

# **AGENDA**

**Council**

**Wednesday 17 December 2025 at 10.00am**

## Northland Regional Council Agenda

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Wednesday 17 December 2025, commencing at 10.00am

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

RĪMITI (Item)	Page
<b>1.0 NGĀ MAHI WHAKAPAI / HOUSEKEEPING</b>	
<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>	
<b>2.0 KARAKIA TIMATANGA – TAUĀKI Ā ROTO / OPENING KARAKIA</b>	
<b>3.0 NGĀ WHAKAPĀHA / APOLOGIES</b>	
<b>4.0 NGĀ WHAKAPUAKANGA / DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>5.0 NGĀ WHAKAAE MINITI ME TE MAHERE MAHI / COUNCIL MINUTES AND ACTION SHEET</b>	
5.1 Confirmation of Minutes - 25 November 2025	6
5.2 Receipt of Action Sheet	18
<b>6.0 NGĀ RIPOATA PUTEA / FINANCIAL REPORTS</b>	
6.1 Financial Report 30 November 2025	20
<b>7.0 NGĀ TAKE / DECISION MAKING MATTERS</b>	
7.1 Membership on Governance Bodies	21
7.2 2026 Meeting Calendar	26

<b>7.3</b>	Adoption of updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy	30
<b>7.4</b>	Elected Members Communications Policy	53
<b>7.5</b>	Business Case for Flood Mitigation Long Term Plan Projects	61
<b>7.6</b>	Delegations for submissions on resource management reforms and fast track application	67
<b>7.7</b>	Fast Track Approvals Application - Bream Bay Sand Mining	71
<b>7.8</b>	Madagascar Ragwort	75
<b>7.9</b>	Membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)	82
<b>7.10</b>	Triennial Agreement for the 2025-2028 triennium	86
<b>7.11</b>	Te Ruarangi Working Party - Appointments	100
<b>8.0</b>	<b>NGĀ RIPOATA MAHI / OPERATIONAL REPORTS</b>	
<b>8.1</b>	Chair's Report to Council	101
<b>8.2</b>	Chief Executive's Report to Council	106
<b>9.0</b>	<b>KAUPAPA Ā ROTO / BUSINESS WITH THE PUBLIC EXCLUDED</b>	134
<b>9.1</b>	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 25 November 2025	
<b>9.2</b>	Progressing a Small-scale Property Redevelopment	

<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>BCP</b> – Business Continuity Planning</p> <p><b>CAPEX</b> - Capital Expenditure (budget to purchase assets)</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>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>DOC</b> - Department of Conservation</p> <p><b>DP</b> – District Plan</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>GIS</b> - Geographic Information System</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>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>LTP</b> - Long Term Plan</p> <p><b>LWDW</b> – Local Waters Done Well</p> <p><b>MACC</b> – Multi-Agency Co-ordination Centre</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>MOU</b> – Memorandum of Understanding</p> <p><b>MTAG</b> - Māori Technical Advisory Group</p> <p><b>MWAR</b> - Mana Whakahono Ā Rohe</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>NGL</b> – Northport Group Limited</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>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> –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>TMP</b> - Treasury Management Plan</p> <p><b>TMP</b> - Treasury Management Plan</p> <p><b>TOATB</b> – Te Oneroa-Ā-Tohe Board</p> <p><b>TOR</b> - Terms of Reference</p> <p><b>TPK</b> - Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development)</p> <p><b>TTNEAP</b> – Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan</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>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 - 25 November 2025

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

**Authorised by:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 08 December 2025

---

**Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation**

That the minutes of the council meeting held on 25 November, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

---

**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Confirmation of Minutes - 25 November 2025 [↓](#) 

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

## Northland Regional Council Minutes

Meeting held in the Council Chamber  
36 Water Street, Whangārei  
on Tuesday 25 November 2025, commencing at 10.00am

### Tuhinga/Present:

Chairperson, Pita Tipene  
Deputy Chairperson, Jack Crow

#### Councillors:

John Blackwell  
Joe Carr  
Geoff Crawford (*Via audio-visual link from 10.29 – 10.54am*)  
John Hunt  
Colin Kitchen  
Amy Macdonald  
Arama Morunga

