**

**Report from April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori; Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free and Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater**

#### **Moved (Craw/Blackwell)**

1. That the report 'Predator Free 2050 Strategy 2025-2030 - Draft submission' by April Nordstrom, Kaitātari Kaupapa Wai Māori; Sam Johnson, Biosecurity Manager - Predator Free and Leon Keefer, Policy Specialist - Freshwater and dated 9 June 2025, be received.



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2. That the draft submission (*included as Attachment One pertaining to Item 7.7 of the 24 June 2025 council agenda*) be approved for submission to the Department of Conservation on or before 5pm 30 June 2025.
3. That the submission be signed on behalf of council by the Chair.

**Carried**

### **Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 (Item 7.8)**

**Report from Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager**

#### **Moved (Blackwell/Shortland)**

1. That the report 'Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025' by Michael Payne, Policy Specialist and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 13 June 2025, be received.
2. That council determines under section 155(1) of the LGA that a Bylaw is the most appropriate way of addressing problems relating to the maritime safety in the region.
3. That council determines under section 155(2)(a) of the LGA that the draft Northland Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 is the most appropriate form of bylaw; and
4. That council determines under section 155(2)(b) of the LGA that the draft Northland Regional Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2025 does not give rise to any implications under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.
5. That council adopts the following documents for the purposes of consultation pursuant to section 156 of the Local Government Act 2002.
  - a) the Statement of Proposal, and
  - b) the Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw.
6. That the public notification of the 'Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw be on or before 27 June 2025.
7. That council:
  - a) confirms the Hearing Panel of Cllr Craw, Cllr Stolwerk and Cllr Blackwell, and
  - b) delegates authority to the Hearing Panel to hear submissions on the Draft Navigation Safety Bylaw, deliberate and make recommendations to council in response to submissions.
8. That council delegate to the Pou Tiaki Hapori | Group Manager Community Resilience the authority to make any necessary minor formatting, typographical, and administrative changes to the Statement of Proposal prior to formal public consultation.

**Carried**

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

**Report from Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair**

#### **Moved (Crawford/Blackwell)**

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 29 May 2025, be received.

**Carried**

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

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

**Moved (Shortland/Macdonald)**

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 27 May 2025, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Appreciation was extended to staff supporting what were described as 'amazing community events' during the Matariki celebrations.*

## **Receipt of Committee Minutes (Item 9.1)**

**Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

**Moved (Carr/Macdonald)**

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee - 7 April 2025
- Audit and Risk Committee - 20 May
- Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board – 23 May 2025
- Investment Committee - 3 June 2025 and
- Civil Defence Emergency Management Group - 3 June 2025

be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *Appreciation was extended to the Maurikura staff for the successful growth and development of the Kaipara Moana Remediation (KMR) programme which was 'achieving a lot on the ground' and 'run efficiently [by] working with land owners to get things done' and described as going 'from strength to strength'.*
- *Clarification was provided that NRC did conduct a sediment monitoring programme for the Kaipara Harbour every five years. However, there was not a specific monitoring programme in relation to the KMR project itself.*
- *There was general agreement that a letter be drafted on behalf of council to the retired Minister Parker, who had championed the KMR programme; acknowledging his effort and funding support.*
- *Attention was drawn to the fact that the KMR programme had been nominated by Victoria University of Wellington for one of five Earthshot prizes.*

## **Working Party Updates Report (Item 9.2)**

**Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

**Moved (Macdonald/Craw)**

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

**Carried**

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

### Moved (Shortland/Macdonald)

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

| Item No. | Item Issue   | Reasons/Grounds  |
|----------|--|--|
| 10.1     | Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 27 May 2025                   | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.  |
| 10.2     | Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes                            | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.  |
| 10.3     | Northport Group Limited Director Appointments                        | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons s7(2)(a).  |
| 10.4     | Property Sales (Tranche 1 and 2) for Northport Group Ltd Transaction | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i). |
| 10.5     | Kōtuku Solar Project   | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i). |
| 10.6     | Lake Ōmāpere Restoration Project                                     | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making  |

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|      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
|      |  | available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied s7(2)(c)(i).  |
| 10.7 | Oruku Landing Conference and Events Centre | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i). |

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

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: The meeting adjourned at 11.36am and reconvened at 11.49am to address business with the public excluded.*

## **Open Meeting**

### **Moved (Blackwell/Shortland)**

That the council resumes in open meeting.

**Carried**

## **Confirming of confidential minutes in open meeting**

The confidential resolutions confirmed in open meeting were as follows:

### **Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 27 May 2025 (Confidential Item 10.1)**

**Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

#### **Moved (Carr/Macdonald)**

That the confidential minutes of the council meeting held on 27 May 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

**Carried**

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### **Receipt of Confidential Committee Minutes (Confidential Item 10.2)**

**Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin**

**Moved (Craw/Blackwell)**

That the unconfirmed confidential minutes of the:

- Audit and Risk Committee - 20 May 2025 and
- Investment Committee – 3 June 2025

be received.

**Carried**

### **Northport Group Limited Director Appointments (Confidential Item 10.3)**

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

**Moved (Jones/Carr)**

1. That the report 'Northport Group Limited Director Appointments' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 16 May 2025, be received.

**Carried**

**It was further moved (Craw/Blackwell)**

2. That council appoints David Pilkington, Lindsay Faithfull and Julian Smith as directors on the Northport Group Limited board, for an appointment term of three years.

**Carried**

### **Property Sales (Tranche 1 and 2) for Northport Group Ltd Transaction (Confidential Item 10.4)**

**Report from Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager**

**Moved (Stolwerk/Craw)**

1. That the report 'Property Sales (Tranche 1 and 2) for Northport Group Ltd Transaction' by Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager and dated 5 June 2025, be received.
2. That council approve the sale of the Tranche 1 and 2 properties subject to recommendation 3 below.
3. That the Chief Executive Officer is satisfied that:
  - a. The sale price is above, at or close to market value as confirmed by a valuer engaged by council;
  - b. The properties are first offered to Mana Whenua for purchase as per the Property Sale Process policy;
  - b. Council has complied with all statutory, regulatory (and policy) obligations that relate to the sale of the property;

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- c. The Sale and Purchase Agreement includes any further conditions of sale deemed to be useful, reasonable, and appropriate in his view having taken legal or other professional advice, if required.
4. That council approve proceeds of the sales, less costs of sale, be held for funding of the Northport Group Ltd transaction;
5. That council not sell Tāika Forest but hold it separate to the investment property portfolio in recognition that ownership provides benefits other than the forestry income returns that are significantly lower than the 7% targeted in council's investment strategy, and that:
  - a) staff prepare a comprehensive plan on how and for what purpose Taika Forest is held and what the strategic objectives and funding sources are to achieve those outcomes, and that:
  - b) the draft plan be brought back to a subsequent council meeting for council consideration and ratification.

**Carried**

### **Kōtuku Solar Project (Confidential Item 10.5)**

**Report from Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager**

**Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)**

1. That the report 'Kōtuku Solar Project' by Phil Heatley, Strategic Projects and Facilities Manager and dated 9 June 2025, be received.
2. That council approve \$55,000 of funding from the Property Reinvestment Fund portion of the Long-Term Investment Fund to undertake preliminary work on the Kōtuku Solar Project (the Project).
3. That council approve further expenditure of up to \$5,000 plus GST for contingencies, if required.
4. That the Project target a >7% return on capital, noting this is councils Investment Strategy target.
5. That council note that during preliminary work, Management will halt spending should, at any point, the Project appear non-viable.

**Carried**

### **Lake Ōmāpere Restoration Project (Confidential Item 10.6)**

**Report from Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao**

**Moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

1. That the report 'Lake Ōmāpere Restoration Project' by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and dated 12 June 2025, be received.
2. That the full remaining budget of \$290,000 allocated from the equalisation reserve to fund the development of a Harbour Remediation Business Case (as per Item 7.4 of the 26 April 2022 council meeting) be reallocated as a grant to be issued to the Lake Ōmāpere Trust.

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3. That the purpose of the \$290,000 grant is to co-fund pre-construction technical work, including hard engineering solution assessment, required as part of the Lake Ōmāpere Restoration Project Regional Infrastructure Grant Fund arrangement between Lake Ōmāpere Trust and Kanoa - Regional Economic Development & Commercial Services
4. That the Chief Executive is authorised to enter into a contract with the Lake Ōmāpere Trust to allocate up to \$290,000, subject to his satisfaction of the following conditions:
  - a. sufficient certainty and clarity as to the specific milestones and deliverables the funding will be allocated towards;
  - b. suitably qualified expert analysis and advice that the proposed restoration project will not have adverse ecological outcomes and will result in demonstrably improved lake water quality;
  - c. Notwithstanding clause (b), the Chief Executive may provide for the release of funds via the contract for preliminary engineering or investigative work including, but not limited to bathymetric surveys, pre-European lake level, subsequent lake level modifications and nutrient budget (including the impact of water fowl) that is strictly necessary to generate the information required for the expert analysis set out in clause (b).
  - d. appropriate reporting and monitoring requirements; and
  - e. any other matter or condition deemed necessary to support the successful delivery of the project.
5. That \$1,000,000, at a rate of \$200,000 per year over five years, is allocated from the Land and Freshwater Management Reserve as a grant to Lake Ōmāpere Trust for the purpose of catchment remediation activities consistent with the purpose of the reserve.
6. That the Chief Executive is authorised to enter into a \$1,000,000 grant funding agreement between council and Lake Ōmāpere Trust terms, subject to his satisfaction of the following conditions:
  - a. sufficient certainty and clarity as to the specific milestones and deliverables the funding will be allocated towards;
  - b. suitably qualified expert analysis and advice that the proposed restoration project will not have adverse ecological outcomes and will result in demonstrably improved lake water quality.
  - c. all necessary legislative consents and authorisations to carry out the restoration project, in its entirety, have been obtained.
  - d. any and all necessary landowner consent and approvals for activities carried out on private property.
  - e. confirmation that all necessary funding has been obtained to implement the project in its entirety.
  - f. compliance with all terms and conditions of Kanoa funding
  - g. sufficient certainty and clarity as to the specific activities and deliverables the funding will contribute towards.
  - h. appropriate reporting and monitoring requirements.
  - i. any other matter or condition deemed necessary to support the successful delivery of the project.

Council Meeting  
24 June 2025

7. That council notes that its financial contributions towards the restoration of Lake Ōmāpere does not in any way restrict council's rights and obligations through the Fast Track Approvals process.

**Carried** (*unanimously*)

### **Oruku Landing Conference and Events Centre (Item 10.7)**

**Report from Stephanie Versteeg, Kaitohutohu Matua / Principal Advisor and Darryl Jones, Economist**

#### **Moved (Blackwell/Craw)**

1. That the report 'Oruku Landing Conference and Events Centre' by Stephanie Versteeg, Kaitohutohu Matua / Principal Advisor and Darryl Jones, Economist and dated 12 June 2025, be received.

**Carried**

#### **Moved (Craw/Shortland)**

- 2a. That council agree to provide a letter acknowledging the significant regional benefits of a hotel/conference centre and look forward to further details regarding the proposal.

**Carried** (*Unanimously*)

#### **It was further moved (Macdonald/Craw)**

2. That council notes the current proposal is likely to be materially different from that considered when approving a funding commitment to the project in 2022 and, consequently, a new decision would be needed to provide financial support for the revised proposal.

**Carried** (*Unanimously*)

### **Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

The meeting concluded at 1.38pm with a karakia by the GM – Governance and Engagement.



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

**From:**                   Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

**Authorised by**           Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 14 July 2025  
**Group Manager/s:**

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### **Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

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

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

That the action sheet be received.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Council Action Sheet - July 2025 [↓](#) 

Council Actions as at 8/07/2025

| Id   | Meeting            | Target Date | Description                  | Request Details  | Most Recent Comment                  |
|------|--------------------|-------------|------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 8215 | Council 24/06/2025 | 8/07/25     | Receipt of Committee Minutes | A letter to be drafted on behalf of council to the retired Minister Parker, who had championed the Kaipara Moana Remediation programme, acknowledging his efforts and funding support. | Will be actioned after 14 July 2025. |

**TITLE:** **Retrospective Approval - Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector**

**From:** Darryl Jones, Economist

**Authorised by Group Manager/s:** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 15 July 2025

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### Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

On 30 May 2025, the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee (the Committee) formally launched an Inquiry into the Ports and Maritime Sectors (the Inquiry) to examine the current state of play, challenges and future opportunities within these sectors. This covers six key areas including key connections to the ports' respective land and maritime hinterland economies, their transport connections and inland ports. The terms of reference for the Inquiry are available online: [Terms of Reference](#).

A submission on the proposal was lodged on 11 July 2025 (before 13 July closing date) under delegated authority by the Executive Leadership Team (refer **Attachment 1**). It included an invitation to the Committee to meet with council as part of the Inquiry and facilitate a visit to Northport. The Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA) Chief Executives also agreed to send a letter to the Chair of the Committee on behalf of UNISA (**Attachment 2**).

In accordance with council's Delegations Manual, a draft of the submission was circulated to elected members for discussion at the council workshop on 9 July 2025, and comments were incorporated into the final version. However, timeframes did not allow for formal approval by council before the submission was lodged. Council's Delegations Manual requires that submissions authorised by the Executive Leadership Team that are deemed to be politically significant must be retrospectively approved by council.

Retrospective approval is being sought by council for that reason. This report recommends council give retrospective approval for the submission included as Attachment 1.

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### Recommendations:

1. That the report 'Retrospective Approval - Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector' by Darryl Jones, Economist and dated 7 July 2025, be received.
2. That council retrospectively approve the submission (included as Attachment One) to the Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector.

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### Options

| No. | Option   | Advantages   | Disadvantages |
|-----|--|--|---------------|
| 1   | Council retrospectively approves the submission. | The Select Committee overseeing the Inquiry will be able to consider council's submission. | None.         |

|   |   |       |   |
|---|---|-------|---|
| 2 | Council does not approve the submission | None. | The submission would need to be formally withdrawn. |
|---|---|-------|---|

The staff's recommended option is Option 1.

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## Considerations

### 1. Climate Impact

The matter subject to this report is of an administrative nature and does not warrant any specific considerations in respect of climate change.

### 2. Environmental Impact

There are no environmental risks or impacts that need to be considered

### 3. Community views

Council's submissions are intended to advocate for the interest of the region. The Inquiry was open to public submission and therefore individuals in the community have also had the opportunity to raise matters relating to their own interest.

### 4. Māori impact statement

Māori have not been engaged with in relation to the content of council's submission. The scope of the Inquiry is very broad, and Māori may hold many views on the six key areas. As with the general public, Māori have an opportunity to raise matters relating to their own interest in a submission to the Select Committee.

### 5. Financial implications

At the time of writing this report there are no known financial implications of this decision.

### 6. Implementation issues

There are no known implementation issues associated with this decision.

### 7. Significance and engagement

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is considered to be of low significance when assessed against council's significance and engagement policy because it is part of council's day to day activities.

This does not mean that this matter is not of significance to tangata whenua and/or individual communities, but that council is able to make decisions relating to this matter without undertaking further consultation or engagement.

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

There are no material policy or legislative compliance risks associated with council lodging a submission on the government proposals or relating to council's retrospective approval of the submission

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## Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Council submission to the Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector - Final [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Letter from UNISA to the Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector [↓](#) 



11 July 2025

MP Andy Foster  
Chairperson, Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee  
New Zealand Parliament

**Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector**

I am making this submission on behalf of the Northland Regional Council (council) to the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee's (Committee) Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector (Inquiry) released 30 May 2025.

The following table contains council's comments on some of the areas for investigation as set out in the terms of reference for the Inquiry.

We understand that the Committee intends to meet with key players and interested parties across the sector and to undertake site visits as appropriate to further its understanding. Given council's significant ownership stake in Northport, we would like to invite the Committee to meet with council as part of the Inquiry. We are also happy to facilitate a visit to Northport. Please contact me to if you wish to accept this invitation.

**Bruce Howse**  
Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

| Inquiry area  | Comments   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessing the contribution of ports and maritime industries to trade, logistics, and both regional and national economic development.</li> </ul> | <p>It is important to consider a wide range of measures when assessing the contribution of ports to a local economy. For example, stevedoring and port and water transport terminal services contribute only 0.4% to Northland's GDP but Northport is very important for the export of logs from the region. The region would face a large drop in returns from forestry if logs had to be transported south to be exported.</p> <p>Port facilities have also contributed to the development of a world-class marine engineering sector in Northland. It is for this reason, and the potential to build on this, that Marine manufacturing was identified as one of the key sectors in <i><u>Igniting Northland's Potential</u></i>, the region's Light-Touch Regional Deal Proposal submitted in February.</p> <p>One such opportunity is a proposal to renew the inshore commercial fishing fleet by developing a facility in Whangārei dedicated to building a new class of vessels designed for reduced carbon emissions and fuel consumption while creating high-paying jobs and training opportunities.</p> <p>Another aspect to consider is the contribution ports can make as a point of arrival for tourists. Northport is the newest addition to the New Zealand cruise itinerary contributing even further to the region's economy by stimulating local tourism, hospitality, and retail sectors. Further, the establishment of a new 115-berth marina in Whangārei would expand the marine industries capacity to service the "white boat" fleet, attract tourism, and promote a vibrant marine-focused economy.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evaluating the adequacy of existing infrastructure and identifying key investment priorities to support future growth.</li> </ul>                | <p>A crucial challenge to be aware of when identifying key investment priorities is the requirement to coordinate investment across several asset owners to maximise growth opportunities. This was a factor behind council's recent decision to restructure Marsden Maritime Holdings and Northport into a single entity. The restructuring also provides an opportunity to improve port productivity and economic performance.</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reviewing the interface between ports and the relevant parts of the land and maritime transport system.</li> </ul>                               | <p>The interface between ports and the land transport system is an essential factor to consider in the Inquiry. Improving the land transport linkages from Northport are critical to realising the full economic and resilience potential offered by the unique deepwater facility at Northport. This is an important reason why both the Northland Corridor and the Marsden Point Rail Link (MPRL) are committed to and funded as new infrastructure builds</p>   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | <p>for the region. We understand that KiwiRail have submitted their business case for the MPRL to Ministers.</p> <p>Longer term, the development of an inland rail port north of Auckland, e.g., near Kumeu, would build on and enhance the viability of the MPRL.</p> <p>While the terms of reference for the Inquiry only refers to “land and maritime transport systems”, the Committee should also consider the contribution that ports can make to the air transport system. The Ocean Flyer project is being developed as an alternative form of freight and people movement by air that will typically operate port to port. <a href="https://www.oceanflyer.co.nz/">https://www.oceanflyer.co.nz/</a></p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examining the current and potential role of coastal shipping within New Zealand’s broader transport network.</li> </ul> | <p>As part of this area of inquiry, the Committee should examine how the development of smaller port and wharf facilities around the coast can build community resilience, providing alternative transport routes in the event of land transport disruptions.</p>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Looking into the adequacy and locations of drydock facilities.</li> </ul>   | <p>Considerable work has already been done to examine the potential of a large-scale (250m long) drydock and associated marine maintenance facility at Northport. A high-level business case has been completed, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) are actively seeking a partner with the capacity, capability, experience and project team that can deliver the project. The proposed facility would be a landmark project – large enough to service the bigger Royal New Zealand Navy ships, commercial vessels such as the Cook Strait ferries, as well as international flagged ships.</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examining the sector’s role in national security, emergency response, and supply chain continuity.</li> </ul>           | <p>Northport offers several advantages from a national security perspective. It is strategically located outside the main centres and benefits from relative tectonic stability. Northport’s existing infrastructure/operations and planned developments strengthen the geographic diversity of New Zealand’s port network, reducing reliance on a small number of congested urban ports.</p>   |



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
HAMILTON

15 July 2025

MP Andy Foster  
Chairperson, Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee  
New Zealand Parliament

#### **Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector**

I am making this submission on behalf of the Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA) to the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee's (the Commission's) Inquiry into Ports and the Maritime Sector (the Inquiry) released 30 May 2025.

Established in 2011, UNISA is a collaboration between Auckland Council, Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty Regional Councils, Hamilton and Tauranga City Councils and Whangarei District Council. The aim of UNISA is to manage and respond to a range of inter-regional and inter-metropolitan issues.

Despite being only 20% of New Zealand's land area, these regions contain over half of New Zealand's population and economic activity and include nationally significant infrastructure. Together these regions are considered the 'gateway into New Zealand' as it includes Auckland Airport (the arrival point for the majority of New Zealand's international visitors) and Ports of Auckland, Tauranga and Northport. These ports are responsible for handling the majority of New Zealand's international goods trade. Given the significant ownership that UNISA councils have in these ports, the alliance has a strong interest in the Inquiry and the recommendations that it will make to Parliament.

Ports specifically, and transport / freight connections in general, have been an ongoing topic of consideration by UNISA. The first study commissioned by UNISA examined the supply and demand for ports and port-related infrastructure in the Upper North Island.<sup>1</sup> This informed Auckland Council's decisions about the provision of port facilities in its city and fed into subsequent studies including the Auckland Council's Port Future Study 2016.

We understand that the Committee intends to meet with key players and interested parties across the sector and to undertake site visits as appropriate to further its understanding. Given the broad scope of the terms of reference, we would like to invite the Committee to meet with UNISA as part of the Inquiry, providing a forum where you can meet with all seven councils at the same time to discuss these issues.

There are two areas of focus in the terms of reference for the Inquiry on which we would like to make some initial high-level comments. First, the area of infrastructure and investment needs. An important aspect that UNISA wishes to emphasise to the Committee is the need for greater coordination and alignment of infrastructure investment by central government, local government and the private sector to improve the capacity, efficiency and resilience of port facilities and services.

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<sup>1</sup> *How can we meet increasing demand for ports in the Upper North Island?*, PWC, 2012, available [here](#).

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Second, the area of security and supply chain resilience. Resilient transport linkages between ports and key markets is of particular interest. For example, the construction of the Marsden Point Rail Link, would provide greater resilience for imports and exports from Auckland. Another aspect to consider in your investigation is the role that smaller ports and even wharf facilities to support greater coastal shipping and the role they can play in improving the country's ability to respond to emergency situations. In recent years many communities, including those within the UNISA area, have been isolated by road closures caused by severe weather events. Ports and shipping could provide an important alternative transport link in such circumstances.

Please feel free to contact Lance Vervoort, CEO Hamilton City Council, to arrange further engagement with UNISA. We wish you all the best as you carry out this important inquiry and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Paula Southgate  
**Chairperson**  
**Upper North Island Strategic Alliance**

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**TITLE: Retrospective Approval - Council submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill**

**From:** Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

**Authorised by** Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 03 July 2025  
**Group Manager/s:**

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**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

The purpose of this report is to seek retrospective approval for the council submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill. The Bill if enacted would require all new legislation (and review of existing Acts) to be considered against a suite of principles which could materially influence the nature and scope of law and potentially require compensation for 'impairment' of property.

The Bill and key submission points were the subject of a council workshop on 11 June 2025 – following the workshop, a draft submission was circulated to councillors and non-elected members of Te Ruarangi for comment. The submission was subsequently approved and lodged on behalf of council under delegation to the Executive Leadership Team as the consultation timeframe did not enable consideration at a formal council meeting (submissions closed 23 June). The council's Delegations Manual requires that submissions authorised by the Executive Leadership Team deemed to be politically significant must be retrospectively approved by council. The submission lodged with the select committee on 23 June is included as **Attachment One**.

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**Recommendations:**

1. That the report 'Retrospective Approval - Council submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill' by Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 2 July 2025, be received.
2. That the submission (included as Attachment One) be retrospectively approved by council.

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**Options**

| No. | Option  | Advantages  | Disadvantages   |
|-----|---|---|---|
| 1   | The submission is retrospectively approved by council.                      | The Government can consider the views of council on the Bill. | None  |
| 2   | Council does not approve the submission and it would be formally withdrawn. | None  | The Government would not consider the views of council on the Bill. |

The staff's recommended option is Option 1

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## Considerations

### 1. Climate Impact

The subject matter is not directly related to climate change and the lodgement and retrospective approval of the submission will not materially affect NRC's ability to respond to climate change issues.

### 2. Environmental Impact

Lodging a council submission on the Bill will not materially affect councils ability to perform its environmental roles and functions or impact on the environment generally.

### 3. Community views

The council submission is intended to advocate for the interests of the region. The Bill was open for public submissions and therefore individuals in the community have also had the opportunity of raise matters relating to their own interests.

### 4. Māori impact statement

Council lodging a submission on the Bill will not materially impact directly on Māori, however the Bill and (its implications if enacted) is of significant interest to Māori given it could influence new and existing legislation and the scope to address Māori rights and interests in law. Several non-elected members of Te Ruarangi were therefore invited to attend the council workshop on 11 June and express their views on the Bill in order to inform the council submission. The draft council submission was circulated to wider Te Ruarangi members (and councillors) for comment before being finalised and lodged.

### 5. Financial implications

There are no significant financial implications associated with the lodgement or retrospective approval of the submission.

### 6. Implementation issues

There are no material implementation issues associated with the lodgement or retrospective approval of the of the submission, however in the event council does not provide retrospective approval the submission would need to be formally withdrawn.

### 7. Significance and engagement

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

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

There are no material policy or legislative compliance risks associated with council lodging a submission on the government proposals or relating to council's retrospective approval of the submission.

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## Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Council submission on the Regulatory Standards Bill [!\[\]\(aff7c69c44a5e015f18c35867ef3f5c3\_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(0008e7ee33c76c8da181b6f52bf57cf7\_img.jpg\)](#)





## Submission

**To: Committee Secretariat  
Finance and Expenditure Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington**  
[RegulatoryStandardsBill@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:RegulatoryStandardsBill@parliament.govt.nz)

**By: Northland Regional Council**  
**On: Regulatory Standards Bill**

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Northland Regional Council (NRC) appreciates the opportunity to submit on the Regulatory Standards Bill (the Bill). NRC's submission is made in the interest of promoting the sustainable management of Northland's natural and physical resources and the wellbeing of its people and communities.
- 1.2. NRC's key submission points are summarised below:
  - We have concerns that the Bill if enacted would impact on legislative change to progress Māori rights and interests and fulfilment of the Crown's Treaty obligations, which are not always resolved through Treaty settlements.
  - We are concerned that the Bill does not recognise the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi, nor uphold its principles.
  - NRC supports efforts to improve the quality of legislation, however the Bill does not appear the most efficient or effective means of doing so – we recommend a focus on mechanisms already in place (such as improving regulatory impact statements or guidelines).
  - The stated purpose of the Bill is to improve the quality of regulation but the 'principles' in Section 8 seem to focus unduly on preserving property rights rather than setting out the principles for quality regulation.
  - The principles unduly elevate property rights above other considerations, to the extent that a reduction of those rights should be compensated - i.e. regulation that impaired a 'property right' would need to provide compensation to those affected. This would fetter the ability to develop regulation that sought to protect the public interest or the environment.
  - The principles are unbalanced, putting undue weight on the concept that the 'beneficiary pays / compensates' for any impairment or taking of property rights without recognising the well accepted principle that 'exacerbators' should also contribute.

- Section 8(b) also seems to lack balance given it only contemplates a reduction in liberty, security or freedoms and property rights where this is to protect the same for another person – this omits matters of the common good/interest (such as the environment).
- The Bill is unclear on how ‘compensation’ would be calculated and how it would be funded – we assume an increase in tax would be needed which would effectively mean a transfer from taxpayers to property owners.
- The term property is not defined in the Bill – this creates uncertainty as to the scope of Section 8(c) – for example, does ‘property’ include the rights to discharge to air or water or the taking of water?
- Costs are potentially significant, including added process costs for Government (and taxpayers) given the requirement to review existing regulation/legislation), funding administration of the Board, and most notably funding the compensation requirements in the Bill.

We expand on these points below.

#### **Submission**

##### **1. Māori rights and interests:**

- 1.1. We have concerns that the Bill if enacted would impact on legislative change to progress Māori rights and interests and fulfilment of the Crown’s Treaty obligations, which are not always resolved through Treaty settlements. This is in large part due to the potential effect of Section 8(a)(iii). This sub-principle of equality before the law elevates formal equality over substantive equality, without taking into account the structural and systemic inequities that Māori experience. It is likely to disincentivise decision-makers from progressing policy designed to address inequities facing Māori. We therefore do not support the inclusion of the sub-principle of equality before the law without any further qualification that reflect the Crown’s obligations to address historic Treaty breaches and uphold its duties under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- 1.2. The principle of consulting as part of good law-making has been narrowed since the discussion document from those considered “substantially affected” to those who are “directly and materially affected” by proposed legislation. This change in wording is likely to have repercussions for iwi and hapū whose values, wāhi tapu or kaitiakitanga, may be substantially affected by proposals, but who may not meet the higher threshold of being directly and materially affected.
- 1.3. We are concerned that the Bill does not recognise Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi, nor uphold its principles. We share concerns described in the Waitangi Tribunal’s hearings and reports (WAI 3470) that this Bill will reduce the Crown’s ability to pursue equitable policies for Māori, undermining obligations of partnership and active protection. We strongly recommend inclusion of a principle relating to upholding Te Tiriti in the Bill if it is to progress – this will ensure that



legislation/regulation can continue to appropriately address rights and interest of Māori (for example, conferring participatory rights and consultation obligations for Māori under the RMA).

- 1.4. NRC operates within a unique Te Taitokerau context, and is home to a significant Māori population. NRC's commitment to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi and fulfilling its obligations as a Te Tiriti partner is formally articulated through Tāiki ē (NRC Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan). Through this document, NRC has committed to fostering meaningful, active partnerships with tangata whenua. The Regulatory Standards Bill, by omitting any reference to Te Tiriti, prioritising threatens to impede NRC's ability to fulfil its Te Tiriti commitment creating a legislative environment that could make it more difficult or costly to implement policies designed to address Māori rights and interests.
2. The Bill appears unnecessary:
  - 2.1. There are more effective and efficient ways to ensure regulation is of a high standard – for example, improving the rigour applied to evaluating costs and benefits in regulatory impact statements (and the evidence base used). We note the Ministry for Regulation also views the bill as *"unnecessary because there are more efficient and effective ways of improving the quality of lawmaking."* We do not see a need for the Bill and instead recommend improvement be pursued through review of the 'Government Expectations for Good Regulatory Practice', the Legislation Guidelines, and improving the rigour and weight applied to regulatory impact statements.
3. The Bill is unbalanced:
  - 3.1. The Bill appears unbalanced in its current form because Section 8(b) only contemplates a reduction in the rights and freedoms of a person where this protects the rights and freedoms of another person – it does not recognise that rights and freedoms can be restricted for appropriate reasons such as to protect or enhance wider public good, the environment or the national interest.
  - 3.2. Section 8(c) is also unbalanced in that it elevates property rights above common interests to the extent that compensation is payable for any impairment to property – this effectively embeds the principle that the beneficiary pays (i.e. the public / taxpayer) but completely disregards the 'exacerbator pays' principle. These two concepts are normally both applied (for example the Biosecurity Act requires an assessment of the extent to which both beneficiaries and exacerbators should contribute to costs or be required to meet obligations).
  - 3.3. This imbalance and sole focus on the beneficiary paying for any impairment of property in the Bill is likely to significantly constrain Government's ability to pass regulation that seeks to protect the public good / interests or the environment – or

if compensation is required, at least make it significantly more expensive to do so. For example, if compensation is to be payable for any law or regulation that 'impairs' property, the Government could face major hurdles (and/or costs) regulating for purposes relating to biosecurity, commercial fishing, greenhouse gas emissions, development in areas of natural hazard risk, or addressing impacts on the commons (such as air or water, or over-allocation of resources).

4. Uncertainty created by the Bill:

- 4.1. The scope of any compensation is unclear largely because the Bill does not define key terms such as 'property', 'impairment' or 'compensation'. For example, it is unclear what is meant by impairment of property and whether this includes 'bundles of rights' commonly associated with property, which can include rights to discharge to air or water, the taking of water, or the emission of noise or greenhouse gases.
- 4.2. The Bill also does not set out how any compensation is to be calculated – for example, would this include compensation for lost opportunity costs. The absence of definitions for key terms, and details of how any compensation is to be calculated, is likely to lead to high process cost (more on this below) and potentially legal debates. There is also a great deal of uncertainty as to how the Bill would affect existing Acts/regulations and the scope for changes to these acts – retrospectively reviewing such regulation against new principles would be a significant task and could cause all sorts of administrative issues if changes were to be required (and if potentially backdated compensation were to be payable).

5. Costs

- 5.1. It is likely that costs associated with enactment of the Bill would be significant. We see added process costs associated with the reviews of new and existing regulation, the administration of the Board, and most significantly, the potential for compensation. We assume costs of the Bill and fulfilling its obligations (including compensation) would fall to the taxpayer – we would expect a Bill of this nature to clearly spell out these costs as part of its development, noting that assessing the costs and benefits is one of the principles in the Bill (Section 8(k)).

6. Scope of the Bill

- 6.1. As we understand it, the Bill (and principles) would not apply to regulation by local government – we strongly support this, given that the principles (and especially any compensation) would severely constrain the ability for local government to carry out its roles and functions and to give effect to government direction. Compensation would simply be unaffordable for local government – nor would this make sense if local government were to be subject to inquiry by the Board when implementing national direction.



6.2. We strongly support that the Bill does not apply to Treaty Settlement legislation (and some marine legislation) – this is logical, given the nature of settlement legislation and that it can confer specific rights to settlement entities (e.g. Joint management arrangements). However, if the Bill is enacted, we believe the scope of the exemption should also go beyond settlement and redress legislation. Māori rights and interests are provided in the provisions of a range of statutes — both those containing explicit Treaty-based clauses and those that do not — and are foundational to achieving effective working relationships between Māori and the Crown.

7. Relief sought:

7.1. We recommend that the Bill is not progressed, and that instead the Government looks to strengthen existing mechanisms to improve the quality of legislation – for example, review of the ‘Government Expectations for Good Regulatory Practice’, the Legislation Guidelines, and improving the rigour and weight applied to Regulatory Impact Statements.

7.2. In the event the Government decides to progress the Bill, we recommend:

- i. That the Bill includes a Treaty principles clause (or similar) to ensure ongoing recognition of Māori rights and interests.
- ii. That appropriate consultation is undertaken with Māori before the Bill progresses further (noting we have heard consultation with Māori has been inadequate to date despite this being a requirement in Section 8(i) of the Bill)
- iii. To either remove the compensation provisions / beneficiary pays approach, or if they are retained, to re-balance these provisions by incorporating an ‘exacerbator pays’ principle as well.
- iv. To adjust the principles so that the emphasis on property rights and individual rights is balanced with recognition of public good / common interests as well.
- v. To clearly define key terms, including ‘property’, ‘impairment’ and ‘compensation’ in the context of the Bill.
- vi. To set out the scope for compensation and how it is to be calculated – we would also strongly recommend that the costs of the Bill (and compensation) are clearly articulated to ensure that Parliament can make informed decisions.
- vii. To ensure that local government regulation is excluded from the scope of the Bill and the functions of the Board.

The Council wishes to be heard in relation to its submission.



**Signed by the Executive Leadership Team on behalf of Northland Regional Council**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Bruce Howse".

Bruce Howse  
**Pou Taumatua – GM Corporate Services and Chair ELT**

**Dated:** 23 June 2025

**TITLE: Approval of National Directions Package Submissions**

**From:** Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Alison Newell, Policy Specialist

**Authorised by** Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 14 July 2025  
**Group Manager/s:**

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**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for council submissions on the National Direction Package.

The Government has released a series of proposals to change existing national direction or introduce new direction that relates to infrastructure and development, the primary sector and freshwater. These changes form part of a wider overhaul of the resource management system, including replacing the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

The reforms include changes to policies that provide direction to local authorities on how to implement New Zealand's resource management framework.

Submissions on National Directions Packages One (Infrastructure and Development), Two (Primary Sector) and Three (Freshwater) close on 27 July.

The National Directions Package and key submission points were subject to council workshops on 24 June and 9 July. A workshop with the Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū members was also held on the 10 July. Draft submission points on Packages One (Infrastructure and Development), Two (Primary Sector) and Three (Freshwater) were confirmed at the 9 July Council Workshop.

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**Recommendations:**

1. That the report 'Approval of National Directions Package Submissions' by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Alison Newell, Policy Specialist and dated 1 July 2025, be received.
2. That the council approve the lodgement of two submissions on the National Directions package. A submission on the Packages One (Infrastructure and Development) and Two (Primary Sector) and a separate submission on Package Three (Freshwater) as included in Attachments 1 and 2.
3. That the Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services be authorised to make minor changes to the submissions in Attachment 1 and 2, prior to lodgement, to address any minor technical amendments or grammatical changes.

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**Options**

| No. | Option                  | Advantages  | Disadvantages |
|-----|-------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1   | Approve the submissions | NRC support and concern for aspects of the National Direction Packages is communicated. | Nil           |

| No. | Option                        | Advantages  | Disadvantages  |
|-----|-------------------------------|---|--|
| 2   | Do not approve the submission | Nil.<br><br>A number of NRC submission points are likely however to be covered in the regional sector submission. | NRC support and concern for aspects of the National Direction Packages is not communicated |

The staff's recommended option is Option 1.

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## Considerations

### 1. Climate Impact

This submission will not have any direct climate impact; however, it does address national directions that respond to climate change and need for renewable energy generation. The submission will not materially affect NRC's ability to respond to climate change issues.

### 2. Environmental Impact

Lodging a council submission on the packages will not materially affect the council's ability to perform its environmental roles and functions or impact on the environment generally. The proposals in the National Directions changes if implemented will however change how some environmental impacts are managed.

### 3. Community views

The council submission is intended to advocate for the interests of the region. The National Directions Package is open for public submissions and therefore individuals in the community have also had the opportunity of raise matters relating to their own interests.

### 4. Māori impact statement

Council lodging a submission on the National Directions package will not materially impact directly on Māori, however the National Directions and is of significant interest to Māori due to proposed changes. This includes changes around how Te Mana o Te Wai is expressed in the NPS for Freshwater, changes to how aquaculture is managed and how consultation with Māori will be undertaken around infrastructure and development proposals. Several non-elected members of Te Ruarangi were therefore invited to attend the council workshops and express their views on the National Directions Package in order to inform the council submissions. The draft council submissions were also workshopped with iwi and hapū members of Te Ruarangi on 10 July.

### 5. Financial implications

There are no significant financial implications associated with the lodgement or approval of the submission.

### 6. Implementation issues

There are no material implementation issues associated with the lodgement or approval of the submissions. There is however likely to be significant impacts on the council's existing regional policies and plans and associated work programme, as a result of the packages, that will need to be assessed once they have been finalised.

## **7. Significance and engagement**

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


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

There are no material policy or legislative compliance risks associated with the council lodging a submission on the government proposals or relating to council's approval of the submission.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: NRC submission Packages 1 and 2 [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: NRC submission Package 3 [↓](#) 



27 July 2025

Ministry for the Environment  
PO Box 10362  
**WELLINGTON 6143**

via email: [ndprogramme@mfe.govt.nz](mailto:ndprogramme@mfe.govt.nz)

### **RE: National Direction Reforms (Packages 1 & 2 Infrastructure, Development and Primary Sector)**

Northland Regional Council (NRC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed new and amendments to existing National Policy Statements (NPS) and National Environmental Standards (NES) that make up Packages 1 and 2 of the national direction reforms covering Infrastructure, Development and the Primary Sector.

It is noted that this feedback relates to issues from a Te Taitokerau Northland perspective. Matters of particular importance to the regional sector will be lodged separately by Te Uru Kahika. We endorse that submission.

In general terms, NRC:

- notes the importance of ensuring that changes are integrated and coherent across all reforms, and that they are enduring. One of the biggest challenges local government and our communities face is uncertainty and delays to acting when national policy is constantly rewritten;
- supports review and continuous improvement to increase efficiency and reduce costs while achieving environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing outcomes;
- highlights that economic sustainability requires a healthy environment and a focus on long-term economic viability, to ensure a balance between short-term gain and the long-term costs borne by future generations;
- stresses the need to consider all activities subject to the proposal collectively without prioritising some activities over others;
- highlights the commitments<sup>1</sup> NRC has made to partner with tāngata whenua and notes the importance of giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi obligations as part of resource management decision-making;

supports an approach which enables a regional voice and variation where appropriate — a 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not always the most appropriate solution;

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<sup>1</sup> NRC's Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan Tāiki ē sets out NRC's commitment to giving effect to its responsibilities to tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau under Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi. Key strategic goals "Te Tiriti o Waitangi is upheld and embraced", "the mauri of water is protected, restored and improved" and "partner with tāngata whenua to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai".

- is concerned about implementation cost that will be borne by ratepayers, hapū and iwi<sup>2</sup>, implementation timeframes, and restrictions on councils having more stringent rules to address regional issues; and
- notes that there is a real risk of ‘engagement fatigue’, with our communities, particularly tāngata whenua, disengaging with planning processes because of continued changes in national direction.

We set out more detailed responses to the key topics raised in relation to Packages 1 and 2 below.

### NPS Implementation Options

1. We support minimising the need for councils to have to undertake changes to existing plans under the RMA given that the new resource management legislation is due to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA) in 2026.
2. Regarding options for NPS implementation, NRC prefers Option 3: require all plan changes to fully implement each NPS before or at plan review, in addition to any specific implementation provisions in each proposal.
3. It is however unclear whether this refers to the 10-year plan review under section 79(1) of the RMA, and the implications would depend on where the relevant council is in the planning cycle. However, this option would in principle provide councils with the greatest flexibility and certainty, and is the least-costly and most efficient option, as councils have the ability to incorporate multiple changes in one planning process rather than potentially requiring multiple plan changes.
4. In the interests of efficiency, we also recommend that the government utilise section 55(2A) RMA (direct insert) where nationally consistent direction in NPS is to be included in plans, to avoid the need for plan changes and associated Schedule 1 processes.
5. We understand Regional Policy Statements are unlikely to be a feature in the new resource management system, and therefore urge central government to avoid requiring amendments to Regional Policy Statements.
6. NRC seeks the following relief in regard to implementation options:
  - a. Require full implementation of NPS in plans on or before the 10-year review required under section 79(1) RMA, with some exception provided for those councils where this would be impractical (i.e. those where 10-year plan reviews are required in the very short term).
  - b. Utilise section 55(2A) in NPS where practical to streamline the process and limit costs.
  - c. Avoid national direction requiring amendments to Regional Policy Statements.

### Package 1: Infrastructure and development

#### National Policy Statement for Infrastructure

7. NRC supports the aligning of definitions across multiple NPS and NES for consistency and to provide certainty. However, NRC notes the government’s proposal to expand the list of activities which are considered to be “infrastructure” to include “supporting infrastructure activities” and

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<sup>2</sup> We note that hapū and iwi representatives often have to provide their input to RMA processes, including consents, on a voluntary basis. Lack of resourcing for hapū and iwi is an ongoing barrier to their equitable participation.

“additional infrastructure”<sup>3</sup>. The list of activities is limited. For example, critical infrastructure assets owned by councils, such as civil defence facilities or flood protection schemes, are not included.

8. We recommend that it is made clear in the NPS that the definition of additional infrastructure activities is not exhaustive and that other activities can be considered by councils. Failing to do so creates a risk of excluding regionally critical infrastructure that warrants consideration under the NPS.
9. We note that the inclusion of these activities is within the context of providing a more enabling<sup>4</sup> planning framework for infrastructure activities, particular in the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) and in wetlands as proposed in amendments to the NPS for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM), NES-F and New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (NZCPS). With that context in mind, it is unclear how the more enabling framework will benefit “additional infrastructure” such as schools, hospitals, correction facilities, resource recovery/waste disposal given the low likelihood of such being located in the CMA or wetlands and therefore the relevance of including these activities within a definition of “additional infrastructure”.
10. It is also unclear as to which “infrastructure supporting activities” (e.g. quarrying) are to be provided for in decision-making as the proposed Policy P4(3) refers only to “some” infrastructure supporting activities that may have a functional or operational need to be in “particular environments and locations”. The unclear provisos “some” and “particular” proposed in Policy P4(3) create a significant level of ambiguity which will undoubtedly result in expensive and time-consuming litigation. We are also concerned that the “infrastructure supporting activities” provisions are too broad and need to be restricted to those specifically supporting the main infrastructure project or activity. We also note the link to “infrastructure” and the inclusion of “operational need” which will enable more infrastructure activities in sensitive environments and locations over and above other activities.
11. We strongly support the proposed requirement to consider spatial plans and other strategic plans (e.g. Long-Term Plans) in decision-making on infrastructure, including Regional Land Transport Plans prepared under the Land Transport Management Act.

#### Recognising and providing for Māori rights and interests

12. NRC supports the inclusion of Policy 5 ‘Recognising and providing for Māori rights and interests’, and the application of a consistent approach across the NPS on Urban Development (NPS-UD), the NPS on Renewable Electricity Generation (NPS-REG), and the NPS on Electricity Networks (NPS-EN).
13. Clause 1(c) of proposed Policy 5 provides for involvement of tāngata whenua ‘in appropriate circumstances’ in relation to Sites of Significance to Māori and issues of cultural significance. The term ‘in appropriate circumstances’ is ambiguous, and our view is that any circumstance in which Sites of Significance to Māori and issues of cultural significance are affected warrant involvement of tāngata whenua. Also, the proposed wording does not provide for consultation with tāngata whenua nor their participation in decision-making, both key components of recognising and providing for Māori rights and interests, the stated purpose of proposed Policy 5.
14. We support the intent of clause 1(d) of P5 to provide for operating in a way consistent with legislation that provides for iwi participation but note that the clause as worded would likely disadvantage those hapū and iwi yet to reach settlement or who don’t have an agreement under

<sup>3</sup> School or education/training institution, hospital care institution, fire & emergency facilities, Defence Force facilities, Correction facilities, stormwater network, resource recovery/waste disposal facilities.

<sup>4</sup> “Enabling” has specific meaning in a planning context and would generally make activities either permitted or controlled.



s.58L of the RMA. The requirement to take into account the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (s.8 of the RMA) is also absent from the policy.

15. Policy 7 (operation, maintenance and minor upgrade of existing infrastructure) enables these activities provided that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated “where practicable”. This phrase is highly ambiguous and contrary to s.5(2)(c) of the RMA and will lead to substantial legal debate and uncertainty due to its reliance on subjective interpretation of what is ‘practicable’. We recommend retaining the ‘avoid, remedy, mitigate’ hierarchy as is.

**16. Relief sought:**

- a. Amend the definition of additional infrastructure activities to make clear that the list is not exhaustive and that other ‘social infrastructure’ activities can be considered by councils<sup>5</sup>, or do not define “additional infrastructure activities” and rely on the RMA definition of Infrastructure.
- b. Amend the definitional of infrastructure supporting activities so these relate only to activities specifically required to support a primary infrastructure activity or project.
- c. Amend Policy 5(1)(b) to recognise “and provide for” the opportunities tangata whenua may have in developing and operating their own infrastructure.
- d. Remove “in appropriate circumstances” from Policy 5(1)(c) in regards to involvement of tāngata whenua.
- e. Amend Policy 5(1)(d) to provide for tangata whenua participation in accordance with the Principles of Treaty of Waitangi, in addition to that provided for in iwi participation legislation (as defined in section 58L of the RMA), or alternatively, add in a new clause to Policy 5(1) requiring the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to be taken into account.
- f. Remove “where practicable” from Policies 7 and 8 so that the ‘avoid, remedy, mitigate’ hierarchy still applies.
- g. Include policy direction on increasing resilience of infrastructure to climate change and natural hazards.

**National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation and Electricity Networks**

17. NRC is generally supportive of the government's efforts to enable renewable electricity generation (REG) and update our electricity transmission network to handle a more decentralised power system. Recent weather events and network failures have emphasised that multiple sources of energy generation distributed throughout New Zealand are advantageous where connections to the national grid are compromised. Renewably generated electricity is also advantageous due to cost efficiencies, national targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and the ready availability of sunlight, wind, and other natural elements that can be utilised to generate electricity renewably. NRC is of the view that REG from geothermal resources should not be included in this NPS due to the complex environmental interconnectivity and potential for environmental impacts resulting from its development.
18. The proposed amendments to existing policies provide more clarity and directive than the previous NPS from 2011 and 2008 respectively and give more certainty to decision-makers and applicants on what considerations will be had in any new proposal.
19. The proposed new policies are also generally supported by NRC, noting our comments above on Policy 5 (NPS Infrastructure), particularly:
- a. REG Policy 1 (and EN Policy 3) Policies related to Māori rights and interests,

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<sup>5</sup> Such as flood management and land drainage infrastructure provided by regional councils.

- b. REG Policy 3 Providing for the operation and maintenance of existing REG assets, and
  - c. REG Policy 4 Reconsenting, upgrading, and repowering existing REG assets.
20. Together, these policies provide some protection to existing aspirations of tāngata whenua in land development and other opportunities as it relates to community-scale electricity generation. The tāngata whenua participation policies also need to be consistent with the proposed NPS-I Policy 5, and therefore we seek amendments to these (in line with our relief sought in paragraph 13 above).
21. The protection of existing REG assets against reverse sensitivity and enabling upgrades of existing facilities give more certainty in the long-term with respect to locating REG assets and compatible land uses nearby.
22. NRC supports enabling REG activities; however, REG Policy 2<sup>6</sup> limits a decision-maker from considering anything outside of 'environmental values' set out in section 6 of the RMA. It is not clear from this wording if 'environmental values' also include those 'cultural' and 'social' values that are set out in section 6 (clauses b, d, e, f, g, and h).
23. Policy 2 as worded may also have unintended consequences. The use of "where practicable" following the avoid-remedy-mitigate hierarchy is not consistent with section 5 of the RMA. It is also likely to lead to uncertainty and lengthy debates on what is 'practicable'. For example, existing stands of regenerating and/or established native forest may not necessarily be scheduled in a Regional or District Plan and therefore would not be given s.6 value status, and thus a decision-maker will be limited in their ability to manage the actual and potential adverse cumulative effects associated with loss of habitat, soil stability, and carbon sequestration from a proposal to develop REG assets and infrastructure. Such effects could extend beyond the footprint of a REG facility from ancillary construction activities.
24. **Relief sought:**
- a. Clarify that the NPS REG does not apply to geothermal resources.
  - b. Amend REG Policy 1 and EN Policy 3 to read the same as Infrastructure Policy 5, with proposed amendments (see paragraph 13 above)
  - c. Amend REG Policy 1 clause c) to remove "in appropriate circumstances"
  - d. Amend REG Policy 2 wording to remove the terms "environmental" and "where practicable".
  - e. Amend EN Policy 6 by deleting "where practicable" and adding "and issues of cultural significance".

### National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities

25. NRC is generally supportive of the government's efforts to strengthen national direction for electricity infrastructure. Enabling a more robust and resilient national grid is essential to support regional growth, electricity security, and the transition to a low-emission economy. We welcome initiatives that streamline planning processes while maintaining appropriate environmental safeguards.

### Scope of the NES

26. NRC supports the proposal to widen the scope of the NES to include all electricity transmission assets operating at or above 110kV, not just those owned by Transpower. This approach would provide greater consistency in the management of transmission infrastructure across the country

<sup>6</sup> *Decision-makers must enable REG activities, provided that adverse effects on environmental values not in section 6 of the RMA or covered by national direction are avoided where practicable, remedied where practicable, or mitigated where practicable.*

and better reflect the evolving nature of the electricity sector, where non-Transpower entities may also operate high-voltage networks, that provide significant benefit to our communities.

#### Low voltage networks

27. NRC acknowledges the extensive footprint of low voltage electricity distribution networks across the region, including infrastructure located within the coastal marine area (CMA), freshwater bodies, and wetlands. These environments are often highly sensitive and context specific. The nuanced ecological, cultural, and planning considerations of these areas are not easily captured through a one-size-fits-all national standard. In this regard, NRC considers that local authorities are best placed to manage the environmental effects of maintenance and new infrastructure associated with low voltage networks.
28. Importantly, the Regional Plan for Northland already provides an enabling framework, particularly for maintenance activities, that strikes a balance between network reliability and environmental protection.

#### EV charging infrastructure

29. We support the intent behind the proposed changes to streamline EV charging infrastructure, particularly the introduction of a “no consents” regime for certain installations. Enabling a more efficient rollout of this infrastructure is a positive step toward accelerating the transition to low-emissions transport in our region.
30. **Relief sought:**
  - a. Amend national direction to maintain flexibility for councils to regulate low voltage infrastructure where appropriate, especially in environmentally sensitive or high-value areas.

#### National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards

31. NRC supports national direction on managing the risks of natural hazards; however, the proposed provisions for the new NPS for Natural Hazards (NPS-NH) do not advance current practice to a significant degree nor link specifically with adaptation planning.
32. We have concerns that the provisions would not apply to infrastructure. Infrastructure resilience is critical in Northland and infrastructure can be lifelines for our communities, such as telecommunications, water and wastewater and transport networks. Exempting infrastructure from natural hazard risk assessment risks perverse outcomes, and lifelines being vulnerable to hazard risk, increasingly so with climate change.
33. We also note the discussion document states that the NPS-NH will apply to “all activities managed under the Resource Management Act 1991”. It is unclear how this would occur in practice, because it would capture all activities requiring resource consent and many of these would be low risk (e.g. moorings, discharges to air, land or water, water takes and earthworks). We recommend that the scope be narrowed so that the NPS-NH applies to subdivision and built development rather than ‘all activities’ managed by the RMA. This could also be clarified through development of a complementary NES for natural hazards, or by adding relevant definitions into the NPS-NH.
34. The introduction of the risk matrix for classifying hazards is noted, however there is no corresponding policy or rule framework to support this. Leaving more substantive controls on development in hazard prone areas until the introduction of the replacement RMA legislation does not assist councils to avoid or minimise development in hazard prone areas.

35. Due to the disproportionate exposure of Māori land to natural hazards<sup>7</sup>, owners of whenua Māori may be more likely to experience more restrictive development controls than other members of the community. To assist in remedying this inequitable position, we recommend that the NPS-NH provide for targeted support to owners of whenua Māori who are assessed to be subject to significant risks and consequences of a natural hazard event, to assist them to implement adaptation measures.

**36. Relief sought:**

- a. Ensure infrastructure that serves as a lifeline in emergencies is subject to some form of natural hazard risk assessment.
- b. Limit the scope of the NPS-NH to subdivision and built development rather than 'all activity managed under the RMA'.
- c. Provide for targeted support for assessing and managing hazard risk on whenua Māori.
- d. Include a policy framework to support the application of the risk matrix in resource consent decision making.
- e. Allow for consideration of adaptation plans.

**National Environmental Standards – Papakāinga**

37. NRC supports the purpose of the National Environmental Standards - Papakāinga to enable papakāinga on Māori land, noting that the details of the proposed standards and thresholds mainly relate to territorial authorities. We support the development of standards for papakāinga to be co-designed with tāngata whenua to ensure cultural appropriateness and practical implementation.

**Package 2: Primary Sector**

**National Environmental Standards – Marine Aquaculture**

38. NRC supports the proposed amendment to Regulation 18 to ensure consent authorities have discretion to consider effects on Māori access to coastal areas of cultural significance, with regard to the layout, colour, positioning, density, lighting, and marking of marine farm structures within a marine farm.
39. NRC supports the proposed amendments to Regulations 33, 36, and 39 to ensure consent authorities have discretion to consider the effects on Māori access to coastal areas of cultural significance, with regard to the layout, colour, positioning, density, lighting, and marking of marine farm structures within a marine farm when considering applications for replacement coastal permits.
40. NRC supports amending Schedule 6 so that the process for seeking views of tāngata whenua on draft applications also applies to a person applying for a change or cancellation of consent conditions or research and trials under relevant new regulations.
41. There is potential for impacts on Māori values, customary access, rights, and interests from research and trial aquaculture activities that are proposed to be permitted and controlled (as well as restricted discretionary). Accordingly, NRC supports matters of control and discretion including the effects of the activity on tāngata whenua values.
42. The proposal for permitted research and trial activities in new space does not take into account the potential for effects on Māori customary access, rights and interests; nor does it provide

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<sup>7</sup> Much of the land which remains in Māori ownership is in low-lying and estuarine and coastal areas, on steep slopes and often identified as high Erosion Susceptibility (e.g. coastal dunes).

opportunity for tāngata whenua to have a say on those permitted activities. NRC therefore supports the addition of provisions requiring permitted activities in new spaces not to be located within a Site or Area of Significance to Tāngata Whenua identified in a regional plan, unless these are associated with marae-based aquaculture or Māori commercial aquaculture.

43. NRC questions the classification of research and trials activities as ‘controlled’ activities, given the government’s prior indication that such a class of activities will not be included in future resource management systems.
44. NRC notes the proposed amendments to the NZCPS (see below) and the proposal requiring councils to provide for aquaculture within gazetted Aquaculture Settlement Areas (ASAs). It is unclear how the proposed permitted, controlled and restricted discretionary research and trial activities interface with the existing and proposed requirements for regional councils to provide for ASAs where the activity is not being undertaken by or with tāngata whenua, and how the provisions will interface with s.165E of the RMA<sup>8</sup>. This is a particular concern for Te Taitokerau Northland, where there are many unresolved Treaty claims over the marine and coastal area and few gazetted ASAs in the region,<sup>9</sup> and where there is high interest from tāngata whenua in marine aquaculture. There is a real risk that by the time ASAs are gazetted in Northland, the space will have already been allocated through the consenting process, and the intended purpose of the changes to the NZCPS will be highly limited until more ASAs are gazetted.
45. It is also unclear how permitted aquaculture research and trials activities impact upon new space settlements under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004, or on rohe moana, mātaitai, taiāpure and other customary fisheries/oyster reserves. Tāngata whenua in Te Taitokerau have long expressed interest in and fought for the ability to undertake marae-based aquaculture<sup>10</sup>.
46. NRC notes that the proposals are currently framed in terms of whether there is existing consented aquaculture, or whether such aquaculture is in a new space. Many of the locations where existing aquaculture exists<sup>11</sup>, or where it is likely to be proposed in Northland, have restrictions in place to protect other values of significance such as anchorages and significant ecological areas, so the actual potential for research and trial activities to meet the thresholds for permitted activities could be limited.<sup>12</sup>
47. NRC supports the overall intent of the proposed changes to the NES-MA to enable aquaculture where that is appropriate. However, we note that successful aquaculture requires high water quality, which may be compromised by other proposed amendments (such as provisions that are more enabling for other priorities including housing growth, mining and quarrying, national standards for wastewater network discharges and resource extraction). There are already well documented examples where commercial aquaculture has not been viable due to poor coastal water quality, with years of harvesting restrictions and closures on oyster farms in Waikare Inlet being just one example. There are links here to Package 3 Freshwater and the need to improve water quality (and where not already degraded, maintain its quality).

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<sup>8</sup> Given that s. 165E sets out that only someone holding authorisation from the Trustee can apply for a resource consent for aquaculture activities in an ASA.

<sup>9</sup> 96.79ha in the Kaipara Harbour and 8ha in Whangaroa Harbour.

<sup>10</sup> Northland’s Regional Plan provides for marae-based aquaculture within significant areas as a discretionary activity (other new aquaculture within significant areas is prohibited).

<sup>11</sup> There are currently 33 consented marine farms covering almost 106ha in Te Taitokerau (MPI data NABIS).

<sup>12</sup> NRC notes that of the nine proposed locations in the Muriwhenua Aquaculture proposal, six would be prohibited under the regional plan because the locations are identified as either aquaculture exclusion areas, regionally significant anchorages, and/or significant ecological areas.

48. We are concerned that the government has indicated its intentions to address competing priorities for infrastructure and other priority activities (e.g. between aquaculture and resource extraction) and environmental values in the future new resource management system, rather than in this package of national direction reforms. In the intervening period, councils and applicants will be left with uncertainty which adds complexity to decision-making in light of s. 5 and 6 of the RMA.

**49. Relief sought:**

- a. Provide for notification of tāngata whenua, and remove the preclusion of limited notification for research and trial applications.
- b. Include Sites and Areas of Significance to Tāngata Whenua to locations where research and trials are not permitted in new spaces (unless the research and trials are associated with marae-based or Māori commercial aquaculture).
- c. Provide for research and trials associated with marae-based aquaculture as well as Māori commercial aquaculture.
- d. Clarify the permitted activity status for research and trials where this is not being undertaken by or in partnership with Māori.
- e. Remove the controlled activity status for research and trials activities (these could be restricted discretionary as an alternative).

**National Environmental Standards – Commercial Forestry**

50. We have significant concerns about the proposal to restrict regional council discretion under Regulation 6(1)(a) whereby councils can currently be more stringent to achieve freshwater objectives under the NPS-FM.
51. We acknowledge that default NES-CF controls are likely to contribute positively towards freshwater objectives, particularly those related to sedimentation. However, we believe that such controls may not be sufficient for achieving all freshwater quantity outcomes. Water quantity objectives, such as maintaining natural lake levels, aquifer recharge rates, and minimum flows, are equally important components of the NPS-FM framework.
52. There is scientific evidence from New Zealand research showing that plantation forestry can alter hydrological regimes in certain catchments. These effects can be most pronounced in areas with porous soils (e.g. sand country), shallow groundwater tables, or strong connectivity between surface waters and underlying aquifers. For example while there are no direct estimates of the water balance effects of converting dunes to pine forest, the conversion of pasture to pine forest is estimated to increase evaporation by at least 20%, delay flow by 17%, and decrease stream flow by at least 20% after 8–10 years, with some estimates suggesting that stream flow could decrease by 30–50% following this change in land use (Fahey & Rowe, 1992)<sup>13</sup>. Where water drains to groundwater, afforestation under full pine cover could reduce groundwater recharge by as much as 70% (Duncan, 1993).
53. Northland has around 400 dune lakes, which can be particularly sensitive to hydrological changes from afforestation and forestry activity generally. There are also significant areas of Northland where surface water and groundwater are fully allocated, where afforestation at scale could impact on the security or reliability of water supply. The proposed changes to Regulation 6(1)(a) would restrict the ability of councils to manage such impacts, as these are not confined to erosion risk. Restricting discretion solely to erosion risk may therefore prevent councils from responding

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<sup>13</sup> From [Ross, P. M. et al \(2017\) The biology, ecology and history of toheroa \(Paphies ventricosa\): a review of scientific, local and customary knowledge. New Zealand Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research](#)



appropriately in hydrologically sensitive environments, where even partial afforestation could have disproportionate impacts on water availability for ecosystems, cultural uses, or human needs. In summary, the scope for greater stringency should not be limited to erosion risk only. If any change is to be made, we recommend Regulation 6(1)(a) be amended to allow more stringency to achieve a target state for an NPS-FM attribute.

54. Repealing Regulation 6(4A) that allows rules in a plan relating to afforestation to be more stringent or lenient, for a variety of reasons in addition to those listed in Regulation 6(1) – 6(4), unnecessarily restricts the ability of councils to take into account locally specific but significant factors. It also may reduce the input of tāngata whenua to forestry management in areas over which they are kaitiaki. We therefore seek to retain this regulation so that regional plans can include more stringent rules to control aspects of afforestation, for reasons other than mapped severe erosion risk and the existing specific matters and environments listed in Regulations 6 (1-4). In Northland, for example, NRC may need to manage impacts on water levels in highly allocated areas, high-value dune lakes, and Sites and Areas of Significance to Tāngata Whenua.
55. While, on balance, we support the proposal to amend Regulation 69(5) – (7) to require a Slash Management Risk Assessment (SMRA) for all forest harvests, we are concerned that it could impose greater costs on Māori landowners involved in forestry relative to other groups within the sector. This is because Māori land tends to be lower capability land-use classes compared with general land<sup>14</sup> and therefore is at higher risk for slash management.
56. The SMRA is not clear when the assessment is completed whether only the risk indicators that meet the high-risk threshold requires a resource consent, or the entire assessment. There is no risk rating for the whole assessment, which would support compliance of the assessment and clear conditions in resource consents. The SMRA does not provide actions for mitigation to support better environmental outcomes for receiving environments, infrastructure and property. The SMRA is provided to councils as part of the harvest management plan which should still be assessed by council's compliance officers to ground truth information provided to avoid environmental impacts from slash mobilisation.
57. We also have concerns that the SMRA hinges largely on Erosion Susceptibility Classification (ESC) – this may not always be a good proxy for slash mobilisation risk. For example, there may be areas of steep land (e.g. >25 degrees) that are not within High or Very High ESC classes. As it stands if the site is not within a red or orange ESC zone, then no further assessment appears to be needed, despite the fact that land may still be relatively steep (e.g. >25 degrees slope) and slash could still present a risk. This could mean no risk assessment is required for parts of the Northland region despite land being comparatively steep.
58. We also note that ESC red zone in Northland captures areas where risk of slash is likely low such as Pouto and Aupōuri dune systems which have relatively gentle contour and very few rivers. The erosion risk in these areas relates to the effects of wind or the sea and the SMRA is likely to have little benefit.
59. We oppose the introduction of a permitted activity standard for the removal of slash, as councils need to retain the ability to require slash management measures that are appropriate for the specific local conditions. We recommend that all indicators be assessed regardless of ESC class. If this is not accepted, we recommend slash mobilisation risks must be assessed for land >25 degrees regardless of ESC class.
60. Repealing 10A, the requirement to provide afforestation plans to council, will cause a range of issues for compliance and enforcement of the NES-CF, and legacy issues in 20-30 years when the forest will be ready to harvest. If the management plans are not provided, councils will only

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<sup>14</sup> 65% of Māori land is in Land Use Capability (LUC) 6 and 7 compared with 50% of general land

receive basic notification information and will be more time consuming and costly to assess compliance with the NES-CF (i.e. it is likely to generate more site visits to confirm setbacks, and other requirements are being met).

61. We oppose the alternative option of increasing the size and volume thresholds for sound wood slash removal in the current regulations, as even the existing thresholds pose significant risks to local communities and environments in a slash mobilisation event.

**62. Relief sought:**

- a. Amend the current wording of Regulation 6(1)(a) to allow more stringency to achieve a target state for an NPS-FM attribute<sup>15</sup> and in relation to water quantity outcomes in catchments identified as hydrologically sensitive (such as dune lakes, areas of high/full allocation for water quantity or unconfined/shallow aquifers).
- b. Retain Regulation 6(4A) and the ability for councils to be more stringent in relation to afforestation.
- c. Retain the requirement to provide afforestation plans to councils.
- d. Support the repeal of the requirement to provide replanting plans.
- e. Where there is a high level of risk identified by an SMRA, retain the requirement for a resource consent to manage slash on the cutover.
- f. Remove “no further assessment” wording in the SMRA and require that all 10 risk indicators need to be assessed to support mitigation of slash mobilisation. If this is not supported by government, ensure that the risk assessment is mandatory for slopes >25 degrees regardless of ESC class.
- g. Remove the permitted activity standard for the removal of slash and retain the ability of councils to require slash management measures that are appropriate for the specific local conditions.

## National Zealand Coastal Policy Statement

### Policy 6 – Enabling Priority Activities

63. The proposal to amend Policy 6 to give priority activities<sup>16</sup> a more lenient consenting pathway in the CMA by broadening the tests to include, for example, an operational need, could reduce the development potential for non-priority activities that, while potentially being more appropriate and of higher value (such as tourism) in those locations, may be incompatible with the priority activities. There is also the potential for some priority activities (e.g. resource extraction) to preclude other priority activities (e.g. aquaculture).
64. This risk is lowered when the existing functional need test is applied in conjunction with the avoid, remedy, mitigate hierarchy<sup>17</sup>. Proposed changes will enable activities with an “operational” rather than functional need and limit how the ‘avoid’ policies may be applied. These changes in conjunction with removing the requirement for the activity to be important for social, economic or cultural well-beings in Policy 6(1)(a) could impact on economic livelihoods

<sup>15</sup> We note that some of the significant waterbodies in our region, such as dune lakes, are particularly sensitive to nutrients, and the linkage here with the proposal to remove the 190kg/ha/yr nitrogen fertiliser cap in Package 3 Freshwater.

<sup>16</sup> We note that the government is also proposing to expand the definition of infrastructure to include “additional infrastructure” including schools, hospitals, defence facilities, stormwater networks and waste disposal facilities, among others.

<sup>17</sup> Noting that “operational need” includes “technical, logistical or operational characteristics or constraints (e.g. time, cost, safety)”.



and growth as well as on social, cultural and environmental values such as navigation and public recreation in the CMA.

65. NRC is of the view that the allocation of (or preservation of the ability for) space in the CMA for priority activities would be better addressed through spatial planning and incorporated into the future resource management system, rather than through changes to the NZCPS at this time.

#### Policy 8 - Aquaculture

66. The proposed amendments to Policy 8 are designed to enable Māori commercial aquaculture in some regions (i.e. those with gazetted ASAs). As there is less than 100ha of gazetted area in Northland, the effectiveness of the proposed amendments to Policy 8 will be highly limited in this region unless more ASAs are gazetted. This is despite the strong interest tāngata whenua have had – and continue to have – in both commercial and marae-based aquaculture. It is essential that Māori aquaculture specifically (including marae-based aquaculture) be provided for, rather than aquaculture generally. Our regional plan already provides for marae-based aquaculture within significant areas as a discretionary activity (which would otherwise be prohibited). NRC therefore requests that additional wording be added to include marae-based aquaculture.

67. NRC supports the addition of “cultural and environmental benefits of aquaculture” to Policy 8(b).

#### 68. Relief sought:

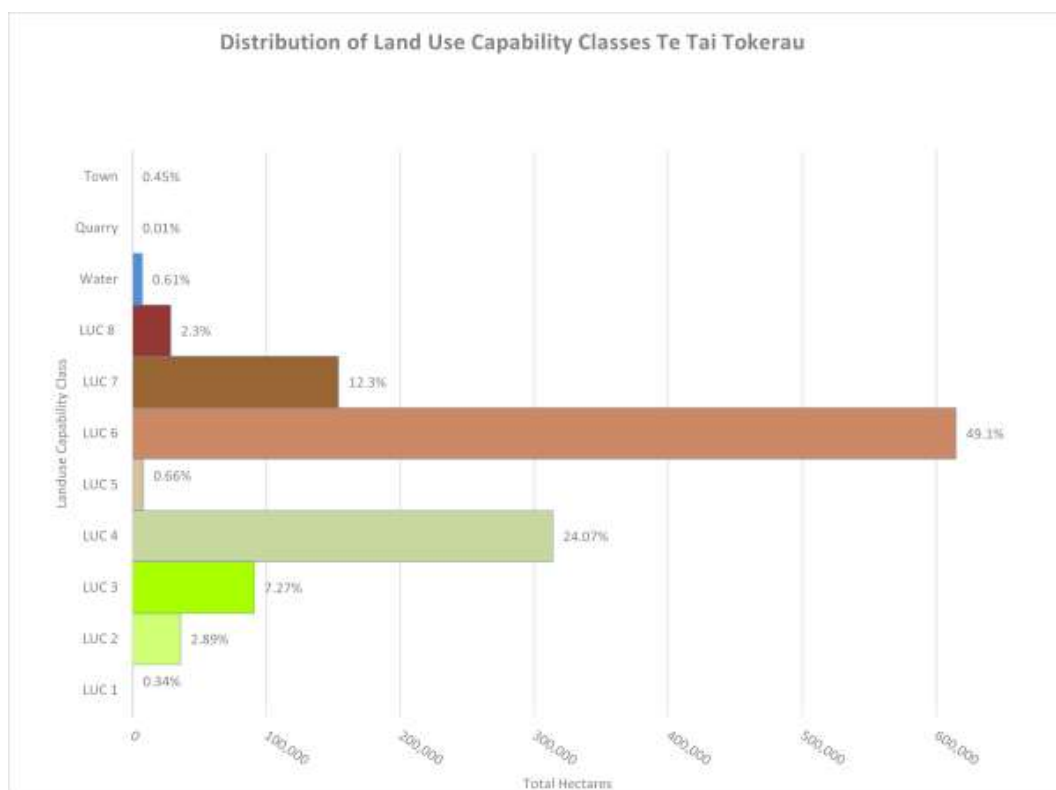
- a. Withdraw proposed amendments to Policy 6.
- b. Include specific reference to marae-based aquaculture as well as Māori commercial aquaculture in Policy 8.

#### National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

69. Northland has a comparatively small proportion of high-quality productive soils (about 12% by area is classed as 1, 2 or 3 under the Land Resource Inventory), which in several cases has been the historical focus of settlements (e.g. Kerikeri and parts of Whangarei). This association is logical in that such settlements were established in proximity to good soils for primary production purposes. However, there are instances where these settlements have since expanded onto Highly Productive Land (HPL) and resulted in both loss of primary production capacity and reverse sensitivity effects<sup>18</sup>.
70. As the figure below shows, in Northland we have a much higher proportion of class 3 than classes 1 or 2. Of the total area of HPL in the region (classes 1-3), the proportion of class 3 land is approximately 72%. A lot of this class 3 land is highly productive and is used for horticulture - kiwifruit, avocados etc. The class 3 land with volcanic, sand and peat soils are all suitable for horticulture so removing them from the NPS-HPL will make it easier for such land to be permanently lost under development. The loss of this land would be a significant issue for Northland and therefore we oppose the removal of LUC3 from the NPS-HPL.
71. NRC supports retaining the flexibility for councils to map and develop policy at the regional level, enabling a more nuanced approach to managing HPL reflecting the regional circumstances and characteristics based on more detailed analysis of LUC units and sub-classes.
72. We support the extension in timeframes for mapping of HPL to 2028.

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<sup>18</sup> For example, in Northland only 7% of lifestyle blocks are on high-class land (LUC 1, 2 and free-draining and/or flood-free Class 3 land), but this amounts to 28% of all such land in the region (based on 2011 data). If this rate of subdivision were to continue (1.67% per year), all of Northland's LUC 1-3 land will be subdivided in 60 years.



73. We note the link with proposed changes in Package 3 for commercial vegetable growing and special agricultural areas which are intended to protect land for food production purposes into the future, and the proposal to remove LUC3 appears to be counterproductive to this intent. We also note that having sufficient commercial volumes of good quality freshwater is essential if the productive capacity of LUC3 is to be realised and the link to Package 3 Freshwater.

**74. Relief sought:**

- a. Retain LUC3 in Highly Productive Land definition.
- b. Retain the ability of councils to undertake bespoke mapping of HPL in their region and to develop policy for Highly Productive Land at a regional level.
- c. Retain the ability of councils to decline private plan changes to rezone LUC3.

**Stock Exclusion Regulations**

75. We acknowledge the challenges and uncertainty that Regulation 17 presents for landowners, however wetlands that are of sufficient size to support populations of threatened species are likely to be of significant value and warrant protection from grazing. We recommend Regulation 17 be amended so that it operates in a similar manner to Regulation 16 and would apply once the wetland has been identified in a regional plan. Alternatively, Regulation 16 could be amended to include the requirements of Regulation 17.

76. We note repealing Regulation 17 would be at odds with retention of threatened species as a compulsory value under the NPS-FM (National Directions Package 3).

**77. Relief sought:**

- a. Retain and amend Regulation 17 so that it applies once wetlands are identified in regional plans.

### Mining & Quarrying

78. Council recognises the importance of mineral extraction for achieving infrastructure and housing growth aims and therefore supports greater alignment of the mining and quarrying provisions in multiple national policy instruments.
79. We also support greater clarity provided by additional definitions and the amendments to allow consideration of regional benefits and remove the requirement for 'public' benefits from mineral extraction which are not always easy to identify or quantify.
80. The proposed changes do not include definitions for some key terms such as of "significant regional benefit" and "ancillary activities".
81. We do have significant concerns about the inclusion of "operational need" to the 'gateway' tests for mining and quarrying and ancillary activities in wetlands. Given that "operational need"<sup>19</sup> can include factors such as cost, and that recent case law<sup>20</sup> has highlighted the ambiguity and 'blurring' between what is a "functional" versus "operational need, we recommend that "operational need" be removed from the 'gateway' test for mining and quarrying and ancillary activities.
82. We also note the potential for more enabling provisions for mining and quarrying to have adverse effects on Sites or Areas of Significance to tāngata whenua and that this must be factored into the decision-making for mining and quarrying.
83. **Relief sought:**
- a. Remove the wording "operational need" from proposed changes to NPS-FM and NES-F for mining and quarrying and ancillary activities.
  - b. Provide definitions of "significant regional benefit" and "ancillary activities".
  - c. Provide for tāngata whenua participation including in decision-making (e.g. in accordance with co-governance/joint-management arrangements and Mana Whakahono a Rohe agreements) and impacts on Sites of Significance and tāngata whenua values.

NRC wishes to be heard.

For further information, please contact Tami Woods, Policy & Planning Manager, [tamiw@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:tamiw@nrc.govt.nz)  
phone: [09 470 1200](tel:094701200)

**Geoff Crawford**  
**Chair**  
**Northland Regional Council**

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<sup>19</sup> As defined in the National Planning Standards as "the need for a proposal or activity to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because of technical, logistical or operational characteristics or constraints".

<sup>20</sup> E.g. the Mt Messenger case *Poutama Kaitiaki Charitable Trust v Taranaki Regional Council*.



27 July 2025

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### **RE: National Direction Reforms (Package 3 Freshwater)**

Northland Regional Council (NRC) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed amendments to existing National Policy Statements (NPS) and National Environmental Standards (NES) that make up Package 3 of the national direction reforms covering Freshwater.

It is noted that this feedback relates to issues from a Te Taitokerau Northland perspective. Matters of particular importance to the regional sector will be lodged separately by Te Uru Kahika. We also endorse that submission.

In general terms, NRC:

- notes the importance of ensuring that changes are integrated and coherent across all reforms, and that they are enduring. One of the biggest challenges local government and our communities faces is uncertainty and delays to acting when national policy is constantly being rewritten;
- supports review and continuous improvement to increase efficiency and reduce costs while achieving freshwater outcomes, building on the work already done;
- highlights that economic sustainability requires healthy freshwater and a focus on long-term economic viability, to ensure a balance between short-term gain and the long-term costs borne by future generations;
- stresses the need to consider all activities subject to the proposal collectively without prioritising some activities over others
- highlights the existing strategic intent and commitments NRC has made to partner with tāngata whenua on freshwater management (see para 3 below); and notes the importance of recognising and providing for iwi/hapū mana and tino rangatiratanga, and partnership with iwi and hapū, in freshwater decision-making;
- supports an approach which enables a regional voice and variation where appropriate — a 'one-size-fits-all' approach is not always the most appropriate solution;
- is concerned about the implementation costs that will be borne by ratepayers, hapū and iwi;<sup>1</sup> implementation timeframes; and restrictions on councils having more stringent rules to address regional issues; and
- notes that there is a real risk of 'engagement fatigue', with our communities, particularly tāngata whenua, disengaging with planning processes because of continued changes in national direction.

We set out more detailed responses to the key topics raised in the Package 3 discussion document below.

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<sup>1</sup> We note that hapū and iwi representatives often have to volunteer their input to RMA processes including consents. Lack of resourcing for hapū and iwi to be involved in resource management is an ongoing barrier.

### Implementation Options

1. NRC's position is that any freshwater national direction changes should be incorporated into or made under the upcoming replacement resource management legislation, at a future date. This will provide councils with the greatest certainty and allow us to focus on implementing our existing policies and rules at least cost to ratepayers and partners. It will also enable clear alignment and integration across the new legislation.
2. Implementing changes earlier under the Resource Management Act (RMA) would result in additional costs to ratepayers and partners and the likely need for further plan changes (again with cost implications).

### Key Issues for Te Taitokerau Northland & Feedback on Proposals

3. The Regional Plan for Northland became operative in 2023, with many freshwater provisions yet to be fully implemented; therefore, we have not seen the full impacts of our existing regional plan provisions in terms of improving freshwater quality in Te Taitokerau Northland.
4. NRC recognises that it will take time to see the results of these goals, policies and rules on the ground, and notes that improving freshwater health remains a key priority for landowners and communities in the region.
5. NRC's Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan Tāiki ē is our regional strategy for implementing our commitments and honouring our relationships with tāngata whenua. Tāiki ē articulates the commitments NRC has made to partner with tāngata whenua and the importance of giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi obligations as part of resource management decision-making. Central goals (whāinga) relating to freshwater include that the mauri of water is protected, restored and improved and the NRC partner with tāngata whenua to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai. A related goal is ensuring that economic growth is compatible with the protection and enhancement of ecological, spiritual and cultural values of tāngata whenua.<sup>2</sup>
6. NRC sees it as vital that the changes proposed through the National Direction package do not undermine its commitments through Tāiki ē, especially as they relate to changes to Te Mana o Te Wai.
7. The long-term economic viability of existing activities, and the development of economic potential in the region, are linked with having access to healthy water. It is important that short-term economic gains do not compromise long-term sustainability, including for future generations.
8. We have continued to see declining freshwater quality<sup>3</sup> and wetland loss<sup>4</sup> and face major challenges from erosion and discharges resulting in high concentrations of sedimentation and *E.*

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<sup>2</sup> Tāiki ē also includes specific actions e.g. "continue to support the active involvement of tāngata whenua in the Freshwater Planning Instrument for Te Taitokerau under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management by a) acknowledging the special relationship tāngata whenua have with wai, and te mana me te mauri o te wai; b) ensuring that NRC exercise its role and functions to give effect to this special relationship; and c) giving effect to the recommendations in Ngā Roimata on Ngā Atua Report"

<sup>3</sup> Over 75% of Northland river sites are in D or E state for *E. coli* (n=35, 2020-2024) with a declining *E. coli* trend observed in 80% of sites analysed (n=20, 2015-2024). Source tracking points to bovine as a predominant source. A declining trend in turbidity (proxy for sediment) at 70% of river sites has been observed (n = 22, 2015-2024).

<sup>4</sup> Since 2020, NRC has undertaken dozens of investigations into wetland disturbance, drainage and destruction involving negative impacts on and loss of many hectares of wetland habitat. Predicted increased drought, higher temperatures and strong winds increase the risk of wildfires, which have already significantly impacted wetland habitat over this period. As an example, in 2022 a 2800ha fire in Kaimaumau

*coli* in all catchments, which is exacerbated by climate change. A recent report<sup>5</sup> estimates suspended sediment loads in Northland could increase by as much as 113% by 2040 and 233% by 2090 (under a high emissions climate change scenario). We have also seen landowners and communities put in considerable effort to fence freshwater bodies and to undertake riparian planting and pest control projects, some of which were recognised at our recent regional [Environmental Awards](#).

9. The key freshwater contaminants in our region are sediment and *E. coli* – sediment accumulation rates in harbours and estuaries are elevated and *E. coli* in most rivers is in the D or E band in terms of the NPS-FM measures<sup>3</sup>. In terms of water quantity, there are significant areas that are fully allocated, putting more importance on water storage and high-flow takes.
10. NRC also notes the considerable time and effort that the primary sector, tāngata whenua and our communities have put into working with us on how to implement the NPS-FM 2020, and the strengthening of relationships that has occurred. It is critical to maintain and continue to enhance these relationships and shared understandings of the freshwater challenges faced in the region. It is extremely hard to motivate participation and maintain the progress on freshwater management when the national direction changes regularly – not to mention the significant costs for all involved. We urge the government to obtain cross-party support for any revision of national direction for freshwater.
11. We also note that a significant portion of our region (around 11%) is Māori land (whenua Māori), and that Māori make up a higher proportion of the population (39.9%)<sup>6</sup> than in other regions. This poses both challenges and opportunities for freshwater management, and makes Te Mana o Te Wai a fundamentally important concept for our region.

### Rebalancing Te Mana o Te Wai

#### Single objective v. multiple objectives

12. NRC notes that the hierarchy of obligations in the existing single objective has not been interpreted to mean that freshwater bodies must be pristine before other water uses can be allowed, nor that the pace of change, costs and where those costs fall are not being considered.
13. NRC also notes that we have been working with representatives from the primary sector and tāngata whenua since 2020 to define what Te Mana o Te Wai means for Te Taitokerau Northland, focusing on improving the mauri (life force) of water over time. We submit that it is not necessary to clarify in the NPS-FM that it will take time to achieve freshwater outcomes, as this is something that we already factor into our freshwater planning, and is covered in NPS-FM 2020.<sup>7</sup>
14. NRC's strong preference is to keep the one objective. However, if the government decides to progress with multiple objectives, we support inclusion of the following proposed objectives:
  - a. That direct councils to safeguard the life-supporting capacity of freshwater and the health of people and communities, while enabling communities to provide for their social, cultural and economic well-being.
  - b. Providing for vegetable growing for domestic supply and water security (see also below).

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produced 515,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ([Radio NZ \(2022\) Massive fire in Kaimaumau accidental - cost \\$7m to fight](#); [NZ Herald \(2024\) Massive Far North wetland](#))

<sup>5</sup> [Neverman, A. et al \(2023\) Climate change impacts on erosion and suspended sediment loads in New Zealand](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Stats NZ 2023 census data \(usually resident population\)](#).

<sup>7</sup> We note that the NPS-FM 2020 clause 3.3 already requires councils to develop “long-term” visions and objectives, as well as requiring councils to identify timeframes for achieving goals (with an example being provided of 30 years after commencement).



- c. Requiring maintenance or improvement in water quality – this should also include freshwater ecosystem health, which should be considered as a main outcome of freshwater management.
  - d. An objective that supports integrated catchment management (ki uta ki tai).
15. While we are not opposed to a new objective requiring councils, when setting targets and controls on resource use, to consider the anticipated costs or to inform our communities about these costs, we see it as unnecessary, because this is something we already have been doing and continue to do, and moreover, under s32 RMA, a cost/benefit analysis is required to support any plan change. We have also considered the pace of change and have not previously interpreted the existing one objective in NPS-FM 2020 to require that bottom lines must be achieved or complied with immediately. So again, while we are not opposed to a new objective requiring councils to consider the pace of change, we do not see it as necessary (we note that the existing NPS-FM clause 3.3(2) explicitly addresses long-term visions and Clause 3.11(6) also allows targets to be long-term, therefore it already recognises that improvements will take time).
16. Whilst on the matter of timeframes, we note that two key challenges we faced in implementing the NPS-FM 2020 were the detailed NOF process and the time taken to do this properly across the region and the timeframe by which we had to notify our freshwater plan change.

### Te Mana o Te Wai

17. NRC notes the considerable time and effort put in by members of our community, in particular by tāngata whenua and primary sector representatives over the past five years, to define what Te Mana o Te Wai looks like for Te Taitokerau Northland and to implement the NPS-FM 2020.
18. NRC agrees with the government's assessment that frequent change to the NPS-FM is inefficient, and that national policy must be enduring.
19. NRC is committed to working with tangata whenua to give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai. Partnering with tangata whenua to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai is a key goal in Council's *Tāiki ē: NRC Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan*, which sets out the strategic intent reached between NRC and iwi and hapū representatives for Te Taitokerau Northland.
20. NRC's preference is, therefore, to build on work that has already been done in a positive and constructive manner, and to avoid invalidating the considerable amount of time and effort already expended by tāngata whenua, landowners, the public and the primary sector.
21. We highly value maintaining our ability to express a 'regional voice' and to develop and implement freshwater policy that is appropriate and relevant to Te Taitokerau Northland.
22. Should the government decide to rebalance how Te Mana o Te Wai is expressed in the NPS FM, of the three options proposed in the discussion document,<sup>8</sup> NRC's preference is for Option 1: to remove the hierarchy of obligations and clarify the purposes of the NPS-FM and retain process steps for councils to apply Te Mana o Te Wai for their region. We support the retention of the six principles of Te Mana o Te Wai (NPS-FM 2020).
23. We note that our iwi and hapū partners in Northland wish to keep Te Mana o Te Wai 2020, and to focus efforts on implementation rather than on restarting the regional freshwater planning process all over again.

<sup>8</sup> Option 2: Reinstate Te Mana o Te Wai provisions from NPS-FM 2017; Option 3: Remove Te Mana o Te Wai provisions completely.

24. We support the retention of clause 3.4 (tāngata whenua involvement) which is a key requirement that provides opportunity for tāngata whenua involvement in the development of regional freshwater provisions, and in decision-making on freshwater management.

**National Objectives Framework (values, attributes, targets, bottom lines and monitoring)**

25. NRC supports an increase in flexibility in the NOF process for regional councils to determine values and attributes, and associated targets at regional level through consultation with tāngata whenua and communities.

**Values**

26. In terms of the values and whether these should be compulsory or optional, NRC supports retaining the compulsory and optional values in the NPS-FM 2020, with the exception of making drinking water supply a compulsory value — given the issues experienced across New Zealand.
27. We emphasise that any proposed changes to Māori values should only be made with the involvement and support of Māori.

**Attributes & Bottom Lines**

28. NRC supports retaining attributes and national bottom lines for the four key contaminants (sediment, *E. coli*, N and P), but wants government to allow councils the flexibility to adjust them (with justification) where they are inappropriate in specific locations.
29. National bottom lines must include an assessment of costs and benefits so that they do not have to be 'relitigated' at a regional level.
30. We support more discretion being given to councils to prioritise the attributes of most relevance to our communities to address the most significant issues and locations in our region.
31. We also support a simplified suite of attributes for lakes and rivers — 22 attributes is too complex.
32. We do not see a need for action plans for every attribute in Appendix 2B; one option could be to only require action plans for Appendix 2B attributes, where a target or national bottom line is not being met, or in response to degrading trends.
33. We understand that a review of recreational water quality guidelines is underway, and recommend that this inform a simpler approach for *E. coli* metrics.
34. We suggest further consultation on potential attributes for managing drinking water in source water risk-management areas (SWRMA), if drinking water supply is added as a compulsory value (water availability seems an obvious candidate).
35. We support more flexibility in the NOF process, whereby it directs councils to work with tāngata whenua and community, but it does not prescribe the level of detail that is currently required at Freshwater Management Units (FMU) level.
36. We question the need to identify FMUs within a region at all, as this can cause unnecessary complexity and debate, and we note that there are alternatives (e.g. hapori wai) which may provide more appropriate freshwater management boundaries. We recommend that identification of FMUs be optional, allowing for the use of other freshwater management approaches (e.g. hapori wai) where appropriate, and that such identification should only be required when needed to implement different management approaches within a region.



### Commercial vegetable production for domestic supply

37. Should the government proceed with making commercial vegetable production a permitted activity, NRC supports the use of an NES for addressing commercial vegetable growing for domestic supply<sup>9</sup> (this will be faster and more cost-effective than using an NPS mechanism).
38. We note that permitted activities should be those with no or only minor adverse effects, and that s.70 of the RMA also applies to permitted activity rules for discharges in regional plans. Therefore, if the government proceeds with an NES permitting commercial vegetable growing, the NES will need to clarify how discharges will meet s.70 RMA requirements. Cost recovery provisions will also be needed for monitoring, compliance and enforcement of permitted activities.
39. An NES could also be withdrawn (expire) once freshwater plan changes are in place, enabling regional freshwater planning processes to provide for commercial vegetable growing for the domestic market that recognises the niche local environments that exist (such as Waimate North, Kerikeri, Ruawai, and our region's sub-tropical climate).
40. NRC also notes that for commercial vegetable growing to be viable, water supply of sufficient quality and quantity is required, in addition to various other factors (such as access). We therefore support councils having the ability to address commercial vegetable production at a regional level through regional plans and spatial planning.
41. We note the link with the identification of Special Agricultural Areas and the proposal to remove LUC3 from Highly Productive Land (Package 2 Primary Sector). Both these proposals may result in reduced protections for land that is suitable for future commercial vegetable production, due to inappropriate subdivision and development.

### Water security and off-stream storage

42. NRC supports explicitly linking water security and climate change resilience, and supports the inclusion of national direction around the importance of water security and storage as part of climate change resilience.
43. We note that while the proposal is focused on the primary sector, water security is also important for other uses — such as those of communities, marae and papakāinga — and for cultural purposes.
44. We are concerned that water allocation is not considered in this package of national direction reforms, despite its link to water security.
45. In principle, we also support off-stream water storage, however we are of the view that rules should be set at a regional level, due to variable hydrology and potential environmental impacts. We are not convinced of the need for, or benefit of, national standards for off-stream storage — as we understand it, most regional rules enable this and many also provide for high-flow harvest. For example, the Regional Plan for Northland enables damming and diversion of water for off-stream storage as a permitted activity, subject to conditions (Rules C.3.1.1 and C.3.1.2), including standards and terms to protect downstream water users. We also consider that small-scale and large-scale water storage need to be treated differently, again managed by rules at the regional level.
46. Cumulative impacts of multiple off-stream storage structures that intercept rainfall run-off can potentially impact the natural hydrological regime of the catchment. These cumulative impacts can include effects on instream values and existing authorised water users, especially in areas of

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<sup>9</sup> We are unclear as to how it will be ensured that vegetable crops grown as permitted activities will be only for domestic supply and not export.

high or full allocation. These cumulative impacts need to be considered at a regional level, considering the local values.

47. The effectiveness of any national rules intended to enable off-stream water storage will be highly dependent on access to water, and would ideally be designed in conjunction with enabling provisions for high-flow harvesting (i.e. ability to fill water storage structures during high flow events) – this would be challenging at a national level and is more appropriately designed at the regional scale.
48. We note that there are already several major off-stream water storage initiatives in the Northland region, as well as smaller water storage schemes that are filled during high-flow events. These high-flow takes, and storage initiatives, are a direct result of limited water being available during low-flow events, and the need to improve water security.
49. If a national approach is to be adopted, we recommend strengthening standards, particularly proposed standards 1-3, to better align with the rationale of avoiding impacts on wetlands resulting from changes to water levels. Standard 1 should also preclude construction of water storage within a river (as defined in the RMA). Standard 3, regarding protected archaeological sites, should also be expanded to include Sites or Areas of Significance to tāngata whenua identified in regional and district plans. In addition, standard 11 requires notification of council no less than two weeks prior to construction. It is important for the council to be aware of the locations of these structures (especially if dam safety and Building Act thresholds are triggered), however, the rationale for this notification is that it provides the council with the opportunity to assess any risks. It is not clear whether the intention is for councils to undertake a risk assessment for each off-stream storage dam. If so, it would make more sense for the new clauses in the new NES to require a risk assessment which would inform the activity status (e.g. permitted activity if risks are low with resource consent required for moderate - high risk).

## **Wetlands**

### **Mapping of Natural Inland Wetlands**

50. NRC has made considerable progress in mapping natural inland wetlands and we consider mapping is essential to monitor changes in wetland extent and condition. The proposal to remove the requirement to map these is therefore of little benefit to NRC, given the extensive work already undertaken.
51. We note that the mapping of wetlands is highly useful in reducing uncertainties for plan users and landowners (one of the key challenges faced and which the mapping requirement was intended to address). By removing the requirement for councils to map natural inland wetlands, it is not clear to us what alternatives the government is considering to provide more certainty for landowners as to where natural inland wetlands are located?
52. If the government does not intend to map natural inland wetlands, then we recommend that the requirement for councils to map natural inland wetlands be retained as this mapping will improve certainty to landowners/consent applicants.

### **Wetland Definitions**

53. NRC supports the clarification to the natural wetland definition to exclude some induced wetlands and the removal of the pasture exemption, on the proviso that regional councils retain the ability to identify and include provisions to protect nationally and regionally significant wetlands regardless of whether they are induced or not.

54. We also note that the proposal for induced wetlands refers to wetlands created where there were none previously. It is unclear what point in time is meant by “previously” – as much of Northland was covered by wetlands prior to human settlement<sup>10</sup>.

#### Permitted farming activities in and around wetlands

55. NRC is unclear as to exactly which farming activities would be permitted in or around wetlands. Whilst the discussion document mentions fencing and irrigation these are provided simply as examples and there is no exhaustive list of what farming activities are considered to have no adverse effects on wetlands and therefore to be permitted.
56. We note that fencing is already provided for in relation to wetlands (e.g. the NES-F definitions of earthworks and vegetation clearance already specifically exempt disturbance associated with fencing). The Regional Plan for Northland also enables fencing wetlands as a permitted activity (Rule C.2.2.2 1).
57. We request that it be made clear exactly which farming activities are to be considered as permitted activities which are not already covered by existing legislation or plans.
58. We recommend the term irrigation be defined to refer to water for irrigating crops or pasture (not application of farm dairy effluent).
59. We also note that there may be difficulties in permitting activities in wetlands, such as vegetation clearance or earthworks for farming purposes, when the same activities for a different purpose would not be permitted although their effects might be the same.

#### Fish passage

60. NRC supports removal of unnecessary information requirements and specifically removing (1), (2), and (3)(a) & (b) from s.63 – 67 and adding to s.62 of the NES-F. In our experience the current information requirements are not laborious<sup>11</sup>. NRC, however, has found difficulty in obtaining the information from some landowners/land users where they are not familiar with freshwater ecology/fisheries science.
61. In regard to the proposed changes to permitted activity conditions:
- NES-F s.70(2)(e)** - Box culverts should be allowed for as the minimum 25% embedment condition is impractical in some situations, particularly with very large box culverts. However, there should be a minimum embedment requirement of the greater of 300mm or twice the median substrate size as recommended in the New Zealand Fish Passage Guidelines V2 (Franklin et al, 2024).
  - NES-F s.70** - Section 70's purpose is to ensure fish passage is provided for and each condition is relevant to different factors that impact on fish passage. This specificity is important for applicants to ensure they are installing structures that comply with 70(2)(a). 70(2)(a) on its own is vague as wider understanding of specific factors that can impact fish passage at culverts are limited. Conditions (b) – (g) each address a factor that is a known risk to fish passage at culverts. Removal of any condition risks the installation of structures that do not meet 70(2)(a)<sup>12</sup>.

<sup>10</sup> See for example <https://data.mfe.govt.nz/layer/52677-prediction-of-wetlands-before-humans-arrived/>

<sup>11</sup> Collecting information on a structure takes an average of 20 minutes which is a fraction of the total planning, preparation, construction, and clean up time. Minimum tools required are a measuring tape and an item that floats. There is a free and dedicated app (NIWA FPAT) which anyone may use to satisfy s.62 & 63 of the NES-F.

<sup>12</sup> For example, condition (c) is important as due to the uniform nature of culvert surfaces providing less friction and complexity than adjacent reaches, water velocities can increase to an extent that significantly

62. NRC therefore opposes removing any condition from s.70. Removing conditions has the potential to result in a laborious process for councils and landowners/users as a result of the increased potential for breaches of 70(2)(a) and associated reconstruction or retrospective resource consenting which leads to increased costs and delays to projects.
63. NRC particularly opposes removal of the water velocity conditions for culverts. It would negatively impact an ability to adequately provide for fish passage under permitted activity rules. The condition is broad yet if met, it is likely that fish passage can be achieved without a scientific or technical understanding of fish movement which varies by species, age and area. Fish passage is complex, and removing water velocity would very likely reduce the potential to achieve the intent of the rule.
64. NRC supports temporary structures being treated differently to permanent, similar to the NES-CF, but would encourage a clearly defined timeframe.

#### **Nitrogen cap and reporting (farmer facing regulations)**

65. NRC supports aligning reporting dates with the farming calendar, noting that nitrogen loss is not a key issue for Te Taitokerau, although we do have 'hot spots' such as Maungakaramea and Taipa where nitrogen application has been managed using non-regulatory methods. We also note that some freshwater bodies, such as Dune Lakes, are particularly sensitive to nutrients such as nitrogen.
66. The proposal to remove the 190 kg/ha/yr cap is not supported, as this provides a national standard that can be used where non-regulatory methods fail/are ineffective.

#### **Drinking water source area mapping**

67. NRC notes that the requirement to map source water risk management areas within 5 years could be a costly exercise, especially where knowledge of groundwater resources is limited (we have yet to assess it fully though).
68. It is not clear how the maps will be used and what the implications are for landowners. Without a clear understanding of how the maps will be used (e.g. whether rules are to be applied to each SWRMA in national direction) NRC finds it hard to comment whether such mapping will result in reduced risk of contamination of drinking water sources, because clearly mapping alone will not bring about any change.
69. NRC is unsure of the implications of reducing the thresholds from 500-persons to 100-persons but is concerned that without assessment at national level as to how many water supplies would be captured by the reduction in threshold, the costs and benefits of the proposal are difficult to understand. We are concerned that there could be many local facilities (e.g. schools, marae, papakāinga) that may be captured by the change in the threshold and what the implications might be on marae and papakāinga. For example, reducing the threshold to 100 persons or more could result in a significant percentage of Northland being managed for source water protection especially given that SWRMA 3 is essentially the entire catchment. We are also dubious about the merits of requiring mapping of SWRMA 3 given the extent and it is unclear what the management purpose and approaches would be in SWRMA 3. We recommend this be subject of a case study or pilot in a few regions before confirming any national direction on this mapping requirement.

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impact fish passage. High velocities across uniform surfaces can impede fish passage, particularly with sloped sites and longer culverts. Even when compliant with other conditions in s.70, increased velocities alone could impact the ability of fish to pass the structure leading to non-compliance with s.70(2)(a) Having this condition informs applicants and enables them to take measures from the outset to provide for velocities congruent with adjacent reaches (e.g. incorporating appropriate baffling into the design), and ensuring compliance with s.70(2)(a), thus avoiding potential enforcement action, retrospective remediation, and work delays.

### Freshwater Farm Plans

70. Council supports the Freshwater Farm Plan regime as a means to improve the state of freshwater and complement other freshwater planning initiatives. We support a simpler more cost-effective system.
71. Council also sees a good case for FWFP acting as an alternative to resource consents for some farming activities (such as stock exclusion), provided councils have discretion to include provisions in regional plans to ensure FWFP robustly assess risks and address the most critical contaminants in a region or catchment and bring about meaningful improvements.
72. Council also notes that it is important to understand the effectiveness of FWFPs as a tool before deciding when this will be the preferred mechanism for addressing other freshwater management issues (e.g. commercial vegetable growing).

### Māori Rights and Interests and Treaty Settlements

73. We note that the discussion document seeks specific feedback on the potential for the proposed freshwater reforms to impact on Māori rights and interests in freshwater and on Treaty Settlements.
74. We note the Crown's reiteration of its position that no-one owns water, with Māori Treaty claims over freshwater (e.g. WAI 2358 and WAI 1040<sup>13</sup>) remaining unresolved. We further note that in Northland we do have waterbodies where the ownership lies with Māori (e.g. Porotī Springs, Lake Ōmāpere) and Statutory Acknowledgements that identify specific waterbodies of interest to tāngata whenua (e.g. Lake Humuhumu and Awanui River). There is clearly the potential for the proposed reforms to impact negatively on these rights and interests given the more permissive and enabling approach proposed for certain activities that have potential to impact on freshwater bodies (e.g. certain farming activities and mining and quarrying in wetlands).
75. We also note that there are freshwater bodies and receiving environments (coastal/estuarine waters) which are identified in our Regional Plan as Sites or Areas of Significance to Tāngata Whenua. The proposed reforms that would override the specific protections of those Sites and Areas of Significance (e.g. policies that provide for mining and quarrying in particular environments and locations) could result in adverse effects on the values, qualities and characteristics of these freshwater Sites of Significance.
76. As noted above, any proposal to either remove or limit the consideration of Te Mana o Te Wai will be viewed negatively by tāngata whenua and will impact on their freshwater rights and interests. NRC also notes that Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi guarantees that Māori can perform their responsibilities as kaitiaki according to tikanga; therefore, there is potential for the proposed freshwater reforms to negatively impact on those rights.

NRC wishes to be heard.

For further information, please contact Tami Woods, Policy & Planning Manager, [tamiw@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:tamiw@nrc.govt.nz) phone: 09 470 1200.

**Geoff Crawford**  
Chair  
Northland Regional Council

<sup>13</sup> The Te Paparahi o Te Raki (Northland) inquiry includes claims over freshwater.

**TITLE: Northport Group Limited Director Remuneration Pool**

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

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 15  
**Group Manager/s:** July 2025

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**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

This paper recommends the initial fee pool for directors of Northport Group Limited (NGL) and proposes the establishment of an approved directors' fee pool, with a temporary increase in the first year to reflect the additional workload expected due to NGL integration work required.

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**Recommendations:**

1. That the report 'Northport Group Limited Director Remuneration Pool' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 7 July 2025, be received.
2. That council approves:
  - A standard directors' fee pool for NGL of \$350,000.
  - An increased directors' fee pool for NGL of \$400,000 for the first year only to accommodate the additional workload associated with integration.
3. That council notes that any NGL committee work or additional duties will be allocated from within the approved pool as determined by the NGL Chair and subject to board oversight.

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**Options**

| No. | Option   | Advantages   | Disadvantages  |
|-----|--|--|--|
| 1   | Approve the directors' fee pool as per recommendation 2. | <p>The fee pool has been developed by comparing other similar sized port-based entities and is considered appropriate based on that analysis.</p> <p>Provides for fair and transparent remuneration.</p> <p>The fee pool is considered sufficient to attract and retain suitably qualified governance professionals.</p> | <p>No material disadvantages, and it is noted that the proposed fee pool is less than the \$450k fee pool approved for MMH in November 2022.</p> |

| No. | Option  | Advantages              | Disadvantages   |
|-----|---|-------------------------|---|
| 2   | Approve a directors' fee pool that differs from recommendation 2. | No material advantages. | A directors' fee pool that differs from recommendation 2 would not be based on comparative sector fee pool information. |

The staff's recommended option is option 1.

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## Considerations

### 1. Climate Impact

There are no climate impacts associated with this decision.

### 2. Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impacts associated with this decision.

### 3. Community views

Community views are unknown, however the proposal to form NGL was previously subject to consultation and the fee pool decision is a shareholder reserved matter under the NGL shareholders agreement.

### 4. Māori impact statement

Māori have not been engaged and their views on the decision are unknown, however the decision is unlikely to have an impact on Māori.

### 5. Financial implications

There are no direct financial impacts to council, as the fee pool is funded from NGL. The recommended fee pool is less than that paid previously to MMH and Northport board directors.

### 6. Implementation issues

The NGL board considered the fee pool proposal at its board meeting on 1 July 2025. The board recommended to shareholders the fee pool proposal that is recommended in this report. It is noted that management representatives from all shareholders were present at the board meeting. Tupu Tonu has confirmed its agreement for the fee pool proposal.

### 7. Significance and engagement

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

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

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

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## Background/Tuhinga

NGL was recently established as the holding company for Marsden Maritime Holdings Limited (MMH) and as the ultimate holding company for Northport Limited (Northport) following their acquisition by a consortium of shareholders (Northland Regional Council, Tupu Tonu and Port of Tauranga Limited). A new board of six directors has been appointed to the NGL, MMH and Northport Board. The Board is responsible for the governance of NGL and oversight of the integration and performance of both MMH and Northport.

Given the responsibilities and time commitments expected of directors, particularly in the first year post-acquisition, a structured fee framework is required to ensure fair and transparent remuneration, and to attract and retain suitably qualified governance professionals.

The following annual fee structure is recommended by the NGL board:

| Role | Proposed Annual Fee |
|------|---------------------|
|------|---------------------|

|       |          |
|-------|----------|
| Chair | \$90,000 |
|-------|----------|

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Director (x5) | \$45,000 each |
|---------------|---------------|

This structure is consistent with market practice for comparable governance roles in similar New Zealand companies, taking into account NGL's size, ownership structure, and strategic role. Director fees include representation on the Boards of MMH and Northport.

Under the Companies Act 1993 and in accordance with good governance principles, the total fees payable to directors must not exceed the amount approved by shareholders or permitted under the constitution.

The NGL Board recommends that:

- The standard directors' fee pool be set at \$350,000 per annum
- For the first year, this be temporarily increased to \$400,000, to reflect:
  - The intensive workload expected during the integration of MMH and Northport
  - Additional Board and committee meetings
  - Greater engagement with management and stakeholders

This temporary increase allows flexibility without requiring additional shareholder approvals for year one.

## Summary of Proposed Fee Allocation

| Component   | Amount                                |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Chair   | \$90,000                              |
| 5 Directors @ \$45,000                                    | \$225,000                             |
| <b>Total Core Fees</b>                                    | <b>\$315,000</b>                      |
| <b>Available for Committee/Extra Work (Year 1)</b>        | <b>\$85,000 (from \$400,000 pool)</b> |
| <b>Available for Committee/Extra Work (Standard Year)</b> | <b>\$35,000 (from \$350,000 pool)</b> |



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**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE:** Health and Safety report for final quarter 2024-2025 and end of financial year

**From:** Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 07  
**Group Manager/s:** July 2025

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### Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

This report is to inform council of the activity in Health and Safety for the period April to June 2025, and provide summary information for the full financial year.

An overview/summary of the report includes:

- A trend of the events, investigations and outcomes that have occurred in this period.
- Overall numbers of incidents/hazards reported (excluding speeding) continue to be higher (improved).
- A desktop 'maturity' health and safety audit was completed in April 2025. A 'reality check' audit was completed in June 2025, the outcome of this is pending.
- The annual stress survey was completed and reflect a lower reported experience of stress for staff, recommendations from this report have been referred to the Executive Leadership Team, the Health and Safety Committee and the Wellbeing Group.
- New data is available on the amount of high-risk work conducted from the Before You Go/Take 5 forms adopted this year.

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### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Health and Safety report for final quarter 2024-2025 and end of financial year' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Manager dated 7 July 2025, be received.

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### Background/Tuhinga

#### 1. Health and safety performance

A summary of the health and safety performance for the year to date including the period July 2024 to June 2025 is shown in Table 1 below.

- The Health and Safety Strategy was adopted in November 2024, to help provide a structured approach to continuous improvement in health and safety.
- Staff engagement continues to be at the core of the continuous improvement programme for health and safety. Key staff and Health and Safety Representatives are included in focus groups for the improvement programme. Elections for Health and Safety Representatives and the Health and Safety Committee ran in July 2024, generating enough interest to require voting for the first time. Recent vacancies due to staff movement, were filled through a nomination process.
- The number of completed health and safety inductions for new staff in the April – June 2025 quarter was 100% within the target of two working days. Across the year, this was

achieved in 97% of cases, the 3% not achieving the target relate to onboarding of casual or part time staff employed to work in the field who do not work in the office in a regular pattern.

- Training for the final quarter of 2024/25 included health and safety training for managers, Traffic Inspector retraining due to legal changes, contractor management, first aid for field staff, defensive driver training, chainsaw training, 4WD training, and training for contract managers.
- There has been a focus on encouraging reporting of 'near misses' as these provide a valuable learning opportunity. In 2022-2023 there were 17 near misses reported. In 2023-24 there were 112 near miss reports, see Table 2 and Figure 4 below for comparison. In 2024-2025 this number was over 200. This shift represents a significant change towards a proactive mindset in health and safety for the organisation.
- 'Working with contractors' has been identified as a priority focus area for health and safety (H&S) in previous audits and in the Strategy. Training for contract managers has continued through this year. This remains an area where more focus is needed.
- A desk top external audit of the health and safety maturity was conducted in April 2025. The recommendations from this have been referred to the Health and Safety Committee for prioritisation in alignment with the H&S Strategy. These recommendations will be summarised for the Audit and Risk Committee meeting in August 2025. A reality check external audit for a snapshot of health and safety practice was conducted in June 2025, the report for this is pending at the time of writing.
- New Lead Indicators were adopted for the 2024-2025 financial year, reflecting a commitment to proactive steps in health and safety, as well as continuing to report on lag indicators. See Table 3 for a summary of the tracking of these indicators.

## **2. Risk management**

12 Critical risks were identified in 2023 for prioritised management. A critical risk is defined as *"A risk likely to result in serious personal injury, illness or a fatality. Often less frequent exposure, but very severe consequences."* In 2024 the critical risks were adopted by members of ELT.

A programme of 'deep dive' visits with the critical risk owner and a health and safety Rep/Advisor has begun across calendar years. Due to resourcing constraints, the deep dives did not achieve 100% completion in the 2024 year. This deep dive initiative is continuing in 2025, and is currently 33% completed.

Essential training has been identified for different roles, and guidance clarified on whether staff can work under supervision of other competent staff to carry out this work. This was added to Safety Champion in June 2025 to make 'training due' visible to staff members and their managers. It is anticipated that this will allow much better management of this risk moving forward.

| 2024-2025 Financial Year                                   | Jul-24 | Aug-24 | Sep-24 | Oct-24 | Nov-24 | Dec-24 | Jan-25 | Feb-25 | Mar-25 | Apr-25                       | May-25             | Jun-25                     | FY Total |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|----------|
| Audit/investigation corrective actions identified          | 9      | 10     | 6      | 12     | 12     | 14     | 12     | 10     | 10     | 21                           | 6                  | 12                         | 134      |
| Workplace inspections completed                            | 0      | 2      | 5      | 1      | 1      | 3      | 4      | 4      | 5      | 2                            | 2                  | 2                          | 31       |
| Number of speed events                                     | 5      | 5      | 7      | 8      | 4      | 3      | 3      | 3      | 5      | 7                            | 17                 | 2                          | 69       |
| Number of vehicle events                                   | 1      | 1      | 0      | 11     | 7      | 3      | 5      | 6      | 6      | 6                            | 7                  | 3                          | 56       |
| Number of contractor events                                | 2      | 2      | 1      | 3      | 2      | 0      | 0      | 2      | 1      | 0                            | 1                  | 2                          | 16       |
| H&S trainings completed (external)                         | 36     | 46     | 17     | 44     | 33     | 54     | 18     | 57     | 46     | 24                           | 9                  | 55                         | 439      |
| New workers H&S inducted within first two days of starting | 100%   | 100%   | 100%   | 90%    | 100%   | 100%   | 92%    | 100%   | 83%    | 100%                         | 100%               | 100%                       | 97%      |
| Health monitoring vaccine programmes completed             |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |                              |                    |                            | 102      |
| Health monitoring programmes completed                     |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |                              |                    |                            | 121      |
| Incident investigations by month                           | 23     | 19     | 13     | 37     | 34     | 19     | 27     | 27     | 38     | 32                           | 42                 | 22                         | 333      |
| Incident investigations by year                            |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | Outstanding from previous FY | Current/ under way | Completed in last 3 months | FY Total |
|  |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        | 0                            | 28                 | 94                         | 242      |

Table 1: Health and safety performance lead and lag indicators July 2023 to June 2024

| Financial Year | Number of incident reports | Of those – ‘near miss’ reports |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2020-2021      | 132                        | 22                             |
| 2021-2022      | 149                        | 17                             |
| 2022-2023      | 225                        | 17                             |
| 2023-2024      | 351                        | 112                            |
| 2024-2025      | 333                        | 265                            |

Table 2: Comparison of incident reports for past 5 years, showing increasing trend in reporting of incidents and near misses and hazards with potential to cause harm

Notes – The total number of incidents includes near miss reports, see figure 4 below where these are separated  
The data for 2024-25 does not include speeding incidents which were included as “hazards” in previous years, due to changes in reporting systems, therefore this increase is even more significant

| Lead Indicators reporting |  | Period                                 |   |  |  |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| No                        | Lead Indicator   | Jul-Sept 24                            | Oct-Dec 24  | Jan - Mar 25   | Apr - Jun 25   |
| 1                         | Number of new tasks with risk assessment completed   |  |   |  | 2  |
| 2                         | % of high risk tasks reviewed in past 12 months  | Lone worker<br>Helicopters<br>Firearms | Hazardous substances<br>Firearms<br>Working with volunteers<br>Working with contractors | Hazardous substances<br>lone working<br>driving<br>Diving<br>Work in road corridor | Lone working<br>helicopters<br>work in road corridor<br>hazardous substances |
| 3                         | % of planned workplace inspections completed   | None planned                           | 80%   | 100%   | 100%   |
| 4                         | No of health and safety training completions in this quarter                                 | 99                                     | 131   | 126  | 155  |
| 5                         | No of health and safety audits undertaken (not inc contractor audits)                        | 1                                      | 7   | 9  | 10   |
| 6                         | % of H&S inductions completed in first 2 days  | 100%                                   | 97%   | 86%  | 100%   |
| 7                         | Health monitoring vaccine programmes completed YTD   |  |   |  | 102  |
| 8                         | Health monitoring programmes completed YTD   |  |   |  | 121  |
| <b>Lag Indicators</b>     |  |  |   |  |  |
| 9                         | Audit/investigation corrective actions identified  | 25                                     | 38  | 32   | 39   |
| 10                        | Number of speed events   | 7                                      | 5   | 13   | 26   |
| 11                        | Number of vehicle events   | 2                                      | 21  | 15   | 16   |
| 12                        | Number of contractor accident/incident reports   | 5                                      | 5   | 3  | 3  |
| 13                        | Incident investigations by month   | 55                                     | 90  | 79   | 96   |
| 14                        | Incident investigations by year to date  |  |   |  | 333  |
| 15                        | % of recommendations from workplace inspections/risk assessment implemented within timeframe |  |   |  | Safety champion will track actions moving forward                            |

Table 3: Lead and lag indicator reporting for 2024-2025 financial year

The top cause for reported incidents for the April to June quarter was vehicle speeding incidents (32 incidents for the quarter, 78 incidents for the year), see Figures 1 and 2. Generally speeding incidents have lessened in frequency, but this quarter was disappointing. NRC vehicles travel in excess of 100,000kms each month. These 78 incidents are not included in the overall number of incidents in this financial year due to different reporting software being used.

Vehicle incidents including accidents and near misses are included in incident numbers (15 incidents, 49 incidents in full year). Staff have been encouraged to report driving incidents where they have to take evasive action, NRC is gaining a better picture of the frequency of these incidents.

Slips, trips and falls reporting has improved and several areas where access needed to be improved have been identified from these reports. Likewise, reporting of incidents and near misses involving equipment have increased. Maintenance of equipment is being reported as a preventative measure, which previously was not well recorded.

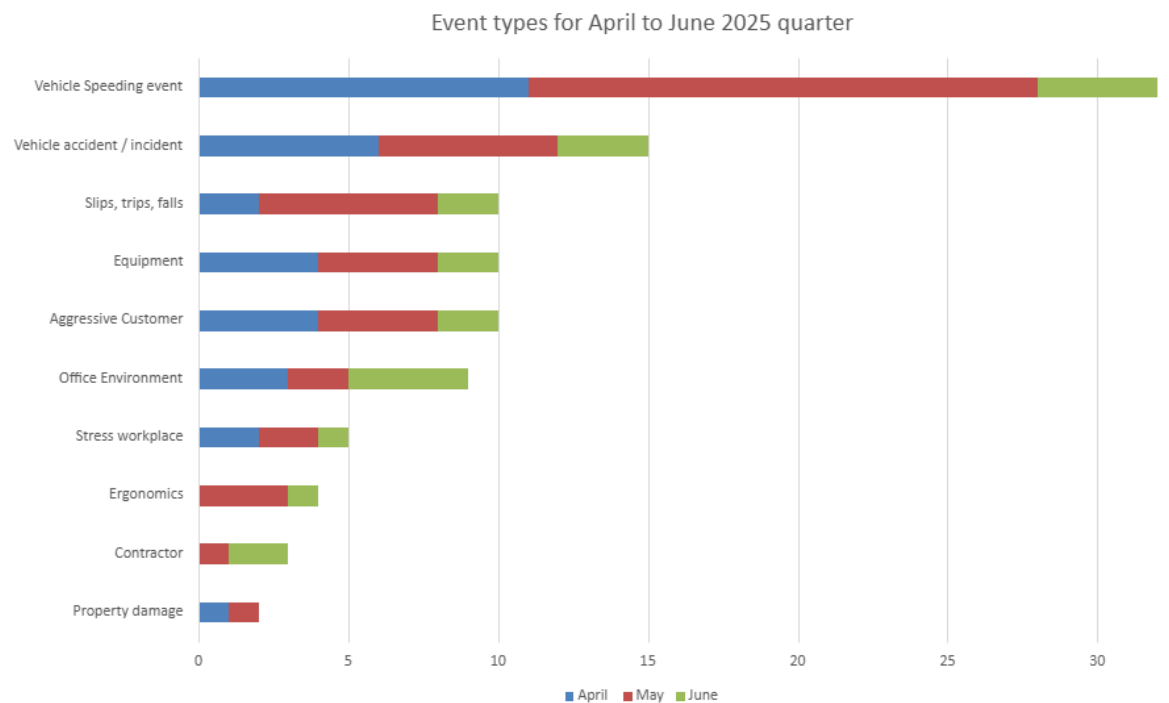


Figure 1: Health and safety event reports categorised by type for the April to June 2025 quarter – note vehicle incidents include near misses whilst driving

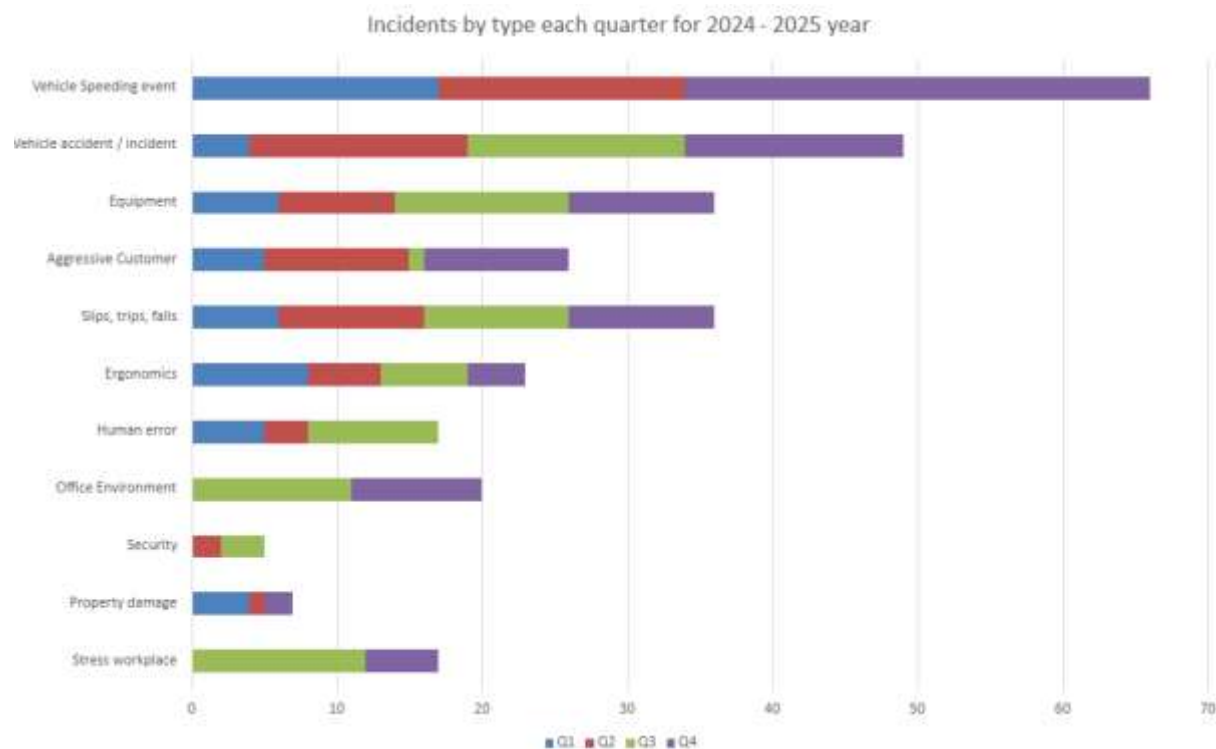


Figure 2: Health and safety event reports categorised by type for the April to June 2024 quarter and for the full financial year

Aggressive person incidents were the fifth most frequent incidents in this quarter and this year (10 incidents, 26 incidents in full year). Staff have again been encouraged to report aggressive behaviour, rather than accepting abuse or threats as a 'normal' part of work. Report investigations indicate that aggression is quick to surface during field work at this time.

### 3. Injuries, incidents, and hazards

96 events were reported by staff for the quarter April to June 2025. The focus on reporting incidents and near misses, not just harm has resulted in a continued increase in reports made.



Historically, very few near misses were reported (Table 2). In 2023-24 a simplified reporting system was adopted and a significant increase in near miss reports was evident, see Figure 4 below. This has continued in the 2024-25 year, through the transition to another new software system in October 2024. Near misses are a valuable learning opportunity, identifying changes that can be made before an accident occurs. The improved reporting of near misses is a very positive step.

Hazardous substance storage and handling has been another focus this year. A location compliance certificate was obtained for Union East Street, and chemical storage centralised in the new software system. 57 staff have been inducted into safe evacuation procedures for Union East Street depot.

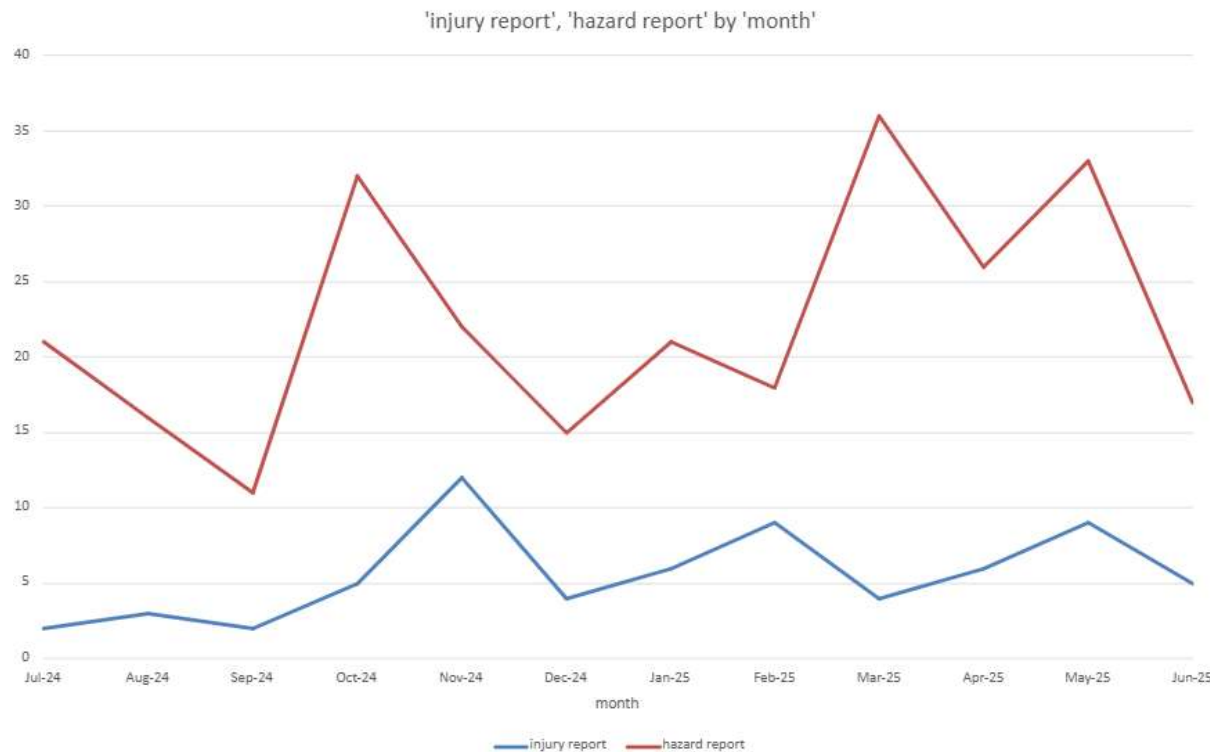


Figure 3: Number of hazard and injury/incident related events for the previous 12 months

## Events of interest

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

The following events are events of interest from the quarter April 2025 to June 2025.

- Aggressive people causing stress through abusive and persistent phone calls and during site visits. Some allegations made against staff, resulted in clearer guidance for staff in dealing with these.
- Vehicle incidents remain consistently high. This includes small vehicle dings, and improved reporting of evasive action taken to avoid other drivers or animals in the road. The defensive driver training has excellent feedback and several staff have attributed avoiding an accident to the skills learned during this course or the 4WD course.
- A staff member suffered a broken foot when jumping down onto a platform. The landowner has agreed to install an alternative access that will ensure staff no longer need to access the platform involved.
- Epipens have been provided for field staff to take with them. Several incidents of repeated stings on one individual have been reported – the use of antihistamine tablets and having the epipens as a back-up has been reassuring for staff.
- Lessons learned from near miss investigations are now reported back to staff through a range of channels. Staff have been encouraged to report fatigue incidents, two regular work routes have been modified to reduce the risk of driving while very fatigued.
- Aggressive dogs have caused several reports this quarter. In one incident roaming dogs exhibiting pack behaviour in public spaces cornered a staff member. Aggressive dogs encountered at private properties are recorded as hazards on a mapping system.

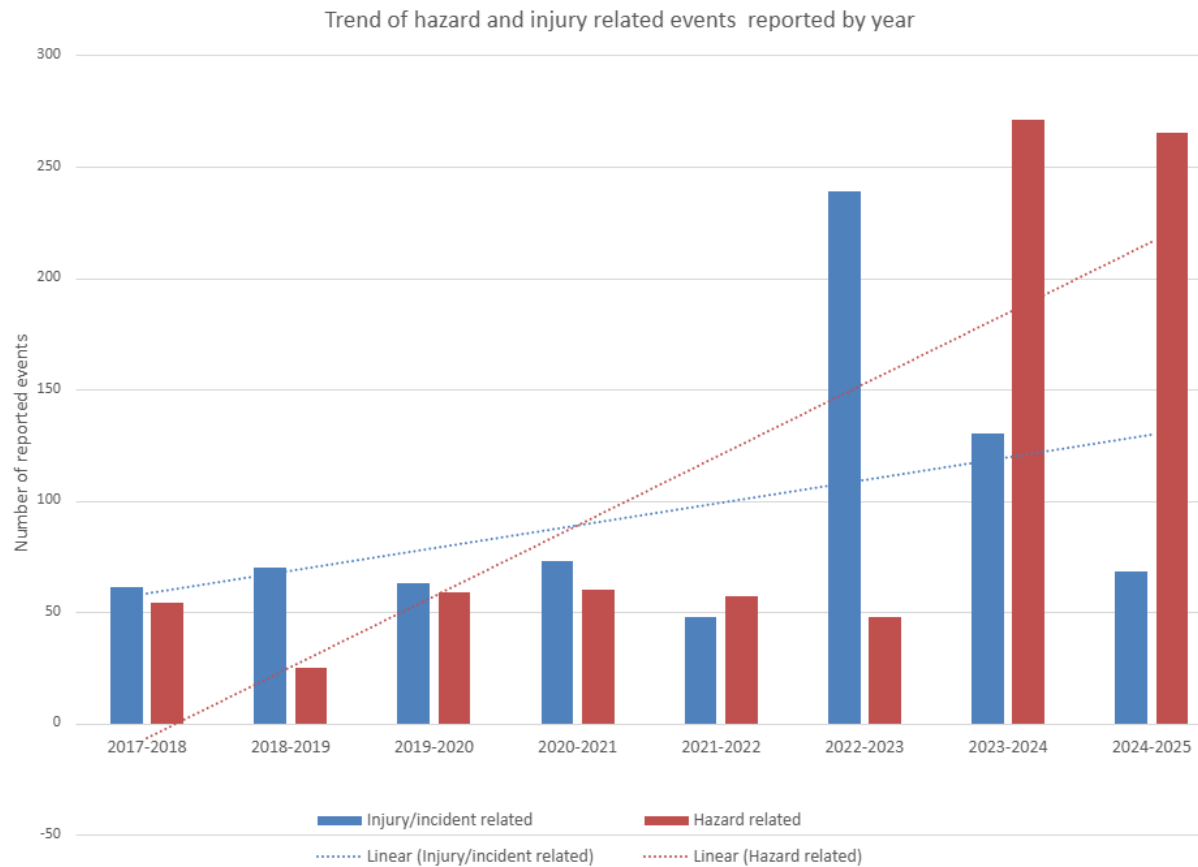


Figure 4: Trend of hazard vs injury related event reports over time

- Remote work contact systems where there is no phone signal currently rely on Garmin InReach units. These units can be slow to send messages, alternative solutions are being considered as technology becomes available. An out of hours cover procedure to ensure that any alerts are always received by an NRC staff member has been implemented.

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

A health and safety maturity desk top audit (systems only) was undertaken in April 2025. The report made 14 recommendations and concluded NRC was 'maturing' in most areas. More systematic reality checking of work as done was identified as an area for improvement. This was passed to the Health and Safety Committee for priorities to be identified and aligned with the Health and Safety Strategy. This work is in progress at this time.

A separate 'reality check' audit was conducted in June 2025, checking that the systems recorded provide appropriate systems of work for field staff. The results of this audit are currently pending.

Resourcing in the Health and Safety team has been an ongoing issue for some years. In July 2024, the fixed term Health and Safety Advisor was made permanent. In addition, a fixed term role to assist with the transition to a new software system was added in October 2024. This role has been extended, the additional resourcing in the team has allowed significant progress to be made on implementing the Strategy in the first 7 months since adoption.

One of these areas of focus this year has been improving management of hazardous substances. To improve awareness/training for staff, simplified chemical data sheets have been developed to identify the correct PPE and emergency procedures for products they handle. Team based training will be carried out in the next quarter. This information can be accessed in the field through a mobile app linked to the new software system Safety Champion.

The use of real time tracking field forms, and a comprehensive planning form have provided information that Council did not have before about high-risk work.

Table 4 shows the frequency of critical risk tasks collated from Before You Go and Take 5 forms.

| Work activity relating to critical risk | Percentage of work reported   |
|---|---|
| Working alone                           | 55% of all work   |
| Working around water                    | 25% of all work <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Working around water 47%</li><li>Walking in water 39%</li></ul> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boating 14%</li> </ul>          |
| Worrying in the road corridor                 | 4% of all work   |
| Working with hazardous substances             | 11% of all work  |
| Working using RPAS (drones)                   | 3% of all work   |
| Snorkelling or free diving                    | 1% of field work   |
| Field work carried out during weather warning | 2% during an orange weather warning<br>0% during a red weather warning |

*Table 4: New information captured in Before You Go and Take 5 forms.*

## 5. Stress survey 2025

The annual stress survey was completed in April 2025. The three main stressors identified in the stress survey were workload, technology and uncertainty about council reform (a new category this year).

The level of stress reported by staff was similar to last year, with one person identifying themselves at the highest level of stress (compared to 0 respondents in 2024). 81% of staff believed they had a good work life balance (compared to 87% in 2024 and 69% in 2023).

Recommendations from the results are being considered, a summary will be provided to the Audit and Risk Committee in August.

## 6. Legislative changes

Additional clarity has been included in the Regulations regarding preserving the site of a serious accident.

Case law has established that health and safety advisors (consultants or in-house) can be considered liable for their actions or omissions under section 36 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.

Approved codes of practice (ACOP) guidance have been released on manual handling and psychosocial harm. The ACOP on working in the road corridor has changed, NRC has obtained a risk based traffic management plan in accordance with the new guidance.

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**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE: People and Culture Report 2024 - 2025**

**From:** Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor; Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager and Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 08  
**Group Manager/s:** July 2025

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**Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

This report is to inform the council of high-level activity within People and Culture for the months of April, May and June 2025 and the running statistics for the 2024-2025 financial year. This report includes an overview of the following areas of the last financial year, staffing levels, recruitment, training, sick leave, departures and turnover.

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**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the report 'People and Culture Report 2024 - 2025' by Kayla Ludlow, Human Resources Advisor; Shane Cleary, People and Culture Manager and Jessica Matson, Human Resources Advisor and dated 7 July 2025, be received.

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**Background/Tuhinga**

**Overview**

**Summary of Quarter April 2025 – June 2025**

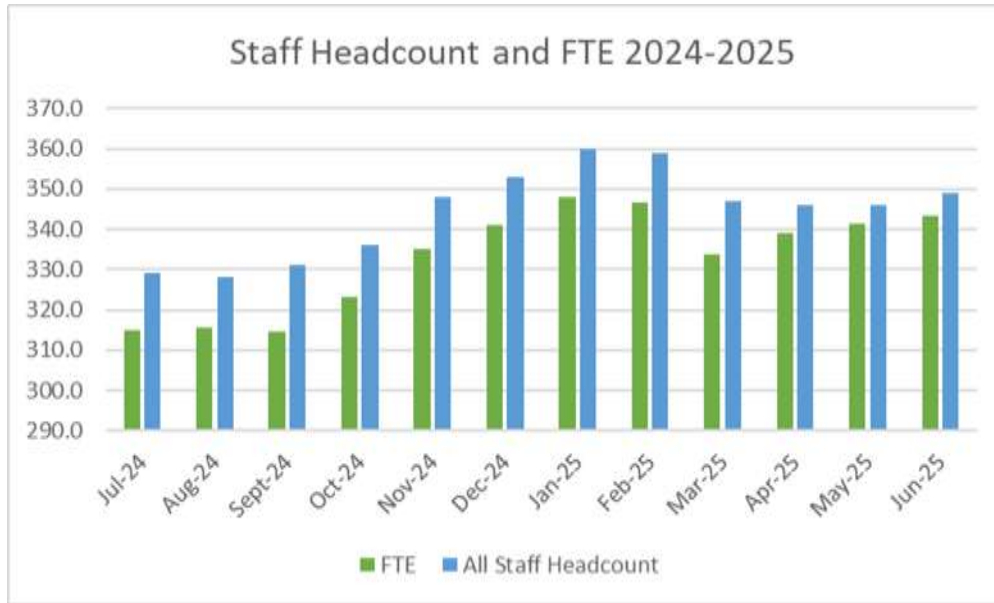
This quarter turnover has remained at around 9.5% which sits around the 10% optimum position. Staff training levels has increased this quarter, with a comparatively larger spend on training in April for a Project Management course run by an external.

Sick leave taken has increased for June, as usually trends for the winter illness period. Flexi-Time balances and alternative leave balances have increased this quarter. This follows the general trend of accruals leading into winter.

**Looking back 2024 – 2025**

Staff numbers began increasing around October and November 2024. This is due to the onboarding of the long-term plan positions. There was a significant increase over the summer period, due to the summer and scholarship internships, with a reduction in staff numbers in March 2025. The number of staff remains reasonably consistent over the April – June 2025 quarter.

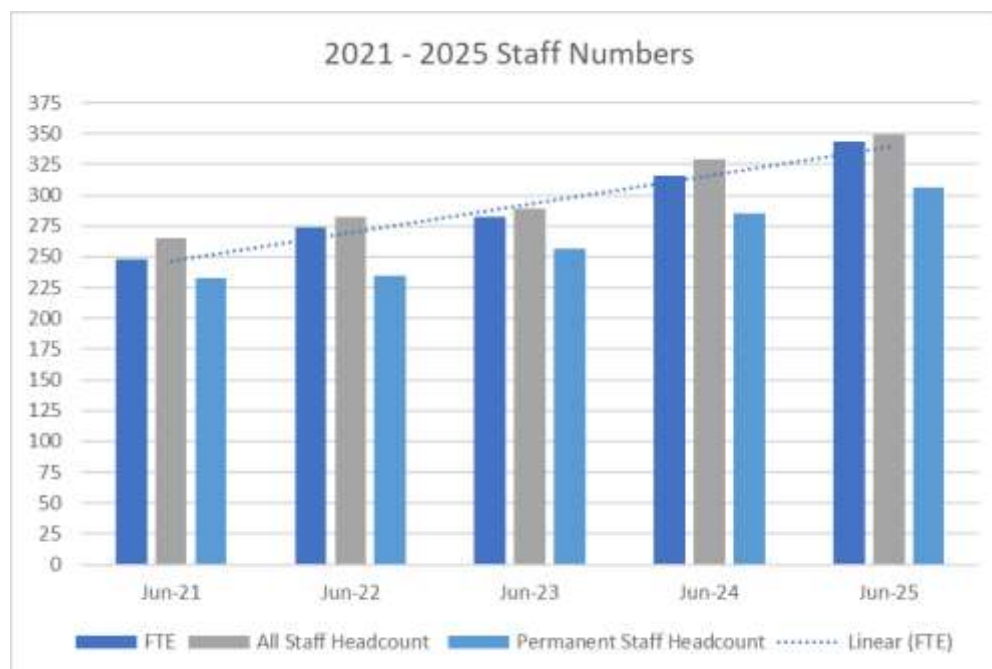
Overall staff numbers have increased from 329 staff in July 2024 to 349 staff in June 2025. However, we are likely to see a further increase from July 2025 with the Year Two Long Term Plan positions currently in the recruitment phase.



|                |                                  | MONTH 1     | MONTH 2     | MONTH 3     | MONTH 4     | MONTH 5     | MONTH 6     | Month 7     | Month 8     | Month 9     | Month 10    |
|----------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                |                                  | Jul-24      | Aug-24      | Sept-24     | Oct-24      | Nov-24      | Dec-24      | Jan-25      | Feb-25      | Mar-25      | Apr-25      |
| STAFFING       | FTE                              | 315         | 316         | 315         | 323         | 335         | 341         | 348         | 347         | 334         | 334         |
|                | All Staff Headcount              | 329         | 328         | 331         | 336         | 348         | 353         | 360         | 359         | 347         | 347         |
|                | Permanent Staff Headcount*       | 293         | 293         | 293         | 296         | 297         | 297         | 303         | 304         | 307         | 307         |
|                | FTE Turnover (last 12 months)    | 9.63%       | 8.46%       | 8.40%       | 9.06%       | 9.36%       | 8.63%       | 7.86%       | 7.80%       | 9.46%       | 9.06%       |
|                | Promotions / Higher Duties       | 2           | 0           | 1           | 1           | 2           | 0           | 2           | 2           | 3           | 3           |
| L&D            | Internal Movements / Secondments | 4           | 0           | 0           | 1           | 1           | 1           | 5           | 2           | 1           | 1           |
|                | % of Staff Attended Training*    | 16.8%       | 7.6%        | 3.8%        | 13.0%       | 27.7%       | 4.7%        | 0.0%        | 12.1%       | 18.8%       | 11.1%       |
| LEAVE TRACKING | Training Cost Per Person         | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$63        | \$194       | \$ -        | \$ -        | \$144       | \$88        | \$63        |
|                | Paid Sick Leave Taken (days)     | 248.2       | 163.7       | 154.7       | 188         | 156.8       | 96.7        | 75.9        | 117.7       | 154.3       | 144.3       |
|                | Sick Leave Cost                  | \$92,125    | \$60,349    | \$56,086    | \$61,406    | \$57,253    | \$38,066    | \$29,602    | \$45,338    | \$55,293    | \$51,406    |
|                | Annual Leave Entitlement         | 6165        | 6254        | 6265        | 6138        | 6371        | 6229        | 5950        | 6067        | 6216        | 6371        |
|                | Annual Entitlement Cost          | \$2,413,393 | \$2,437,963 | \$2,445,896 | \$2,406,497 | \$2,481,770 | \$2,425,489 | \$2,306,675 | \$2,346,226 | \$2,410,426 | \$2,406,497 |
|                | Alternative Days Balance (Lieu)  | 175.7       | 144.3       | 139.5       | 143.3       | 134.6       | 130.0       | 181.9       | 207.1       | 188.3       | 181.9       |
|                | Alternative Days Cost (Lieu)*    | \$71,909    | \$60,270    | \$57,841    | \$57,414.00 | \$55,932    | \$54,432    | \$75,022    | \$85,958    | \$76,385    | \$75,022    |
|                | Flexi Time Balance               | 443.8       | 439.2       | 444.4       | 479.4       | 481.9       | 508.9       | 461.8       | 531.9       | 581.4       | 514.3       |



Over the past five years the increase in staff numbers has generally remained consistent on a year on year basis.



#### Recruitment and Retention April – June 2025

The average time to fill a vacant position (from advertisement to acceptance) has decreased this quarter to 7.9 weeks. There was a slight increase for the month of June 2025.

The Tū I te ora scholarship process has come to a close and six successful recipients have been notified that they will be receiving the scholarships of \$4000. They will begin their internships with Northland Regional Council in November and December 2025 for a 12 week period.

#### Recruitment and Retention 2024 – 2025

| Total Vacancies Listed | Total Vacancies Filled |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 76                     | 80                     |

#### Recruitment and Retention 2023 – 2024

| Total Vacancies Listed | Total Vacancies Filled |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 81                     | 88                     |

The difference between the total vacancies listed and the total vacancies filled, as noted above, will be due to a role over from the previous year.

The total number of vacancies listed has decreased slightly in 2024/25 but largely remained similar to 2023/24. In 2023/24 we had 81 vacancies listed and 88 vacancies filled. The decrease will likely be due to our decrease in turnover rates.

|                                   | Jul 2024 | Aug 2024 | Sep 2024 | Oct 2024 | Nov 2024 | Dec 2024 | Jan 2025 | Feb 2025 | Mar 2025 | Apr 2025 | May 2025 | Jun 2025 |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Requisitions Approved             | 18       | 10       | 10       | 5        | 5        | 1        | 4        | 3        | 3        | 7        | 10       | 5        |
| Vacancies Filled (Offer Accepted) | 4        | 8        | 15       | 7        | 12       | 9        | 1        | 5        | 5        | 4        | 4        | 6        |
| Open Vacancies                    | 18       | 28       | 30       | 24       | 21       | 13       | 10       | 13       | 11       | 13       | 25       | 15       |
| Average Time to Fill (weeks)      | 4.3      | 6.4      | 7.4      | 9.4      | 10.1     | 9.3      | 13.3     | 7.8      | 13.0     | 7.5      | 7.3      | 8.9      |

The average time to fill a position in the 2024 /25 financial year was 8.23 weeks. When advertising throughout the 2024/25 period we have been in the fortunate position to receive a number of quality applications, which is reflective of the employers market currently.

### Internal Movements

| Staff Promoted | Movement Only | Total Internal Movements 2024-2025 |
|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| 15 staff       | 17 staff      | 32 staff                           |

We had a total of 32 Northland Regional Council staff members move internally into new roles over the past 12 months. Within this there were 15 promotions or high duties and 17 internal transfers (movements only). This is an increase from last year where there were only 9 staff promoted and 12 internal transfers.

For the past three years we have found internal recruitment was becoming common practice in the NRC recruitment culture as we faced difficulties finding suitable talent externally. As part of our retention plan, where we know we potentially have suitable internal staff we may consider advertising internally initially. If we do not have any suitable applicants, we then go to the market. In 2024 – 2025, we have seen the external job market change in favour of employers as there are more applicants searching for employment. However, we know that job progression and internal movement are important to staff and have had a positive impact on our turnover rate.

While offering internal staff opportunities to develop and move internally is positive for organisational culture and staff retention, it is important to note that the number of internal movements has had flow on impacts. Hiring internal staff results in consistent vacancies within the organisation, and potentially lost opportunities to bring new talent into NRC's workforce.

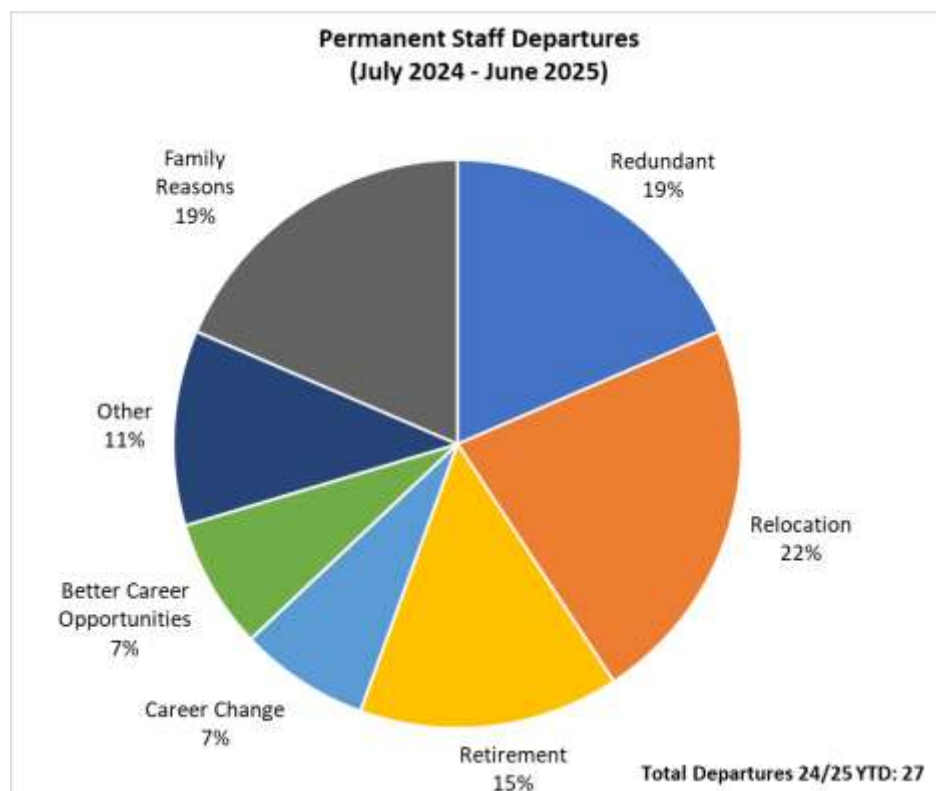
### Departures

Nine staff members have departed this quarter:

- three long standing staff members retired;
- two staff members were made redundant as a result of the restructure;
- one staff member resigned due to a career change;
- one staff member resigned due to family reasons;
- one staff member who resigned to travel; and
- one staff member who we categorised as other, left due to personal reasons.

### Departures 2024 - 2025

For the 2024/25 financial year we had 27 staff members leave the Northland Regional Council. This is a slight decrease from the last financial year where 29 employees departed council.



Note: Career change is moving into a different role than what the person had at NRC. Better career opportunities are where the individual has moved for an advancement or growth that we could not provide at NRC at this point in time.

For the financial year 2024 - 2025 27 permanent employees left the council for several reasons with the largest percentage (22%) leaving to relocate. However, this is reduction from 28% in 2024.

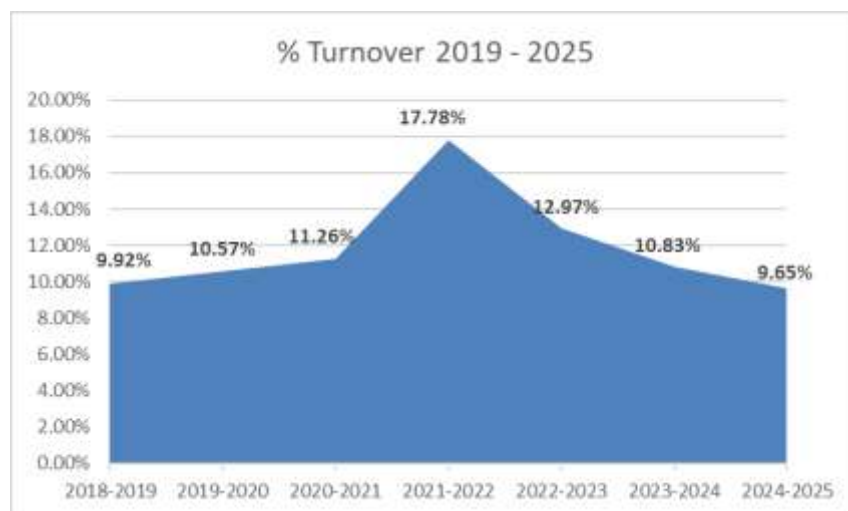
The graph does show a significant increase in employees leaving for family reasons (19%), redundancies (19%) and retirement (15%). These areas have previously contributed to small portion of our departures over the past five years. Some of the family reasons are attributed to employees leaving the workforce to care for family members.

There has also been a significant decrease in staff leaving for better career opportunities with only 7% of staff leaving for this reason. This is down from 31% in 2024, 35% in 2023 and 45% in 2022. This is reflection of our staff engagement survey that has shown we have a highly engaged workforce. This could also be due to several factors such as remuneration reviews that have attempted to recognise and remedy market data gaps, flexible working arrangements, the Flexi-Plus Trial and opportunities as well as the current job market.

There has also been a steady reduction in staff leaving to change careers with this year's percentage sitting at 7%. In 2024, 14% of leavers changed careers and 27% in 2023.

### Turnover 2024 - 2025

We continue to see a decrease in our turnover rate this year compared to last year.



### Training 2024 – 2025

Please note the below figures are based on centralised training and do not include any Health and Safety training which will be reported in the Health and Safety report.

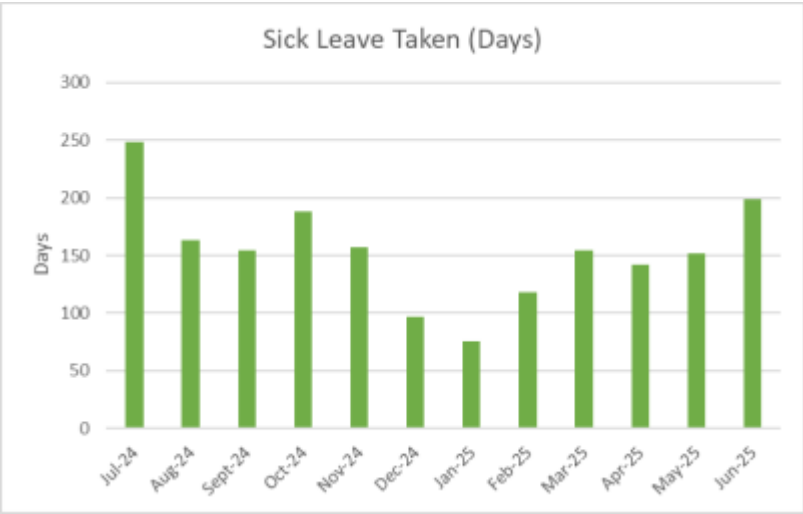
| Average staff trained per month | Average monthly cost per person | Total Training Costs 2024-2025 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 40.75 staff                     | \$105.24                        | \$63,836                       |

This year we have seen an increase in the average amount of staff trained, average monthly cost per person and total training costs. Training and development in 2023/24 were unusually low with the average amount of staff trained per month sitting at 28, average monthly cost per person was \$51.09 and the total training costs for the year were \$18,898. This year's statistics are similar to those of 2022/23 which is positive to see.



There was an increase in Learning and Development from February 2025 to June 2025 due to a new Learning and Development Advisor starting with council. This is also evident in the increase in expenditure for training.

Sick Leave



Sick Leave Taken 2024 -2025

| Average Monthly Cost<br>(2024 - 2025) | Total Sick Leave Cost<br>(2024 - 2025) | Total Days Taken<br>(2024 - 2025) |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| \$39,209                              | \$470,513.18 p.a                       | 1849.20 days                      |

Comparison 2023-2024 Sick Leave Taken

| Average Monthly Cost<br>(2023 - 2024) | Total Sick Leave Cost<br>(2023 - 2024) | Total Days Taken<br>(2023 - 2024) |
|---------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| \$49,593                              | \$595,122.83 p.a                       | 1687.35 days                      |

The average sick leave cost for 2024/25 is less than the last financial year, whereas the total days taken is higher in 2024/25. It is noted that the cost of the leave is calculated from hourly rates.

On average 154.1 paid sick days were taken each month amongst all staff in 2024/25. This is an increase from the last financial year where the average was 146.70 paid sick days.

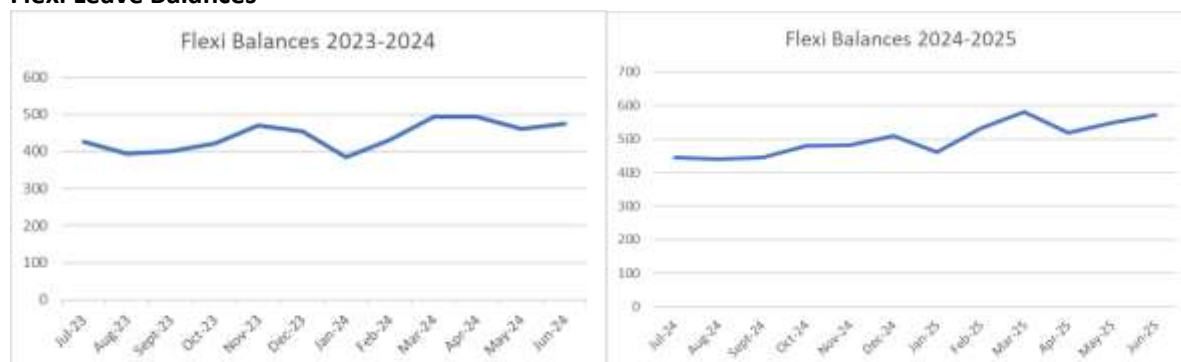
### Annual, Lieu and Flexi Time Leave Balances

| Average Annual Leave Days per person (2024 – 2025) | Average Lieu Days per person (2024 – 2025) | Average Flexi Time Days per person (2024 – 2025) |
|--|--|--|
| 18.07  | 0.55                                       | 1.6  |

| Average Annual Leave Days per person (2023 – 2024) | Average Lieu Days per person (2023 – 2024) | Average Flexi Time Days per person (2023 – 2024) |
|--|--|--|
| 18.75  | 0.53                                       | 1.44   |

The average annual leave days per person is quite high, considering the general entitlement per year is 20 days (not including long service leave). This is down from last financial year where the average annual leave days per person was 18.75.

### Flexi Leave Balances



The amount of Flexi leave accrued has increased, along with staff numbers, however, the pattern when the leave has accrued largely aligns with the previous financial year. There is generally a reduction in balance over the summer period where staff take more leave and an increase in the later months (Feb – Apr) where staff begin to accrue more.

### People and Culture Strategy

A new People and Culture Manager started with Northland Regional Council on 30 June 2025. The team will soon have more capacity to work through actions in the People and Culture Strategy. Over the past financial year the strategy has been progressing, however due to a number of factors the team have been operating at reduced capacity so business as usual tasks have been the priority.

### Flexi Plus Trial

The flexi plus trial evaluation is beginning to take place. The final quarterly pulse survey went out to staff. The feedback from staff and managers is largely positive. The metrics set at time of extension will be reviewed in the next quarter to assist the decision-making process. It is expected that a decision will be made in August 2025 as to if council will permanently adopt the 9-day fortnight or withdraw the trial arrangements.

### Modern Workspaces

Change leadership is underway for the Modern Workspaces project to ensure we have adequate space for the increase in FTE that council has had over the past five years.

### **Staff Engagement Survey**

The annual staff engagement survey has been completed for 2025. This year we saw a participation rate of 65.35%. This rate has decreased from 76.36% in 2024.

The overall engagement score was high at 4.02/5. This is a slight reduction from 4.06 in 2024 but still higher than 3.96 in 2023 and 3.74 in 2022.

Examining the ranges, and the knowledge that a score of 4 or more means highly engaged, we can see that 54% of employees are highly engaged, with an additional 35.8% engaged, 7.0% neutral, and 3.3% disengaged.

### **Restructure**

Northland Regional Council began a restructure of specific areas within the organisation in February 2025. A proposed structure was released to staff for consultation, following a period of feedback and review, the proposed structure was largely accepted. There was one team that required a second round of consultation. Unfortunately, the restructure resulted in two redundancies for this financial year and one from the next financial year (1 July 2025).

The new structure will be in place as of 1 July 2025.

### **Salary Reviews**

All salary reviews have been completed with the exception of the Chief Executive Officer.

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### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE:** Chair's Report to Council

**From:** Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair

**Authorised by:** Geoff Crawford, Chairperson of council, on 15 July 2025

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### Purpose of Report

This report is to receive information from the Chair on strategic issues, meetings/events attended, and correspondence sent for the month of June 2025.

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### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 3 July 2025, be received.

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### Meetings/events attended

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

- 12 June 2025 – Met with Hon Jo Luxton re: Caulerpa
- 11 - 14 June 2025 – Attended Hamilton National Field Days – met with Hon Andrew Hoggard re Freshwater Farm Plans, Hon Shane Jones re: Brynderwyns and Stuart Anderson (MPI) re Caulerpa Plan
- 17 – 19 June 2025 – Guest speaker at the NZFET 2025 Alumni Summit in Wellington.

During June 2025 I sent out the following correspondence:

| Date         | Addressed To                                 | Subject   |
|--------------|--|---|
| 9 June 2025  | Pita Tipene                                  | Acknowledgement and recognition of the Kings Honour 2025    |
| 9 June 2025  | Dover Samuels                                | Acknowledgement and recognition of the Kings Honour 2025    |
| 30 June 2025 | Te Papa Atawhai – Department of Conservation | NRC Submission on the Predator Free 2050 Strategy 2025-2029 |

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### Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil



**TITLE:** Chief Executive's Report to Council

**From:** Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

**Authorised by** Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, on 15 July  
**Group Manager/s:** 2025

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### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 1 July 2025, be received.

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### 7.4.3 CORPORATE SERVICES

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#### 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.

#### Property

The Property Team will be applying for an amendment to the consent which allows controlled discharge from the stormwater pond at Fertiliser Road, given the very low risk environmental impact downstream. Council's consultant, Williamson Water and Land Advisory, is undertaking monitoring and a risk assessment to confirm there are unlikely to be any effects of passive discharge. They then will prepare a technical document to support a Section 127 application for change to conditions of the discharge consent.

### 7.4.4 REGULATORY SERVICES

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#### Current Legal Proceedings

| Department              | Description   | Status  |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Consent decision appeal | Proposed port expansion project to include reclamation and port activities                      | The applicant provided an update to the Court advising that all parties, except Te Parawhau, have resolved their issues with the appeal. The presiding Judge has directed that Te Parawhau are to advise the Court by 21 July 2025 if it has any issues with the proposed conditions and that the applicant is to file an update report to the Court by 22 August 2025. If resolution is not reached by all parties by 30 September 2025, then a hearing will be scheduled. |
| Consent decision appeal | New groundwater take at Tautoro (south of Kaikohe) for irrigation of a proposed avocado orchard | One appeal was received from Te Riingi Marae. The Environment Court has agreed to postpone Court assisted mediation until mid October 2025 to allow the applicant and appellant to continue to engage in discussions to resolve the appeal. The applicant is to advise the Court whether parties wish to proceed or not proceed with mediation.   |

### Consents Update

During June 2025, a total of 135 Decisions were issued. These decisions comprised:

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| Moorings                  | 1  |
| Coastal Permits           | 11 |
| Coastal Discharge Permits | 3  |
| Air Discharge Permits     | 1  |
| Land Discharge Permits    | 20 |
| Land Use Consents         | 81 |
| Water Takes               | 9  |
| Bore Consents             | 9  |

Forty applications were received in June 2025.

Of the 135 applications in progress at the end of June 2025:

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

### Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

- No commissioners were appointed in June 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 June 2025 is *(by number)*:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Applications Publicly/Limited Notified During Previous Month | 1 |
| Progress on Applications Previously Notified                 | 2 |
| Appeals/Objections   | 2 |



















The results of compliance monitoring for the period 1 to 30 June 2025 (and year-to-date figures) are summarised in the following table and discussed below.














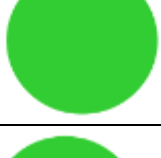


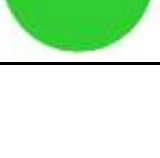
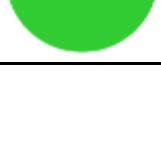
| Classification         | Total | Full compliance | Low risk non-compliance | Moderate non-compliance | Significant non-compliance |
|------------------------|-------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Air Discharge          | 26    | 25              | 1                       | 0                       | 0                          |
| Bore Consent           | 12    | 6               | 6                       | 0                       | 0                          |
| Coastal Discharge      | 22    | 16              | 5                       | 1                       | 0                          |
| Coastal Permit         | 42    | 33              | 9                       | 0                       | 0                          |
| FDE - Discharge permit | 84    | 84              | 0                       | 0                       | 0                          |
| Land Discharge         | 142   | 105             | 27                      | 10                      | 0                          |
| Land Use Consent       | 142   | 135             | 7                       | 0                       | 0                          |
| NES-F                  | 322   | 61              | 48                      | 213                     | 0                          |
| Water Discharge        | 61    | 44              | 6                       | 11                      | 0                          |
| Water Permit           | 112   | 109             | 1                       | 2                       | 0                          |
| Water Take             | 86    | 69              | 14                      | 3                       | 0                          |








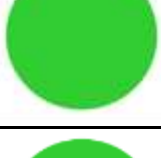

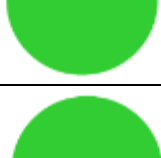




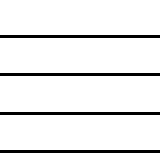





| Classification      | Total       | Full compliance | Low risk non-compliance | Moderate non-compliance | Significant non-compliance |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>1051</b> | <b>687</b>      | <b>124</b>              | <b>240</b>              | <b>0</b>                   |
| <b>Percentage</b>   |             | <b>65.4%</b>    | <b>11.8%</b>            | <b>22.8%</b>            | <b>0.0%</b>                |
| <b>Year to date</b> | <b>7188</b> | <b>5163</b>     | <b>851</b>              | <b>1102</b>             | <b>72</b>                  |
| <b>Percentage</b>   |             | <b>71.83%</b>   | <b>11.84%</b>           | <b>15.33%</b>           | <b>1.0%</b>                |

**Municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance/enforcement**

| WWTP/Consent Status   | Compliance for last 12 months | Compliance for last 3 months | Enforcement Action/Response  |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Ahipara</b><br>Expires 2033  |                               |                              | <u>Under ANs</u> (reissued in September 2022). Compliance is based on a median FC concentration of 12 consecutive samples and a 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile limit. As the latter limit requires 9 out of 10 consecutive samples to be compliant the 12-month compliance pie chart will continue to show (red) for at least another three months. |
| <b>Kohukohu</b><br>Expires 2026   |                               |                              | <u>Under AN</u><br>Self-monitoring not being undertaken correctly. Issue being addressed. FC and ammoniacal nitrogen exceed consent limits. Desludging and maintenance have been undertaken.   |
| <b>Hikurangi</b><br>Expires 2025<br>(replacement consent application being processed)   |                               |                              | <u>Under AN</u><br>TSS, BOD5 and E. coli results are above RC limits for median and 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile. WDC undertaking remedial action and providing regular updates.  |
| <b>Whatuwhiwhi</b><br>Expires 2025<br>(replacement consent application being processed) |                               |                              | Moderate non-compliances for TSS exceeding RC limits. Self-monitoring not being undertaken in accordance with consent requirements.  |

| WWTP/Consent Status  | Compliance for last 12 months   | Compliance for last 3 months  | Enforcement Action/Response   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <b>Taipā</b><br>Expires 2029   |    |    | Moderate non-compliances for FC exceeding 85 <sup>th</sup> percentile and TN exceeding RC limits. Working group trialling options to improve treatment. |
| <b>PaihiaE</b><br>Expires 2034   |    |    | <u>Under AN</u><br>Moderate non-compliances due to ammoniacal nitrogen exceeding RC limits for 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile. Some results missing.       |
| <b>Opononi &amp; Omāpere</b><br>Expires 2027   |    |    | <u>Under ANs</u><br>Moderate non-compliances for BOD, E. coli, and TSS. Remedial action undertaken. Results are improving.                              |
| <b>Rāwene</b><br>Expired 2023<br>(replacement consent application being processed)           |   |   | Discharge volumes exceed RC limits. FC, ammoniacal nitrogen and TSS exceed consent limits. Remedial work scheduled.                                     |
| <b>Kawakawa</b><br>Expires 2036  |  |  | Moderate non-compliance due to 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile for E Coli being exceeded in historic sample. Has been trending downwards since.             |
| <b>Kaitiāia</b><br>Expired 2021<br>(decision on replacement application consent due soon)    |  |  | <u>Under AN</u> (for reticulation overflows).<br>Ongoing works on reticulation system. Some sample results missing. RC limits exceeded for percentiles. |
| <b>Hihi</b><br>Expired 2022<br>(replacement consent application being processed)             |  |  | Ammoniacal nitrogen and E. coli exceeding RC limits. Most recent visit was fully compliant.   |
| <b>Russell</b><br>Expired 30 April 2024<br>(replacement consent application being processed) |  |  | <u>Under AN</u><br>Leachate volumes discharged to treatment plant have exceeded RC limits.  |
| <b>Kaiwaka</b><br>Expires 2049   |  |  | Median and 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile exceedances for FC. E. coli also exceeded RC limits.   |

| WWTP/Consent Status  | Compliance for last 12 months   | Compliance for last 3 months  | Enforcement Action/Response  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Kaikohe</b><br>Expired 2021<br>(replacement consent application being processed, also listed Fast-track proposal) |    |    | <u>Under AN</u><br>Discharge volumes not being reported. Water quality exceeding RC limits.  |
| <b>Kaeo</b><br>Expired 2022<br>(replacement consent application being processed)                                     |    |    | Some exceedances of RC limits, however most recent monitoring fully compliant.   |
| <b>Rangiputa</b><br>Expires 2032   |    |    | None currently. Moderate non-compliance for sampling not undertaken in accordance with RC conditions in 2024.  |
| <b>Maungaturoto</b><br>Expires 2032  |   |   | <u>Under AN; IN issued September 2024</u><br>Low risk non-compliance for missing sample results in March 2025.   |
| <b>Ruakaka</b><br>Expires 2046   |  |  | Elevated ammoniacal nitrogen levels in some sampling bores, however investigations showed that no elevated levels were found in the receiving environment. |
| <b>Mangawhai</b><br>Expires 2042   |  |  | <u>Under ANs; IN issued September 2024</u><br>Enforcement relates to odour.<br>No other issues currently.  |
| <b>Te Kopuru</b><br>Expires 2044   |  |  | None currently.  |
| <b>Waipū</b><br>Expires 2030   |  |  | None currently.  |
| <b>Dargaville</b><br>Expires 2043  |  |  | <u>Under ANs</u><br>None currently.  |

| WWTP/Consent Status  | Compliance for last 12 months   | Compliance for last 3 months   | Enforcement Action/Response   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Tutukaka</b><br>Expires 2054  |    |     | Moderate non-compliance for elevated E. coli in February 2025. Fully compliant since March 2025.  |
| <b>Whāngārei City</b><br>Expires 2045  |    |     | <u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant. Additional odour controls being implemented. Moderate non-compliance for ongoing incorrect reporting. |
| <b>Ngunguru</b><br>Expires 2035  |    |     | None currently. Historic result still affecting 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile for E. coli.  |
| <b>Oakura</b><br>Expires 2025<br>(replacement consent application being processed) |   |    | None currently.   |
| <b>Portland</b><br>Expires 2054  |  |   | None currently. Non-compliance for late data in 2024.   |
| <b>Glinks Gully</b><br>Expires 2034  |  |   | None currently.   |
| <b>Kerikeri</b><br>Expires 2036  |  |   | None currently.   |
| <b>Waiōtira</b><br>Expires 2030  |  |   | None currently.   |
| <b>Compliance Status</b>   |   |  |   |
| Full compliance  |   |  |   |
| Low risk non-compliance  |   |  |   |
| Moderate non-compliance  |   |  |   |
| Significant non-compliance   |   |  |   |

## Court Cases Update

| Litigation   | Next Court Event/Action  |
|--|--|
| <b>Prosecution</b><br>District Court<br>Discharge of sediment.<br>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 were dismissed from all charges.</p> <p>Status: awaiting the decision on the costs application.</p>  |
| <b>Prosecution</b><br>District Court<br>Discharge of raw farm dairy effluent to a stream; wastewater washed into stream; and overflow from pond.<br>Now <u>Crown</u> case. | <p>On 13 June 2025, the Crown filed a memorandum with the District Court seeking to withdraw all charges. The Crown had assessed that the test for prosecution against all the defendants and concluded that it no longer met the Solicitor General's Prosecution Guidelines.</p> <p>On 16 June 2025, the Court confirmed that the charges had been dismissed administratively, and no appearance was required.</p>  |
| <b>Interim Enforcement Orders</b><br>Environment Court<br>Discharge to air from the manufacturing of Asphalt and open burning  | <p>On 23 June 2025, the parties filed and served a joint memorandum advising that the respondents plan to dismantle and remove the asphalt plant from the site permanently and are no longer pursuing a resource consent for bitumen batching activities on the site. The respondents requested additional time to complete the dismantling process.</p> <p>The matter was accordingly adjourned until <b>23 January 2026</b>. The parties are directed to file and serve a reporting memorandum with the Court on or before 23 January 2026, including an update on the site works and the position on the undertaking and orders sought.</p> |

## 7.4.5 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

### LAND MANAGMENT

#### Hill Country Erosion Programme

The MPI co-funded Hill Country Erosion Programme met or exceeded all KPIs over the January 2025 to June 2025 reporting period. A summary of key outcomes include:

- Total area of retirement fencing 129ha (KPI 73ha)
- Total length of fencing built 14.1 km (KPI 12km)
- 36 ha of native planting (KPI 36ha)
- Attendance at multiple hui aimed at improving uptake of the fund by Tangata Whenua

### BIODIVERSITY

#### Coastal Biodiversity - CoastCare

Several dune planting days were held this month with plants provided through Northland Regional Council CoastCare.

Spinifex and pīngao plants were provided for two planting days on Mangawhai Sandspit, the first organised by Tern Point Society and the second by the Department of Conservation.



CoastCare staff attended a planting day at Long Beach, Russell, with Russell Landcare Trust.

Staff also attended two Matariki planting days: Ruakākā Wildlife Refuge and Pātaua South. Both events were well attended. Planting days were also held at Matapōuri and Uretiti.



Photo above: Some of the volunteers and staff share a cup of tea after the Ruakākā Wildlife Refuge planting day organised by Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust.



Photo above: A great turn out at the Pātaua South planting day, organised by Aki Tai Here.

## Lakes

Pines were felled at Rototuna on the Poutō Peninsula by Nga Manga Atawhai (Te Roroa) with the support of Te Uri O Hau and their cultural advisor. Te Uri O Hau Environs are organising a whānau planting day to plant natives at the top of the hill to replace the pines, with the support of Kaipara Moana Restoration.



Photo left: Rototuna after pine felling June 2025





Photo left: Nga Manga Atawhai team with Snow Tane (Te Roroa) and Colin French (Te Uri O Hau) at Rototuna after the pine felling.

A drone was used to control pampas around Rototuna and Karaka. This method proved very quick and cost effective for areas that are very hard to reach on foot.



Photo left: Drone controlling pampas at Karaka

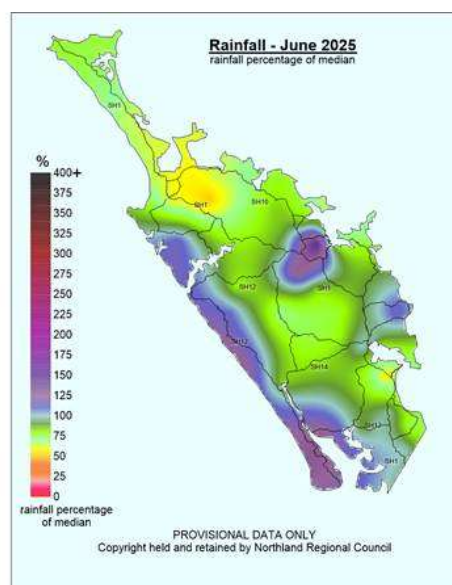
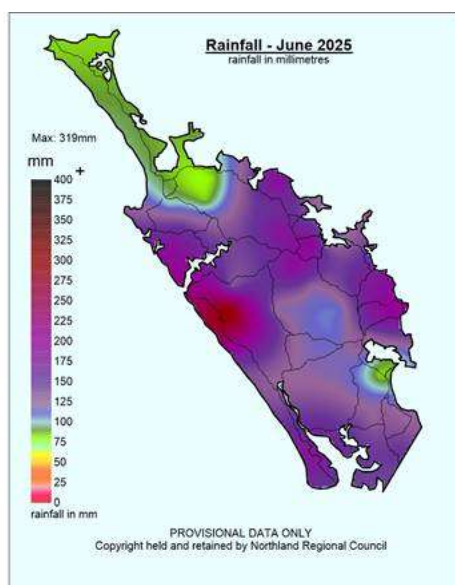


Photo left: Drone controlling pampas at Rototuna

## NATURAL RESOURCES

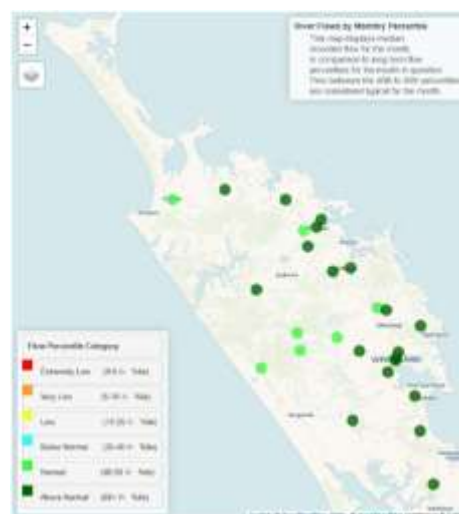
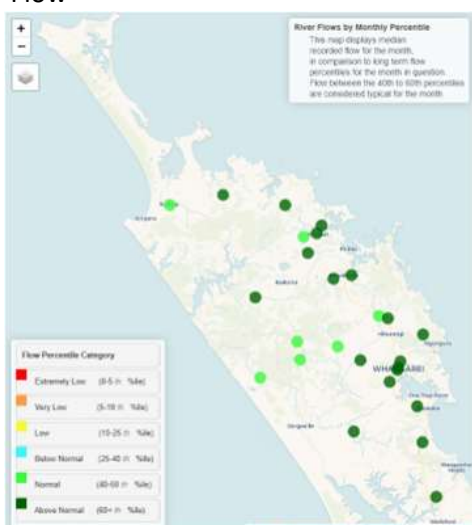
### Hydrology

#### Rainfall



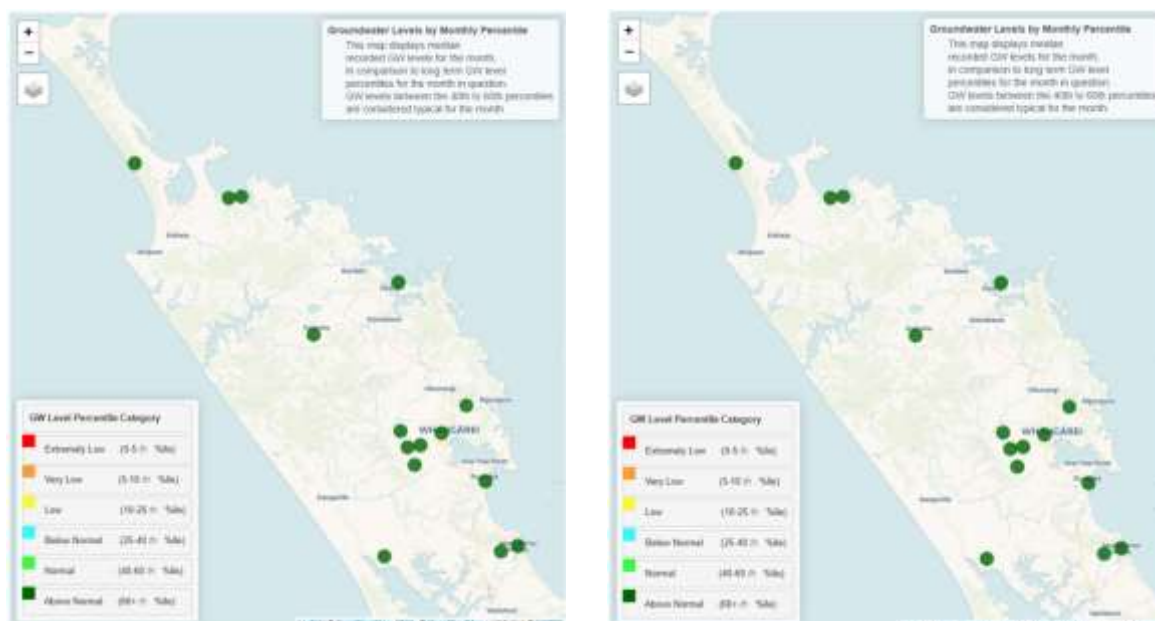
- Northland Region averaged 133.5mm of rainfall for the month, which is 85% of the long-term median (normal expected) for June.
- The highest rainfall total for June was recorded at the Waimamaku at Wekaweka Road station in the South Hokianga, with 319.5mm, for 109% of normal expected. The highest percentage of normal expected rainfall was recorded at the Waitangi at McDonald Road station with 155%, and a total of 199.5mm.
- The lowest rainfall total for the month was recorded at the Ōruru at Bowling Club station, inland from Doubtless Bay, with 82.5mm, for 65% of normal expected. The lowest percentage for June was recorded at the Te Puhi at Mangakawakawa Trig station, south of Kaitia, with 50% of normal expected, with a total of 84 mm.

#### Flow



- River flows for all of Northland's monitored catchments were all either "Normal" or "Above Normal" for June.
- There is still some capacity in the rivers, however along with wet soils, significant rainfall is likely to result in flooding in low lying areas.

## Groundwater



Groundwater levels in all of Northland's key monitored aquifers 'were "Above Normal" for June.

## Science

The science team recently published the report [‘Risks of elevated aluminium concentration in surface waters of Northern Wairoa catchment’](#). The report is a technical assessment of data collected by the compliance monitoring team and state of the environment water quality data from the Northern Wairoa River system to identify the origin and potential risks of elevated aluminium levels in the catchment.

The report concludes that elevated aluminium concentrations are most probably associated with catchment soil chemistry, erosion prone geology and overland flow following heavy rainfall events. The aluminium in the surface waters is mostly contained in particulate matter associated with suspended sediment in the river. The report was proactively released to the Dargaville Ratepayers Association and Environs Te Uri o Hau.

## Water Quality

### Reporting

The Water Quality team published the [‘Recreational Swimming Programme Safeswim Summer Review 2024/25’](#) report. This report provides an overview of council's recreational bathing programme, which includes predicting water quality at popular swimming sites across Northland through Safeswim, [www.safeswim.org.nz](http://www.safeswim.org.nz) and ongoing sampling to underpin the site-specific models.

Throughout the swimming season (December to February) it was predicted to be safe to swim 97.6% of the time across all of Northland's coastal sites, and 90.7% of the time across all freshwater sites. 30 sites were predicted to be safe 100% of the time.

### Dissolved Oxygen Logger Maintenance

As part of our continuous improvement/maintenance programmes, a number of river monitoring sites had new structures built and all lake sites had improved rigging setups installed to ensure the loggers are at the correct depths.

## Māori Engagement

Staff attended a wananga for environmental projects from Hokianga through to Te Roroa. Presentations included: Kaipara Moana Contractor strategy, Reconnecting Northland consultants update, Tiaki Nga Wai O Hokianga nursery support and Kaitiaki roopu progress, NRC funding options/support from Environmental Services and Land Management.

## POLICY AND PLANNING

### Proposed Kaipara District Plan Submission

A council workshop was held on 4 June to confirm a submission to the Kaipara District Council Proposed District Plan. The submission was approved by Council at the 24 June Council meeting. The submission was then lodged on 30 June.

### Regulatory Standards Bill

A Council workshop was held on 11 June to confirm a submission on the government's Regulatory Standards Bill. The submission was lodged on 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Retrospective approval for the submission has been sought at this Council meeting.

### National Directions Packages

The Council has had two workshops on the government's National Directions Packages on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 9 July. The draft submission for Council approval is being sought at this meeting.

### Upcoming Local Government Systems Improvements Bill

The Local Government Systems Improvements Bill is expected to enter Parliament in July 2025. The Bill will include changes to the purpose of local government to require Councils to "get back to basics", publish key council performance indicators, limit council rates rises or expenditure on 'non-core' activities and reviewing the transparency and accountability rules that apply to councils.

## 7.4.6 BIOSECURITY

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### INCURSIONS

#### Wild Deer Free Te Taitokerau

Operations at our second site – the Kai Iwi Lakes project area is almost complete, with no signs or sightings of deer so far. NRC, the contractors, and Te Roroa Development Group are planning a wānanga to help remove goats that were found during the deer surveillance work in this area.

Surveillance using TADS (Thermal Animal Detection System) has been completed at four further locations (Kaitaia, Purerua, Kaimaumu, and Tutamoe/Wahui). Final reports are expected by the end of July. Deer were detected in the Kaitaia area, while the other sites—being historical—showed no recent deer presence. The information for this surveillance helps support effective and efficient operational planning. A further site at Poutō is scheduled to be completed before the end of August.

Following the recent removal of three deer in Kaitaia South, we are now preparing to engage with local hapū/iwi and surrounding landowners to develop an eradication plan. This next phase marks the programme's third operational area and will target the management of the known fallow deer population.

#### Russell Forest Sika Eradication

With only three known animals—two stags and one hind—remaining in the project area, we are now entering the final stages of our eradication operations. Contractors recently removed a mature sika hind, and tissue samples have been sent to Ecogene (Landcare Research – Manaaki Whenua) to confirm whether this was the last known hind. The outcome of this genetic analysis will guide the deployment of the next eradication tools and strategies. The primary aim of the project remains the complete removal of all known animals from the area.





Trail cameras deployed in the project area have been used to identify home ranges and successfully captured images of the hind shortly before her removal.

## RĀHUI TAPU/MARINE PROTECTED AREA

Changeable weather conditions have impacted the on-water mahi in the Rāhui Tapu, however occasional calm weather windows have allowed us to achieve some significant milestones in council's marine protection programme.



Hapū kaitiaki and marine biologist retrieve a BUV during species monitoring at Mimiwhangata



Baseline ecological monitoring has progressed with the majority of the fieldwork now complete. Baited underwater video surveys have occurred in both Rāhui Tapu focussing on species counts and biomass measurements of snapper/tāmure (key indicator species), and species biodiversity generally. Each survey took approximately 4 days to complete, involving a collaborative team of marine biologists, NRC staff and hapū kaitiaki. We are still awaiting detailed analysis of the survey results, but the footage collected has given a unique glimpse into the underwater action that goes on in these special areas which we were able to share with the public on social media, receiving almost 55k views. Initial observations in both Rāhui Tapu suggest a large presence of snapper/tāmure and over 19 different fish species.

A kōura/crayfish (key indicator species) survey has commenced with a team of marine ecologists from University of Auckland's Marine Science Institute, NRC divers, and hapū kaitiaki.

The arrival of winter sees the end of NRC's first summer season formally enforcing the marine protection rules. There was a heavy on-water presence between October and June to ensure the public are aware of the no-take rules and the values they intend to protect, however the months of April and May were particularly quiet due to large weather systems impacting boating conditions.

As at 1 June 2025 we have had a total of 96 surveillance trips, approaching 422 vessels, with 24 instances of fishing within the Rāhui Tapu. One infringement notice, one abatement notice, and 22 directions notices have been issued.

### Mimiwhangata Rāhui Tapu

### Rākaumangamanga Rāhui Tapu

|              | On-water<br>trips | Fishing   | Not<br>Fishing | Total      |              | On-water<br>trips | Fishing  | Not<br>Fishing | Total      |
|--------------|-------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|----------|----------------|------------|
| Oct-24       | 3                 | 1         | 3              | 4          | Oct-24       | 4                 | -        | 1              | 1          |
| Nov-24       | 5                 | -         | 4              | 4          | Nov-24       | 5                 | 2        | 27             | 29         |
|              | 6                 |           |                |            | Dec-24       | 10                |          |                |            |
| Dec-24       |                   | 1         | 33             | 34         |              |                   | 1        | 96             | 97         |
| Jan-25       | 6                 | 6         | 36             | 42         | Jan-25       | 10                | 3        | 62             | 65         |
| Feb-25       | 7                 | 5         | 42             | 47         | Feb-25       | 12                | -        | 40             | 40         |
| Mar-25       | 6                 | 5         | 18             | 23         | Mar-25       | 6                 | -        | 14             | 14         |
| Apr-25       | -                 | -         | -              | -          | Apr-25       | 4                 | -        | 2              | 2          |
| May-25       | 3                 | -         | -              | -          | May-25       | 9                 | -        | 20             | 20         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>36</b>         | <b>18</b> | <b>136</b>     | <b>154</b> | <b>Total</b> | <b>60</b>         | <b>6</b> | <b>262</b>     | <b>268</b> |

### PEST PLANTS

At the end of June, a new sea spurge site was discovered at Kapowairua, Spirits bay. This is the first site discovered on the northern coastline of New Zealand, with all previous sites being confined to the west coast. Nineteen adult plants and thirty-two juvenile and seedlings plants were removed. The site was found by the Ngāti kuri 'Haumihi Team' undertaking sea spurge surveillance work, funded through the Ministry for Primary Industries Long Term Management Programme for sea spurge. Following training with staff, the team have been progressively undertaking survey work at key sites and higher risk sites in their rohe. The discovery highlights the value of the proactive surveillance work being undertaken by local teams; Taiao teams and hapū groups from Te Aupōuri and Te Rarawa have also been engaged to deliver both the ongoing management of known sites and surveillance work in their rohe.

Staff also undertook training and survey with Uri O Hau kaimahi on the Pouto peninsula to enable them to take on sea spurge surveillance work contracts with the Department of Conservation in the new year.

The discovery at Kapowairua brings the total number of locations where sea spurge has been found in Northland to seven. This includes Te Kopuru, Poutō peninsula (three subsites), the Waipoua River mouth (and single plant detected), Mitimiti (2 very large sites), Ahipara (single plant), Waipapakauri (10 subsites over 10 kilometres), and Hukatere (1 medium and one small subsite).



Map showing approximate location of sea spurge site found at Kapowairua, Spirits bay.

Across other pest plant work programmes, after the very wet and windy weather in April impacted planned work, staff have been busy completing inspection and control work for the year for our low-incidence programmes, as well as delivering community partnership work.

Staff have been really pleased to have kaimahi from Te Uri O Hau working with them on the spartina programme in the Kaipara harbour. There are very limited weather and tide windows each year

suitable to treat these sites, and having a larger team tackling the work means sites can be completed faster and more sites can receive treatment. Over the course of the last month, for the 16 hour tidal window available, a total of 105 hours were spent controlling spartina. This additional capacity has been a significant boost for the programme and will be continued and expanded next season.

Staff also inspected several potential sites identified from a desktop review of Photoblique imagery. Two out of three suspected areas were confirmed as new infestations. A drone survey was also undertaken, locating a further new spartina site.

Follow up inspection and control at one of the larger mile-a-minute sites showed great progress after two years of consistent control, with only seedling plants found where there was previously rampant adult foliage.



Photos taken December 2023 (left) and June 2025 (right) showing the reduction in the infestation level of mile-a-minute at one of the Baylys beach sites after consistent control over 2 years.

After pursuing the necessary approvals and permissions from NZTA, new signs are now being installed at Kaero and Puketona. They encourage everyone to 'tackle weeds together' and feature members of local volunteer groups. More signs are planned for SH12 and SH14 for the coming year.

The pest plant team also helped deliver the Matarau Primary Schools Enviro Day, with a total of 260 primary aged kids, across nine classes, learning about dispersal pathways of common weed species.



Children at Matarau Primary Enviro Day sharing what they know about pest plants and how they spread

#### 7.4.7 STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGEMENT

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##### Economic Development

- Ngawha Innovation and Enterprise Centre – allocation of funding approved as per the Underwrite Commitment Agreement between NRC and Northland Inc.

- Economic information provided to assist with other council activities including planning and policy (Taumarere business case) and biosecurity (commence work on updating benefit cost analysis for Top of the North (TON) clean hull plan).

### **Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement**

#### **National Direction and Policy Engagement**

Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement and Te Ruarangi are currently focused on reviewing and responding to a suite of National Policy Statements (NPS) and National Environmental Standards (NES), including the ongoing freshwater reforms. These instruments, such as the NZ Coastal Policy Statement and proposed changes to marine aquaculture are part of a broader shift in national direction that will significantly influence council-level planning and tangata whenua decision-making.

Many of these policies have been recently amended or released in draft form. Alongside the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group (TWWAG), Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG), Te Uru Kahika and Te Ruarangi we are preparing coordinated submissions to ensure tangata whenua voice and whakaaro are embedded.

Key areas of focus include:

- Strengthening the recognition of Te Mana o te Wai and ensuring tangata whenua roles are not diminished in freshwater management.
- Responding to proposals that would permit marine aquaculture research and trials without consent, raising concerns around kaitiakitanga and local oversight.
- Strategically contributing to the submissions made by Te Uru Kahika, which will prioritise key kaupapa across the 11–12 national packages currently open for feedback.

Submissions are open to the public, and Te Ruarangi is supporting engagement across hapū and iwi to ensure their voices are heard in the select committee process.

Additionally, the IHEMP draft for Te Kowhai (Kaipara) has been received, with Ngāti Korokoro in review process of their draft IHEMP submission.

### **Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement**

Our team continues to support and deliver key initiatives that strengthen Tāiki ē, Te Tiriti partnerships and deepen engagement across Te Taitokerau:

- Tāiki ē Annual Report – The Tāiki ē Annual Report is currently in development and will feature several video profiles. The report will reflect the collective impact and stories of change from across Te Taitokerau.
- Supporting the upcoming local elections campaign development, including team members undergoing Electoral Officer training. Our involvement reinforces our commitment to and ensuring tangata whenua are informed, engaged, and represented throughout the electoral process.
- Tāne Māori ki Kaitaia, we supported the delivery and attended a wānanga in Kaitaia, focused on tāne Māori and grounded in storytelling and whakawhanaungatanga. Giving time to our commitment as Te Tiriti partners and engagement continues to build trust and connection in the Te Hiku region.
- Te Whāriki E-Learning Module (Level 1 Refresher) development is underway. This is an evolution of Te Whāriki which will provide accessible, self-paced learning for those who have previously completed the programme and want to revisit key kaupapa and principles.



## Community Engagement

### 2025 Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards

The biennial Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards were held on June 26, 2025, at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, celebrating excellence in environmental protection across Te Taitokerau.

The kaitiaki arm of Te Rūnanga Nui O Te Aupōuri, Oranga Whenua Oranga Tangata Taiao, was the standout winner, receiving Te Tohu Matua – Supreme Award and Kaitiakitanga Award.

Their recognition reflects years of dedicated mahi restoring native ecosystems, protecting endangered species, and strengthening iwi connections to whenua through holistic environmental stewardship.

Category Award Winners:

- Bay of Islands International Academy – Environmental Action in Education
- Weed Action Native Habitat Restoration Trust – Environmental Action in the Community
- Tū Mai Rā Energy – Environmental Action in Business
- Piroa Conservation Trust – Environmental Action in Water Quality and Kiwi Coast Special Award
- Project Island Song – Protecting Native Life
- Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust - Te Pou Taiao – Climate Change Action
- Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust – Environmental Leadership
- Earth Buddies – Youth Environmental Leader

The event was livestreamed, with the Facebook post receiving strong engagement from the community. A photographer/videographer has been commissioned to capture content from each of the winners to help tell their stories and amplify the impact of their mahi. More information about the winners is available in the [media release](#) or on the [website](#).

### He Poutama Taitamariki Event

We were proud to take part in the youth-focused He Poutama Taitamariki event held in Whangārei, hosted by the Ministry of Social Development. Nearly 900 rangatahi aged 16–25 attended.

A key focus of our presence was to educate rangatahi about our mahi and encourage them to enrol to vote. With the Electoral Commission onsite, we got 135 rangatahi sign up to enrol.

## Digital engagement

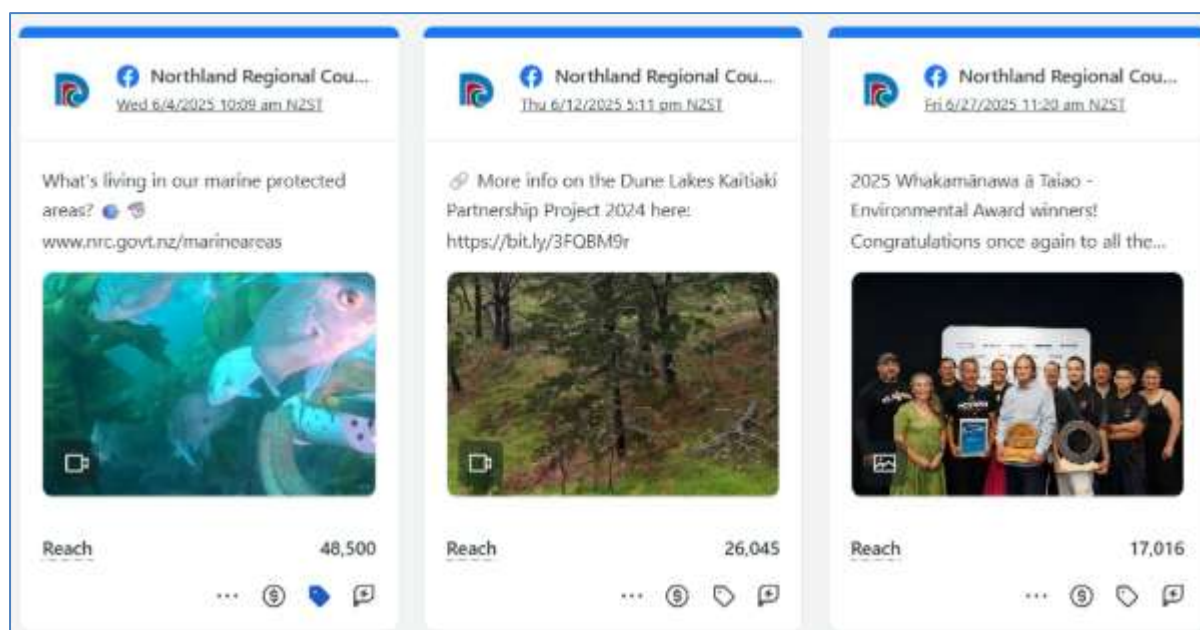
### Overall performance across social media platforms:

| Profile                         | Audience        | Net audience growth | Published posts | Impressions        | Engagements       | Engagement rate (per impression) | Video views       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Reporting period<br>1 – 30 June | 22,101<br>↑1.2% | 263<br>↑73%         | 94<br>↑213.3%   | 243,453<br>↑180.7% | 17,872<br>↑547.1% | 7.2%<br>↑134.8%                  | 89,426<br>↑123.1% |
| Compare to                      | 21,844          | 152                 | 30              | 87,792             | 2,762             | 3.1%                             | 40,086            |

| Profile    | Audience | Net audience growth | Published posts | Impressions | Engagements | Engagement rate (per impression) | Video views |
|------------|----------|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1 – 31 May |          |                     |                 |             |             |                                  |             |
| Facebook   | 15,357   | 138                 | 24              | 222,927     | 15,542      | 7%                               | 76,579      |
| LinkedIn   | 3,668    | 110                 | 7               | 11,549      | 2,036       | 17.6%                            | 1,075       |
| Instagram  | 2,482    | 10                  | 16              | 11,977      | 269         | 2.2%                             | 9,095       |
| YouTube    | 594      | 5                   | 47              | N/A         | 25          | N/A                              | 2,677       |

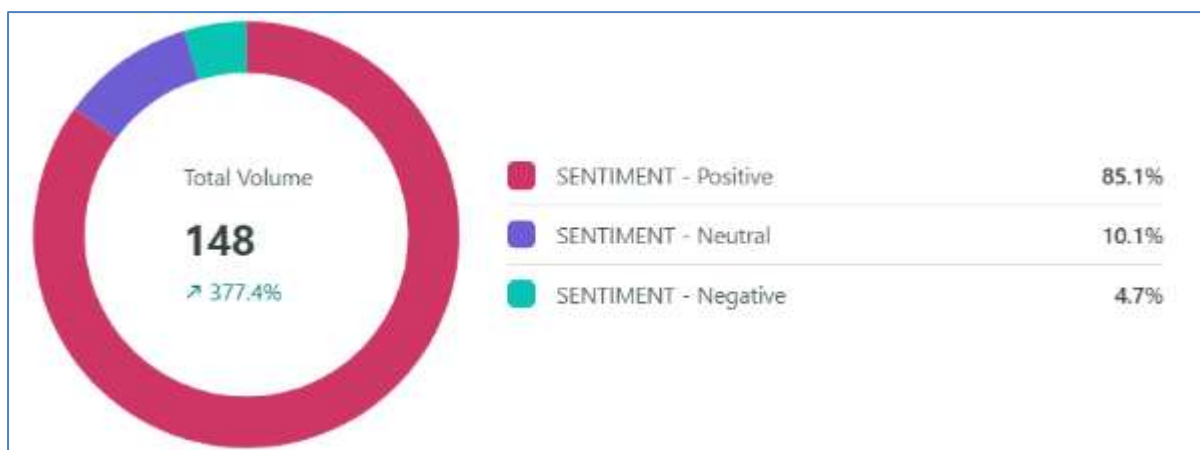
### Top three posts reaching the most people:

A reel with footage from the [MPA monitoring](#), a reel with footage of the pine felling as part of the [dune lakes project](#) and the wrap up post from the [environmental awards](#).



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

**Sentiment:** Most positive responses were received on the environmental awards post congratulating winners. There were few negative responses, but they were mostly around 1080 and general dislike of council.



**eNewsletters distributed during this period:**

- [Hills to Harbour | Issue 25](#): Subscribers: 632, Open-rate: 50%
- [Navigation Safety Bylaw review pānui](#): Subscribers: 539, Open-rate: 44.8%
- [Navigation Safety Bylaw review have your say](#): Subscribers: 383, Open-rate: 46.7%

**Top three website pages:**

- [Environmental Data Hub](#)
- [Pest Control Hub](#)
- [Kaeo webcam](#)

| Key Performance Indicators                | Feb-25 | Mar-25  | Apl-25  | May-25  | Jun-25 |
|---|--------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| <b>WEB</b>                                |        |         |         |         |        |
| # Visits to the NRC website               | 44,139 | 54,382  | 81,162  | 39,111  | 34,494 |
| E-payments made                           | 8      | 12      | 15      | 13      | 14     |
| # subscribed web alerts (cumulative)      | 1,662  | 1,676   | 1,690   | 1,709   | 1,722  |
| # subscribed to eNewsletters (cumulative) | 5,532  | 5,536   | 5,595   | 5,586   | 5,588  |
| <b>CDEM SOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)</b>     |        |         |         |         |        |
| # CDEM Facebook fans                      | 36,861 | 37,149  | 38,595  | 38,813  | 38,823 |
| # CDEM Overall Facebook Reach (30D)       | 30,436 | 336,937 | 863,803 | 273,378 | 78,620 |

**Media liaison**

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

- Nominations for Northland Regional Council open 04 July
- Te Aupōuri wins big at 2025 Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards
- 3.54% rates rise adopted
- CityLink, BusLink fares to increase from August
- Follow kauri dieback hygiene rules, NRC urges
- Follow the burning rules, urges NRC

A number of media enquiries were also received and responded to during June. Combined, this activity helped generate 105 items mentioning Northland Regional Council as reported by media monitoring agency Truescope.

### Community engagement support for the business

Throughout June, the Community Engagement team provided support to help achieve council objectives including:

- **Navigation Safety Bylaw review** – communications and promotional activity to support a second public feedback period on the Navigation Safety Bylaw, which runs until 28 July.
- **Elections 2025** – Over the past month, we've been working closely with an external agency to develop and launch a promotional and marketing campaign aimed at boosting participation in the upcoming elections. Our focus has been on encouraging enrolment and inspiring individuals to stand as candidates. We also partnered with district councils to host three joint information sessions for prospective candidates in Whangārei, Maungaturoto, and Kaikohe. These events were well attended, both in person and online.
- **Transport** - planning and delivery of public communication campaigns supporting key public transport updates in Te Taitokerau, including fare increases, restored bike access on CityLink buses, Matariki service changes, and the introduction of a T2 lane in Whangārei.
- **Marine protected areas** – Hosted annual communications planning hui with hapū partners.
- **Vehicles on Beaches** - continued to work with Compliance and Coastcare on the Vehicle Exclusion Zones information and education project, including production of replacement signs and an information flyer.
- **Biodiversity** - supported biodiversity initiatives by creating educational and promotional materials for the Dune Lakes Kaitiaki Partnership Project at Lake Rototuna, including signage and digital content, and developed new Coastcare signage for dune areas at Waipū and Langs Beach.

### Education

#### Whangārei Project Pest Control skills courses

This year two, 2-day Whangārei Project Pest Control courses were held at Kiwi North. Around 70 secondary school students attended. Tuition was provided by Biosecurity Partnerships, Predator Free, Animal Pest NZ and Health NZ. Highlights included new theory assessment activities, an interactive presentation of trapping technology by Predator Free and the fact that both possums and rats were caught overnight.



Ship rat destroyed via a kill trap.



Health and safety theory activity.

### Enviroschools action snapshot

| Learning and action  | School / Centre  |
|--|--|
| <b>Climate action</b> – whole school for Term 3 incorporating VR and ‘Ripple Effect’ game                                | Kaitaia Intermediate   |
| <b>Waste management</b> – student envirogroup leading visioning and mahi around composting, recycling and edible gardens | Otamatea High School   |
| <b>Avian Day</b> – whole school and linked to the NZ Garden Bird Survey  | Matarau School   |
| <b>Envirogroup</b> – student led mapping to advance their sustainable environment  | Riverview School   |
| <b>KMR</b> – planting natives to increase biodiversity and clean up the Kaipara Harbour                                  | Aranga, Arapohui, Kaihu Valley, Ruawai Primary and Tangowahine schools |
| <b>Wetland restoration</b>   | Aranga School  |
| <b>Animal and plant pests, seed-sourcing, planting and bird identification</b>   | Parua Bay School   |
| <b>Wetland macroinvertebrate investigation</b>   | Hurupaki School  |



Enviroschools and Bream Head Conservation Trust collab with Parua Bay School.

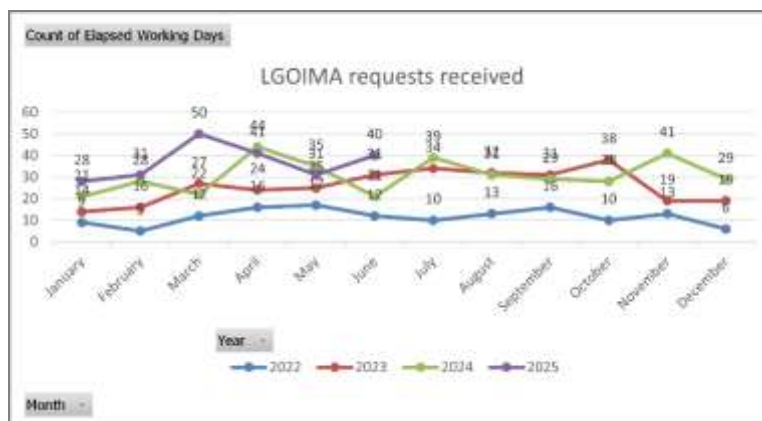


Enviroschools and Whitebait Connection collab with Hurupaki School.

### Facilitating Enviroschools communities

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

### Local Government Official Information Requests (LGOIMA)



In June 2025, we received 40 LGOIMA requests, 19 more than in June 2024. Despite this slight decrease, the overall trend shows an increase in LGOIMA requests each year, with 50 more requests compared to the same period in 2024.





### Triennial Elections 2025

Three future candidate information sessions were held in June in conjunction with the district councils. These events were interactive in format with a panel of experts (including representatives from council, Election Services Limited, and the Māori community).

Statistics from these events are as follows:

| Candidate Information Session | Date       | Location     | Number of attendees | Other key information   |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|---------------------|---|
| NRC - WDC                     | 11/06/2025 | Whangārei    | 50 in person        | More than 1000 online viewers stopping in to watch during the event and currently 268 views<br>Up to 20 people were watching online and over 2000 views of the video post event |
| NRC - KDC                     | 19/06/2025 | Maungaturoto | 16 in person        |   |
| NRC - FNDC                    | 25/06/2025 | Kaikohe      | 5 in person         | 127 views on Youtube channel  |

Nominations opened on Friday 5 July 2025 and close noon on Friday 1 August 2025. All relevant information is available on the NRC website: <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/elections2025>

## 7.4.8 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

### Transport

#### Fares Increase

Following approval from Council, staff commenced advertising through the press and social media about the fares increase set for 1 August 2025. Staff have also delivered pamphlets to the rural service operators for distribution on the buses. Pamphlets will be placed on buses and at termini during July 2025.

#### Whangarei T2 Lanes

Work continues on the Kamo to Whangarei T2 Lane project scheduled to be operational on Friday 4 July 2025. There are several items to be completed, including pedestrian crossing lights, installation of cameras and approval from the Whangarei District Council on the bylaw to prosecute for infringements. Staff will monitor the services on Friday 4 July 2025 and again when the schools reopen to gauge the impact on the running times of the buses on this route.

### Rose Street Bus Terminus

The Rose Street Bus Terminus new building was scheduled to become operative on Friday 4 July 2025. The Whangarei District Council has advised that this will be delayed due to the work not being completed. A new date is yet to be confirmed.

### Total Mobility Scheme (TM)

Total mobility Trips and client travel for June 2025:

- Whangarei – 1,576 clients undertaking 4,210 trips
- Far North – 412 clients undertaking 344 trips

### Total Mobility Scheme National Meeting

Staff organised and attended the national Total Mobility Scheme (TM) meeting at Auckland Transport on, Wednesday 18 June 2025. Agenda items covered included: -

- Progress on the Whitelisting of the TM cards recently introduced to allow for greater control over card use.
- SmartPay alternatives including the option of having EFTPOS machines linking directly to the present RIDEWISE system.
- The feasibility of the new national swipe card system being fully funded by NZTA.
- TM budgets.
- An in-depth discussion around the different regions views on moving from a 75% subsidy back to a 50% subsidy to allow existing budgets to cover the increase in client travel.

### Maritime

16 maritime incidents were reported in June; the majority related to accidents and drifting vessels in the various storms. The team conducted 5 skipper assistance trips supporting other departments.

The summer safety programme “Nobody’s stronger than Tangaroa” has been concluded following another successful year. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year the programme has run, this year saw the introduction of Wananga held at marae and in communities throughout Northland, the wananga were designed to deliver education and practical boating safety skills. These were run in conjunction with attendance at key events to promote key safer boating messages.



Wananga at Kowharewa Bay



Wananga at Ngatiwai Marae

In one serious incident Police Search and Rescue (SAR) contacted the Harbourmaster requesting assistance. A couple had called for help from a capsized boat outside Whangarei harbour. Coastguard were going to take a while to mobilise and reach the couple. The Commercial Deputy Harbourmaster called port services who advised the pilot boat was in the area and a rescue was coordinated. The couple were wet and very cold but otherwise unharmed. Both were wearing lifejackets which saved their lives when the vessel rolled over suddenly and sank. After the rescue other vessels in the vicinity were advised to look out for the wreck, while the NRC maritime team were mobilised. The capsized vessel was recovered and towed back to a beach for the owners.

In another incident a pontoon had drifted loose from a property in Whangaroa and ended up on an inaccessible beach south of Taupo Bay. The pontoons were constructed of concrete surrounding polystyrene blocks, which when they break up can spread tiny plastic balls over a huge area. In an all hands-on-deck response NRC staff from multiple departments, a local contractor and a helicopter cleared up the larger debris just in time before the next storm hit the area.

Maintenance work on buoys and beacons continues between weather events. A major upgrade of the Tutukaka leads was undertaken, with new and much more visible lead lights and the beacons repainted. This will significantly improve nighttime entry to the harbour. The Bay of Islands wave buoy broke its mooring in one storm, but by luck snagged before reaching the rocks and was salvaged by the maritime team before any damage resulted. It's now onshore for its annual maintenance.

## **Civil Defence**

### **Operational Update**

The CDEM team continues to strengthen its engagement with stakeholder groups and communities through a variety of initiatives, including Marae Preparedness workshops and Community Response Group hui. These efforts are complimented by a focus on internal collaboration, highlighted by the team's participation in the NRC Community Resilience Mid-Year Hui in Ōpua and a strategic planning session with NRC's Organisational Development team to help refine long-term direction.

To build capability and capacity, team members have undertaken Function Manager and Response Manager training at the WDC. In support of professional development and team cohesion, the team also attended Part 1 of the *Dealing with Conflict* workshop facilitated by Winsborough. Collectively, these initiatives contribute to a broader strategy aimed at enhancing strategic alignment, strengthening relationships, and fostering a more cohesive and resilient working environment.

### **Section 17A Review**

Initial engagement has commenced to procure the services of an external organisation to undertake a Section 17A Review of Civil Defence arrangements in Northland. A proposal has been received and is currently under evaluation.

## **Climate**

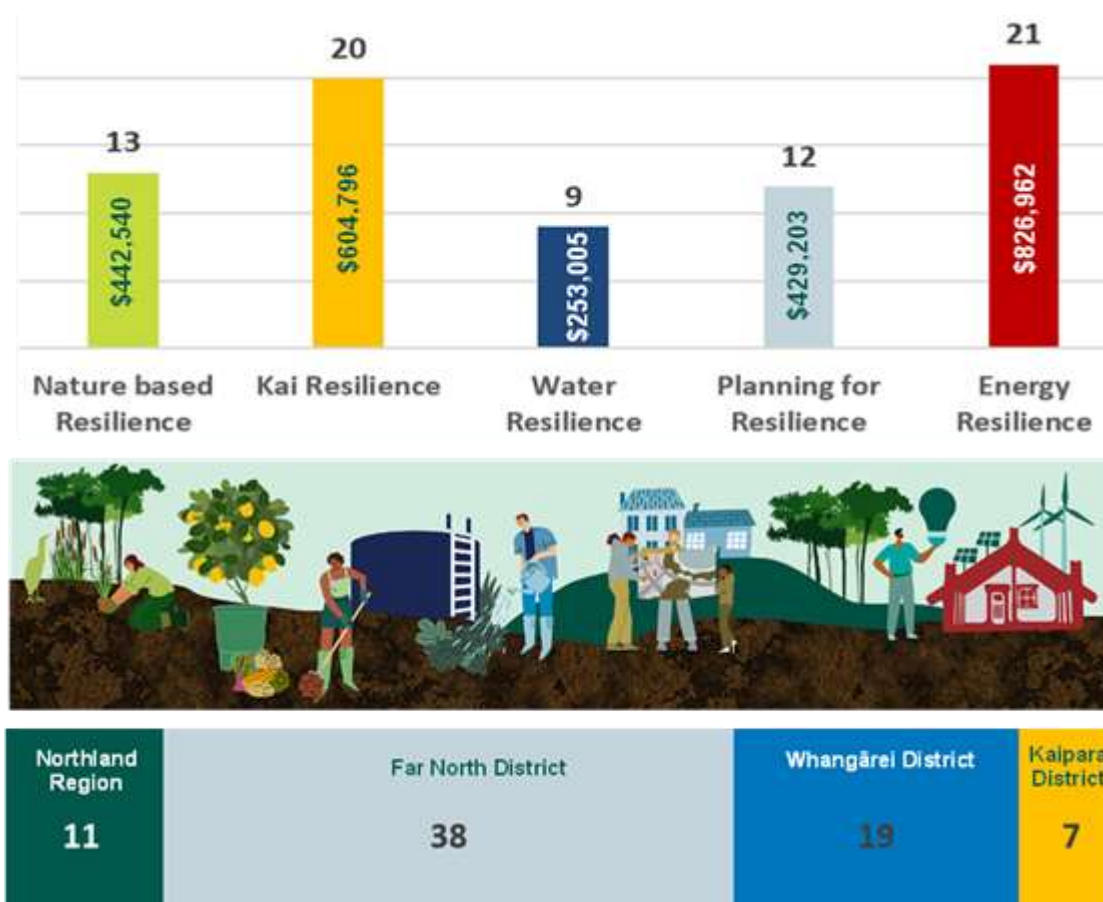
### **Climate Resilient Communities Fund**

The 2025 Climate Resilient Communities Fund (CRCF) received a total of 75 applications, requesting \$2.8 million (incl. GST). This is a moderate decrease from the 2024 round, with 96 applications seeking \$3.2 million. The fund was open for applications from 28 April to 3 June 2025.

All applications are currently being reviewed by staff using a structured assessment process. Each proposal is scored against a rubric aligned with the CRCF criteria, accompanied with general comments and recommendations. We are now in the due diligence phase, engaging directly with shortlisted applicants to refine project deliverables and contract terms. Successful recipients are



expected to be announced by the end of July 2025. A breakdown of applications received per impact area and district is below.



### NRC Staff Induction on Climate action

To facilitate our delivery of Ngā Taumata o Te Moana (how we will deliver our strategy for tackling climate change) Climate Action is now included in the staff induction process. The session outlines NRC's roles and actions in climate action as laid out in our implementation plan.

### Natural hazard information for LIMs

In line with the updates to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 and associated regulations, from 17 October 2025 district councils must provide natural hazard information in Land Information Memorandum and regional councils must provide district councils with hazard information. This information must be provided "as soon as is reasonably practicable in the circumstances". NRC best practice is to share hazard information with district councils as soon as it is published.

The associated regulations further clarify that where information is held by a regional council on its publicly accessible website, this meets the access requirements. NRC has a well-established and maintained hazard portal and online hazard maps, and is in a good position to comply with these new requirements. Staff are reviewing newly published guidance to ensure compliance.

For further reading, a good summary of the implementation requirements can be found on the Simpson Grierson website at: <https://www.simpsongrierson.com/insights-news/legal-updates/practical-suggestions-for-all-councils-preparing-natural-hazard-information-for-lims>

In June NRC hosted a regional hui of all councils in Northland to discuss compliance with the LGOMIA requirements associated with the new regulations and how NRC can support the district councils in meeting these new requirements. Staff have organised monthly regionwide catchups through the

rest of 2025 to support the implementation of these new requirements and to allow district councils to share their learnings and implementation strategy.

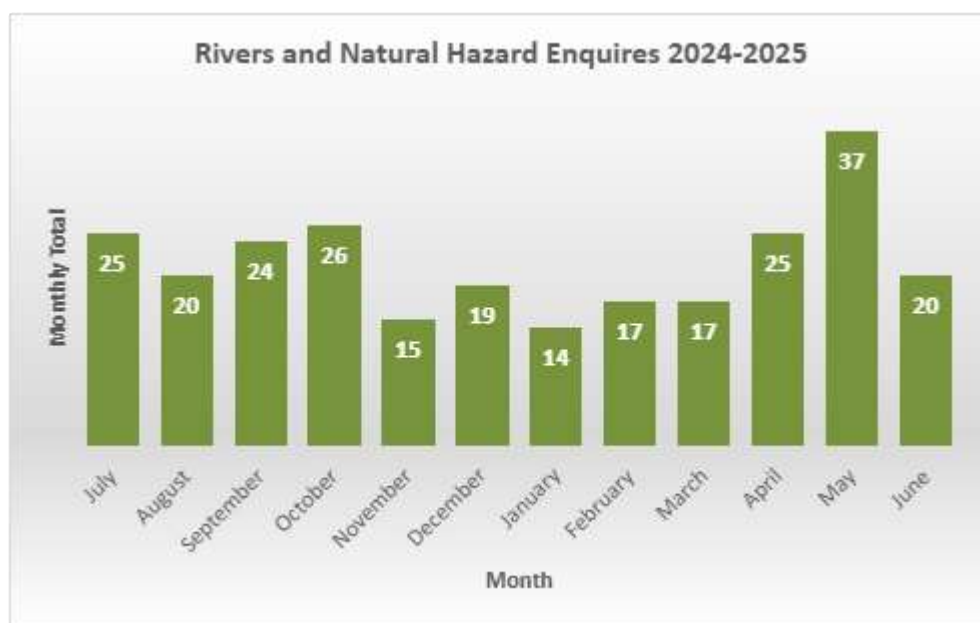
### Dargaville Presentation

On Monday 23 June 2025 the Natural Hazards and Rivers Team presented on the draft of the new Wairoa Flood Hazard Maps and the bathymetric cross sections of the Wairoa River undertaken in support of the project.

The cross sections of the Wairoa River show that there was a significant amount of scour in the river after Cyclone Gabrielle and a small amount of sediment accumulation in the past two years in areas of low flow. This is expected behaviour for a sediment heavy river such as the Wairoa. The new flood maps were shared with attendees and the importance of ground truthing the results so that locals can be confident in the model outputs was discussed. NRC staff will work with KDC to draw up a plan to undertake ground truthing with the community.

### Rivers and Natural Hazard Enquiries

The Rivers and Natural Hazards Teams received 20 enquiries for June. The majority of these were related to flood depth information, with several enquiries focused on coastal hazards.



### Rivers

#### Kaeo Stage 2

Over the next month staff expect to receive the resource consent for this project and to have completed the purchase of the land blocks required for the project. Rock from a nearby subdivision is being procured which will be delivered once the land is purchased, saving the construction budget around \$60,000. Environmental civil additions are being added to the design and tender documents will be ready to go live on GETS once finalised.

Rivers & Hydrology staff have scoped a new river gauge site on the corner of Omaunu Rd and State Highway 10 to confirm a suitable location for the gauge and camera prior to construction start date.

#### Upper Kawakawa Catchment Nature Based Solution Project

This project is complete and a story map has been created to show the outputs which includes the various options available for a nature based solution. The land management team will take ownership of the data from this project as it more closely aligns with their work. Staff are presenting a webinar on the project on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **Otiria Swale Drain - Kingi Road Works**

Contamination testing of the site is being undertaken to inform staff if the excavated material can remain onsite or if it will have to be removed. Savings can be made if the excavated material can remain on site. An application has been made for the resource consent and the community have confirmed that they are happy with the current plan.

#### **Northland Flood Affected Marae – Mangamuka Marae**

There has been steady progress with flood mitigation works through June despite the weather and ground conditions. Benching and rock revetment are 98% complete and the deflection bund 85% complete. Works are on track to wrap up main components around mid-July. The site will be put into over-wintering status and a crew will return to reinstate fencing in early spring. NRC staff are working closely with hapū to keep them informed of progress.



NFAM – Mangamuka Marae Rock Revetment

#### **Quarry Road Bridge**

A major milestone was reached on Thursday 26 June 2025, with a blessing held for the opening of the Quarry Road bridge extension. The road is now open under an active traffic management system much to the relief of the local community. Mana whenua representing Ōturū marae (Ngāti Kahu) generously provided karakia and unveiled the name 'Waiokiore' for the bridge. The name 'Waiokiore' holds historical significance, reflecting a time when the awa and surrounding whenua were abundant with Kiore, a river delicacy remembered by our tūpuna.





Quarry Road Bridge (Waiokiore) - Blessing Ceremony



Quarry Road Bridge (Waiokiore) - Cross-section (before)



Quarry Road Bridge (Waiokiore) - Cross-section (after)

#### **7.4.9 KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION**

##### **KMR wins another award**

Kaipara Moana Remediation was recently recognised at the 2025 Kaipara District Environmental Awards, winning the Environmental Action in the Community Award. This Award recognises individuals or groups who show leadership in collaborative work within the community to improve the environment.

KMR was particularly acknowledged for the scale and pace of our efforts to protect and restore the Kaipara harbour, both in the Kaipara District and across the wider catchment in Northland and Auckland. We would like to thank our co-nominators Phil Halse (Whangārei Deputy Mayor) and Jack Craw (Northland Regional Councillor) for their support.

This Award, the fourth award KMR has won in 3½ years of operations, now hangs proudly in our office space. KMR remains in the running for the prestigious international Earthshot Prize 2025, with an announcement about whether we have made it through to the global finals expected in late August or early September.

### **Winter 2025 Planting**

As at 11 June 2025, almost halfway through the winter planting season, KMR has planted or contracted to plant a total of 686,333 stems (trees / plants) this winter, 623,279 of which are natives. A further 63,054 stems are awaiting contract.

KMR is therefore well on track to exceed our overall planting targets for winter 2025, as well as meet our pre-allocation commitments to KMR's accredited nurseries. As always, we expect there to be 'unders' and 'overs' in terms of individual nursery allocations. However, we are tracking roughly 6 weeks ahead of last winter in terms of contracted numbers, and remain confident that we can effectively manage any 'unders' at the end of the planting season. Currently, only three of our nurseries are 'under' their allocation with two of these expected to exceed their allocation if contracts in the pipeline are confirmed.

### **KMR Performance**

As at 30 June 2025, 3½ years into operational delivery, KMR has delivered the following results on the ground:

#### Nature & Resilience

- 2.67 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant this winter
- 1,422 hectares planted or contracted, or regenerating into native forest
- Over 1,000 km of fencing completed or contracted – the same distance as from Cape Rēinga to Wellington!
- Over 144,000 hectares managed under KMR plans.

#### Jobs & Skills

- 390,000 hours of new work – a year's work for over 252 people
- >\$26 million invested in restoration projects
- 51 local businesses and nurseries accredited to supply KMR
- 217 people trained and mentored, many from local iwi/hapū, to advise on project design and delivery.

#### Participation

- 1,321 landowners/groups have expressed interest in KMR
- 862 plans completed with landowners/groups
- 132 more plans in development
- 93 projects led by hapū, marae, community groups, catchment groups and other collectives.

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**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE:** **Legislative compliance half yearly report January - June 2025**

**From:** Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 07  
**Group Manager/s:** July 2025

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### **Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

This report presents the findings of council's legislative compliance programme for the six-month period 1 January – 30 June 2025

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

That the report 'Legislative compliance half yearly report January - June 2025' by Samuel van Hout, Corporate Policy Analyst and dated 27 June 2025, be received.

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### **Background/Tuhinga**

The Office of the Auditor-General encourages local authorities to apply a systematic process to managing the legal risks that might arise in relation to the functions and activities that they are responsible for.

Council's current legislative compliance framework provides assurance for compliance with legislation that is fundamental to the council's operations and/or poses significant potential risk (core legislation). Core legislation includes:

- Council's own rules, policies and bylaws
- The Local Government Act 2002
- The Local Government (Financial Reporting and Prudence) Regulations 2014
- The Non-Financial Performance Measures Rules 2013
- The local Government Borrowing Act 2011
- The Local Government (Rating) Act 2002
- The Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987
- Local Government (Pecuniary Interests Register) Amendment Act 2022
- The Local Authorities (Member's Interests) Act 1968
- The Resource Management Act 1991
- The Health and Safety at Work Act 2015

- The Holidays Act 2003
- The Employment Relations Act 2000
- The Biosecurity Act 1993
- The Building Act 2004
- The Civil Defence and Emergency Management Act 2002
- The Land Transport Act 1998
- The Maritime Transport Act 1994
- The Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017
- The Privacy Act 2020
- The Public Records Act 2005
- The Goods and Services Tax Act 1985
- The Residential Tenancies Act 1956
- The following settlement acts:
  - Ngāti Kuri Claims Settlement Act 2015;
  - Te Aupōuri Claims Settlement Act 2015;
  - NgāiTakoto Claims Settlement Act 2015;
  - Te Rarawa Claims Settlement Act 2015;
  - Te Hiku Omnibus Settlement Acts.
  - Ngāti Kahu Accumulated Rentals Trust Act, 2015
  - NgāiTakoto Claims Settlement Act 2015

There are several other pieces of legislation that also have relevance to council operations, but compliance is managed via other internal processes and procedures and not reported here.

Legislative compliance reporting is completed six-monthly by group managers. Reporting requires group managers to confirm compliance (or otherwise) with the relevant legislation and identify action that has been carried out to ensure that council is aware of any new legislation or regulations. Group managers must sign a declaration confirming their level of compliance.

Group managers stay informed of legislative amendments via ComplyWith, Te Haeata Portal, ListServes, national steering groups, parliamentary alerts, legal advice, advisors, and audit processes.

Reporting has been completed for the six-month period 1 January – 30 June 2025, and the results are reported here by exception.



The Regulatory Services Group indicated in this reporting period the new Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 as being core legislation as it places obligations on the Northland Regional Council as a local authority and a consent authority. The Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 will be included in this reporting period and the legislative compliance policy will be updated to reflect this in due course. Reporting over this last period indicated that compliance was achieved with all of council's core legislation, with exception to the following:

- There was an investigation into some minor work that was carried out by the rivers team. The outcome of this investigation found that flood mitigation works were undertaken without the required resource consents. Council was issued a total of six infringements for the unauthorised works (two section 9(2) breaches and 4 section 13 RMA breaches – total fine \$2,600). This matter was reported to the May 2025 Audit and Risk Committee meeting, where committee members sought clarification and noted that NRC have since obtained resource consent and reviewed policies, procedures, and have put in place provisions to ensure compliance.
- The initial consultation for the review of the maritime bylaw was not fully compliant with the Local Government Act 2002. This is being re-consulted on so that it is now fully compliant.

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#### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE: Receipt of Committee Minutes**

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

**Authorised by** Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Governance and Engagement, on  
**Group Manager/s:** 15 July 2025

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**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**


That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Civil Defence Emergency Management Group – 3 June 2025 and
- Regional Transport Committee – 10 June 2025

be received.

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**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Civil Defence Emergency Management Group [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Regional Transport Committee [↓](#) 

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting  
3 June 2025

## Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 3 June 2025, commencing at 11:30 am - 1:00pm

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, FNDC Deputy Mayor Kelly Stratford  
Deputy Chairperson, WDC Mayor Vincent Cocurullo  
FENZ Representative, Wipari Henwood  
KDC Councillor, Gordon Lambeth  
NEMA Representative, Mike Gillooly  
NZ Police Representative, Matthew Srhoj (online)  
NRC alternate Tui Shortland (online)  
WDC alternate Nicholas Connop

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

CEG Chair, Simon Weston  
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle  
NRC GM Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt  
NEMA Senior Regional Emergency Management Advisor, Matthew Bramhall  
KDC Gillian Bruce  
Deputy CEG Chair, Jason Marris  
Welfare Specialist, Kylie Cox  
Emergency Management Recovery Specialist, Mark Trudinger  
Emergency Management Specialist, Bill Hutchinson  
Emergency Manager, Damian Rio  
Emergency Management Specialist, Laura Exton  
Emergency Management Specialist, Kori Puckey  
Emergency Management Specialist, James Harvey  
Emergency Management Specialist, Tony Devanney  
Emergency Management Iwi Engagement, Papanui Polamalu  
Emergency Management Response Specialist, Jenny Calder  
NRC Natural Hazards Advisor, Anna Talbot

The Chair opened the meeting at 11.45am with a karakia. As per Standing Order 11.5 'Meeting lapses where no quorum' this was 15 minutes after the advertised start time of the meeting to allow for members who were known to be travelling to the meeting but delayed.

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

### Ngā whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting  
3 June 2025

**Moved (Stratford / Cocurullo)**

That the apologies from Councillor Stolwerk for non-attendance be received. Noted apologies from non-members – Ruben Garcia, Cr MacDonald, Cr Robinson, Zach Woods, Brendon Gray

**Carried**

**Nga whakapuakanga/Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 3.0)**

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

**Confirmation of Minutes - 4 March 2025 (Item 4.1)**

**Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience**

**Moved (Lambeth / Stratford)**

That the minutes of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group meeting held on 4 March 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated by the Chair.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Amendment made to 4 March 2025 minutes for Deputy chair Vince Cocurullo to part meeting attendance.*

**Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)**

**Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience**

**Moved (Stratford / Cocurullo)**

That the action sheet be received.

**Carried**

**National Emergency Management Agency Update (Item 6.1)**

**Report from Mike Gillooly, NEMA representative**

**Moved (Cocurullo / Lambeth)**

That the report 'National Emergency Management Agency Update' by Mike Gillooly, NEMA representative and dated 21 March 2025 be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Budget decisions were made before this meeting with some agencies required to find savings. NEMA's budget remained unchanged at \$53 million for the 2025-2026 financial year and while there were no cuts to the current budget, there was no additional funding for the Resilience Fund. Agencies were invited to make submissions for increased funding for cost pressures or specific projects. NEMA is recruiting three staff members as they were not asked to find 6% savings for staff.*

*Explained the Emergency Management System Improvement Programme, which includes 15 initiatives recommended by the Minister for Emergency Management to improve the system.. The programme will be funded on a case-by-case basis, and the Minister will make announcements in June regarding the programme.*

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*The Minister intends to introduce a new bill into Parliament this term (Emergency Management Bill). The team received over 400 submissions, and they are working to meet the timeframes for the bill.*

## **Coordinating Executive Group Chairpersons Report (Item 7.1)**

**Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager**

**Moved (Lambeth / Cocurullo)**

That the report 'Coordinating Executive Group Chairpersons Report' by Damian Rio, dated 12 May be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Discussed the recent testing of the tsunami sirens, The new network of 89 tsunami sirens was tested across the region. Some issues were identified, related to the activation process and cell phone/satellite connections including the length of time the sirens were activated and connection problems. While there were some issues with the activation process activation identified, including the length of time the sirens were activated and connection problems. The overall test was positive and the remaining sirens will be online in September.*

*Discussed the ongoing costs associated with the new tsunami sirens, including software fees and the need for spares. Each council will need to cover these costs. Some councils are facing challenges in covering the increased costs, leading to discussions about funding and prioritisation.*

*CEG chair reminded the committee to ensure that civil defence and emergency management training is included in the induction for new elected members. This will help them understand their responsibilities and the importance of funding for emergency management.*

**Actions:**

1. **NRC to provide a breakdown of the ongoing costs for tsunami sirens and final costs to each council.**
2. **All Councils to ensure that civil defence and emergency management training is included in the election training for new elected members**

## **Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group (Item 7.2)**

**Report from Kylie Cox, Emergency Management Specialist and Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager**

**Moved (Stratford / Cocurullo)**

1. That the report 'Membership and appointments – Northland CDEM Group ' by Kylie Cox, Emergency Management Specialist and Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated, 21 May 2025 be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes: The police provided an update on their emergency management structures and business continuity plans. Mentioned that they have identified some gaps that need to be filled. Gave thanks for being included on the bill.*

*FENZ provided an update that we have a respite from fire but there is more rain predicted. Trying to be prepared and pre-position available resourcing. Flood modelling work will assist in the preparations. Improving technology will support their efforts moving forwards.*

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### **Community Response Planning and Marae Preparedness Planning (Item 8.1)**

**Report from Papanui Polamalu, Emergency Management - Iwi/hapū Engagement Advisor; Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager; Tony Devanney, Emergency Management Specialist; Bill Hutchinson, Emergency Management Specialist and Kylie Cox, Emergency Management Specialist**

#### **Moved (Stratford / Lambeth)**

That the report 'Community Response Planning and Marae Preparedness Planning' by Papanui Polamalu, Emergency Management - Iwi/hapū Engagement Advisor; Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager; Tony Devanney, Emergency Management Specialist; Bill Hutchinson, Emergency Management Specialist and Kylie Cox, Emergency Management Specialist and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

#### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: The committee addressed the issue of scheduling conflicts with the annual Northland CDEM Forum and council meetings. They agreed to communicate to coordinate with all Councils to avoid such conflicts in the future.*

*Group Recovery Manager provided an update on the recovery efforts following Cyclone Gabrielle. He showcased a visual representation of nearly 1000 data points of the various projects and funding received, including solar systems, community response groups, and temporary accommodation. The data collected from the Cyclone Gabrielle recovery efforts will be used for future projects and strategic planning. This includes identifying areas that need solar systems and combining data with national hazard status. Data will be combined with national hazard status to strategically plan the locations of resources in communities. MBIE has offered over \$1 million to fund 14 more sites for solar systems, allowing for strategic placement based on collected data.*

*The committee discussed the need for more accurate weather data and mentioned the inadequacy of current weather stations in Northland. They highlighted the importance of having good data to inform accurate forecasts and for emergency response and planning.*

#### **Actions:**

1. Investigate the possibility of obtaining more weather stations for Northland.
2. Add the CDEM annual forum coordination with Councils to the July CEG agenda for the chair to address

### **Submission on Emergency Management Bill (Item 8.2)**

**Report from Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager**

#### **Moved (Cocurullo/ Lambeth)**

1. That the report 'Submission on Emergency Management Bill' by Damian Rio, CDEM Emergency Manager and dated 13 May 2025, be received.
2. That That the Northland CDEM Group Joint Committee retrospectively approve the attached submission on the Emergency Management (EM) Bill Discussion Document.

#### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: The consultation process included several workshops attended by different groups and the Minister, setting a positive tone for future submissions.*

*The CEG chair, CDEM chair and deputy CDEM chair acknowledged the hard work done by the team in preparing the submission, highlighting the thoroughness and organisation of the process. NEMA acknowledged for thoroughness.*

*The group need to be ready to come together in October to read/workshop the bill.*

Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Meeting  
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**Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

The meeting concluded at 12.32pm.

Un-confirmed

Regional Transport Committee  
10 June 2025

## Regional Transport Committee Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 10 June 2025, commencing at 10:30 am

### Present:

Chairperson, NRC Councillor Joe Carr  
Deputy Chairperson, NRC Councillor John Blackwell  
FNDC Councillor Steve McNally (online)  
WDC Councillor, Simon Reid (arrived 10.59am)  
KDC Councillor, Ash Nayyar  
Waka Kotahi Director Regional Relationships, Steve Mutton  
KiwiRail Programme Director Northland, Eric Hennephof (arrived 1230pm)

### In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

NRC Group Manager - Community Resilience, Louisa Gritt  
NRC Transport Manager, Chris Powell  
NRC Secretariat, Haylee Labelle  
NRC Regional Transport Coordinator, Kayla Gunson  
FNDC Councillor - alternate, Ann Court  
KDC Councillor – alternate, Rachel Williams (online)  
KDC Acting Roading Manager, Curt Martin  
WDC GM Infrastructure, Jim Sephton  
WDC Programme Manager - Road Safety Promotion, Nicole Korach  
AA Representative, Tracey Risetto  
Northland Road Safety Trust, Ashley Johnson  
National Harvest Planning and Engineering Manager at Manulife Forest Management, Geoff Gover

#### Part Meeting

WDC Councillor – alternate, Phil Halse (arrived 10.59am)  
NZ Transport Agency – Principal Investment Advisor, Martin Taylor (online – arrived 11.09am)  
WDC Transportation Strategy and Planning Lead - Nick Marshall

The Chair declared the meeting open at 10.31am.

### Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

### Apologies (Item 2.0)

#### Moved (Carr/ Nayyar)

That the apologies from Councillor Crawford for non-attendance be received. That apologies for lateness for Cr Reid be received. It was observed as we arrived at item 7.3 that Eric Hennephof would be late and it was moved (Carr/Reid) that apologies for lateness be accepted and item deferred.



Regional Transport Committee  
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**Carried**

### **Declarations of Conflicts of Interest (Item 3.0)**

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

### **Confirmation of Minutes - 1 April 2025 (Item 4.1)**

**Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience**

**Moved (Blackwell/ Carr)**

That the minutes of the Regional Transport Committee meeting held on 1 April 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated by the Chair.

**Carried**

### **Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 5.1)**

**Report from Haylee Labelle, Personal Assistant Community Resilience**

**Moved (Nayyar/ Carr)**

That the action sheet be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes: It was noted that action 5 is completed. The consultant has included the detour routes into the study, this was to be presented at the RTC workshop in the afternoon. Action tracker since updated to reflect this.*

*Cr Nayyar tabled a letter of appreciation sent from KDC to NZTA for the extension of the bespoke funding assistance rate. This was circulated to RTC members.*

### **Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - National Funding Assistance Uptake Report (Item 6.1)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

**Moved (Blackwell/ Carr)**

That the report 'Regional Land Transport Plan 2021/2027 - National Funding Assistance Uptake Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes:*

*NZTA has completed their biggest season yet for Northland, successfully delivering the first year of a major road rebuild programme under the 2024-2027 NLTP period. Over the season (Sep 2024 – May 2025) NZTA have renewed approx. 204 lane km of state highway – including about 26 lane km rebuilt, 18.52 lane km resurfaced and 159 lane km resealed (including skid resistance improvements WDC highlighted the progress on transport choices funding, mentioning the opening of the T2 lanes and bus hub on 4th July, which involved good collaboration with NRC. They discussed the emergency works programme, noting that some works would carry over to the next financial year due to the complexity of business cases. Contracts for emergency works were awarded, and expenditures were expected to increase in the coming months. FNDC advised that they would be discussing the progress of emergency works and the potential for carryovers to the next financial year with NZTA.*

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### **Chair's Report (Item 7.1)**

#### **Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

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

That the report 'Chair's Report' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 3 June 2025, be received.

##### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Geoff Gover provided an update on the Brynderwyns alternate route development, acknowledging the contributions of various individuals Phil Halse, Ken Rintoul, Craig Greenfield, and Nigel Ross, who provided local knowledge and technical expertise to develop the route alignment proposal.*

*The team used sophisticated road design software employing AI to explore different route options, which were then refined with input from geologists and WSP designers to avoid unstable areas. Mentioned the need for financial input to proceed with the project and noted that he was attending a board meeting to determine the budget for the next financial year. The chair thanked Geoff and everyone who contributed to the report ex-gratia for Northland.*

##### **Action**

1. **(Blackwell/Nayyar) Letter of thanks to be drafted and sent by the Chair to key individuals that contributed to the report**

### **Road Controlling Authority Reports (Item 7.2)**

#### **Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

##### **Moved (Blackwell/ Nayyar)**

That the report 'Road Controlling Authority Reports' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and dated 13 May 2025, be received.

##### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: In the absence of a written report, FNDC provided a verbal update on the financial information related to road maintenance and renewals, highlighting the completion of bridge projects, footbridge construction, and the progress on water table cleaning and resurfacing.*

### **NZTA Waka Kotahi Update for Te Tai Tokerau (Item 7.3)**

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

##### **Moved (Mutton/ Carr)**

That the report 'NZTA Waka Kotahi Update for Te Tai Tokerau' by Steve Mutton, NZTA - Director Regional Relationships, Te Tai Tokerau me Tāmaki Makaurau and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

##### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: The current focus is on the Northern Corridor (there are 100 staff working on this project) with the procurement for the PPP for the first section (Warkworth to Te Hana) underway. EOI phase closed and will shortlist for request for proposal mid this year with the preferred bidder expected to be selected early next year for a late 2026 construction start.*

Regional Transport Committee  
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*Te Hana to Marsden – The preferred corridor was announced in April. The team are yet to talk with affected landowners. Information days will be held. The investment case is on track to go to the board in September.*

*Repairs on the Mangamuka Gorge are completed, including slip tidy-up after the April rainfall. The gorge performed well during recent adverse weather.*

*Loop Road project is on track for completion in the third quarter of 2025, and the programme of speed limit reversals on impacted state highways was nearing completion.*

*Discussed the safety camera in Kawakawa, it has achieved 94% compliance (now 100km), and the upcoming installation of a point-to-point average speed camera on the Kaitaia-Awaroa Road.*

*The speed limit increased on the Auckland/Northern gateway to 110km. Speed reversals are nearly completed, due 1 July.*

*Mobile safety cameras on roadsides have been taken over by NZTA but NZP will continue to issue notices as detected. NZTA took over both fixed and mobile speed cameras.*

#### **KiwiRail Update (Item 7.4)**

**Report from Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland**

**Moved (Carr/ Reid)**

That the report 'KiwiRail Update' by Eric Hennephof, KiwiRail - Programme Director Northland and dated 15 April 2025, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial notes: The reference design for the Marsden Rail link has been substantially completed with the majority of the land purchased. KiwiRail to complete detailed business case which will be presented to Ministers for the next steps and they await the decision on the next steps. To finalise reference design points and undertaking a cultural impact assessment report. Lodging a designation change to WDC this week away from Māori land block and reduce the cut on Mata Hill. Following the meeting NZTA forwarded the contact details for UNISA to NRC Transport Manager and NRC Secretariat.*

**Action (Reid/Blackwell)**

1. Chair to send a letter to the Kiwi Rail board chair (copy to Minister for Rail, District Councils, UNISA (Upper North Island Strategic Alliance) to acknowledge and support the reference design and support the detailed business case going through. To thank KiwiRail (Eric) for diligence and the significant achievement in completing the reference design
2. (Carr/Blackwell) Chair to write to Kiwi Rail and Auckland Council on behalf of the RTC to support the development of the Southbound line and its connection to the northern line to ensure that it is included in their RLTP development.

#### **Regional Road Safety Report (Item 7.5)**

**Report from Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager and Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council**

**Moved (Carr/ Blackwell)**

That the report 'Regional Road Safety Report' by, Nicole Cauty, Road Safety Project Manager and Nick Marshall, Transportation Strategy & Planning Lead, dated 28 May 2025, be received.

**Carried**

Regional Transport Committee  
10 June 2025

*Secretarial notes: Highlighted the success of Road Safety Week thanking partners NZTA, St John, New Zealand Police, and others for their support. The week included child restraint checks and media coverage of community road safety heroes.*

*Discussed statistics on fatal injuries, noting that there were 12 fatalities so far this year compared to 21 at the same time last year. Mentioned the age group most at risk and the role of restraints in preventing fatalities.*

*Mentioned the ongoing challenges with seatbelt compliance in Northland, noting that research showed generational habits and a lack of engagement with traditional media as contributing factors. Inspector Anne Marie-Fitchett has been replaced by John Fagan as the lead for Road Safety in Northland.*

#### **Actions**

- 1. Road Safety Project Manager to invite John Fagan NZP to a future RTC meeting**
- 2. Road Safety project Manager to forward contact details for John Fagan to NRC Secretariat to add to future RTC meeting invites**

#### **Committee Members Priorities and Updates (Item 7.6)**

**Report from Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator**

**Moved (Reid/ Blackwell)**

1. That the report 'Committee Members Priorities and Updates' by Chris Powell, Transport Manager - Northland Regional Council and Kayla Gunson, Regional Transport Coordinator and dated 26 May 2025, be received.

#### **Carried**

*Secretarial notes: Cr Nayyar discussed the proposed district plan in Kaipara, which would allow for subdivision and development in the area, raising concerns about the need for speed limit reductions on State Highway 14 which is currently 100km. Cr Nayyar expressed concerns about the condition of the bridge strengthening, noting that the work was done to accommodate heavy vehicles for wind farm construction, but the bumps created were dangerous for vehicles entering the town at high speed. NZTA confirmed that bridge strengthening work was being undertaken to enable all heavy vehicles to use to bridge at the required level of service and that this work was not specifically for the wind farm construction traffic.*

*Discussed the issue of dirt bike riders causing public nuisance and the need for police enforcement to address the problem. Concerns about funding restraints and Police focus on high speed enforcement to address the problem. A meeting with the district commander has been recommended for RTC chair and NZTA to discuss the issue.*

*General discussion about roundabouts in future planning and needs for additional lanes. Specifically Spring Flat. It is understood that this is a WDC led project. NZTA happy to discuss further offline.*

*Principal Investment Advisor from NZTA is retiring and was acknowledged by the RTC for his contributions.*

*WDC has been involved in monthly meetings with KiwiRail. Recognised the importance of the southbound line for connecting to the northbound line. The RTC wish to express support for the Southbound line.*

*NZTA is aware of the concerns raised about Normandy Street, confirmed that there is no active project here. It is not likely to attract funding under this GPS as it doesn't qualify.*

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**Action:**

1. (Carr/Nayyar) Chair to send a letter of appreciation to NZTA Principal Investment Advisor (Martin Taylor) for his contributions to Northland.

**Conclusion**

The meeting concluded at 1200.

un-confirmed

## TITLE: Business with the Public Excluded

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### Whakarāpopototanga / Executive Summary

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

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### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendations

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

| Item No. | Item Issue  | Reasons/Grounds   |
|----------|---|---|
| 9.1      | Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 24 June 2025   | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, as stated in the open section of the meeting -.   |
| 9.2      | Externally Managed Funds:<br>Recommendation to Exit Councils<br>Investment in Castlerock Partners | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage s7(2)(j).  |
| 9.3      | Kaipara Service Centre (KSC) Tenancies  | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i). |
| 9.4      | Northport Group Limited Shareholders<br>Resolution  | The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h).  |

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

#### 1. Significance and Engagement

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

#### 2. Policy and Legislative Compliance

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

**3. Other Considerations**

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