### I Tae Mai/In Attendance:

#### Full Meeting

Independent Risk Advisor  
Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor (x2. *One via audio-visual link*)  
Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer  
Pou Manawhakahaere - GM Strategic Partnerships and Engagement  
Pou Whakaritenga - GM Regulatory Services  
Group Manager - Community Resilience  
Pou Tiaki Taiao - GM Environmental Services  
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity  
People and Culture Manager  
Corporate Strategy Manager  
Finance Manager  
Governance and Corporate Policy Manager  
Translator  
Digital Experience Support  
Kaiāwhina Tari – Te Tiriti Partnerships & Engagement Support  
Governance Specialist

#### Part Meeting

Financial Accountant  
Corporate Planning Specialist  
Strategic and Commercial Projects Manager

#### Secretarial Note:

- *The Chair declared the meeting open at 10am and proceedings commenced with a karakia by Councillor Morunga.*
- *The Chair acknowledged Councillor Morunga for the karakia, welcomed all present and noted 'He waka eke noa'; 'We are all in this together'.*

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

- *The Chair acknowledged those who had passed, with particular acknowledgment of the passing of previous FNDC and NRC Councillor Monty Knight.*
- *Councillor Carr spoke to Monty Knight's passing; referencing his influential contribution to Northland, being an 'amazing advocate' for the region, his 'fantastic amount of energy' and 'amazing capacity for friendship'.*

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

### **Moved (Kitchen/Macdonald)**

That the apology from Councillor Crawford for non-attendance be received.

### **Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Despite tendering an apology Councillor Crawford joined the meeting for a time via audio visual link. However, technological issues prevented his audio from being heard by those present in Chambers.*

## **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 - 5 November 2025 (Item 5.1)**

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

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

That the minutes of the inaugural council meeting held on 5 November 2025, be confirmed as a true and correct record and that these be duly authenticated with the Chair's electronic signature.

### **Carried**

## **Receipt of council minutes - 23 September 2025 (Item 5.2)**

Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

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

That the confirmed minutes of the council meeting held on 25 September 2025 be received.

### **Carried**

## **Financial Report to 31 October 2025 (Item 6.1)**

Report from Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

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

That the report 'Financial Report to 31 October 2025' by Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 3 November 2025, be received.

### **Carried**

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

*Secretarial Note:*

- In the four months of the financial year to October 2025 council was \$525k ahead of budget; the positive variance was predominately due to net salary savings.
- Council's Managed Fund portfolio had performed well and in the four months of the financial year had generated 64% of the annual budget. Annualised returns for the month of October were 14% for the Long Term Fund and 12% for the Short Term Fund.
- The recent restructure impacted on council's budget reporting. This would be realigned following the next Annual Plan (given reporting was against the original Annual Plan budgets).
- Assurance was provided that the contract with MPI for Caulerpa works set 'pause/stop milestones' with the ability to reassess the programme.

## **Regional Rates Collection - update to 30 September 2025 (Item 6.2)**

**Report from Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant**

**Moved (Blackwell/Hunt)**

That the report 'Regional Rates Collection - update to 30 September 2025' by Simon Crabb, Finance Manager and Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant and dated 3 November 2025, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Commentary from the district councils was that there were an increasing number of ratepayers experiencing hardship during the current challenging economic times.*

## **Confirmation of governance structure, membership and councillor portfolios (Item 7.1)**

**Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

**Moved (Macdonald/Carr)**

1. That the report 'Confirmation of governance structure, membership and councillor portfolios' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 12 November 2025, be received.
2. That Northland Regional Council establishes the following committees, subcommittees and working parties:
  - a. Regional Transport Committee<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Infrastructure Committee
  - c. Investment Committee
  - d. Audit and Risk Committee
  - e. Natural Resources Working Party
  - f. Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party
  - g. WDC/NRC Whangārei Public Transport Working Party

---

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with section 105(1) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

3. That the Northland Regional Council reaffirms the continuation of Te Ruarangi.<sup>2</sup>
4. That council approves the Terms of Reference (TOR) for its governance bodies (included as **Attachments 1 - 13**). That the TOR be reviewed by the respective governance bodies at their first meeting and any agreed amendments be brought back to respective councils for ratification.

**Carried**

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

5. That the council approves the membership of the committees, joint committees, statutory bodies and working parties, including the appointment of the Chairperson as ex-officio to all committees and working parties, as set out in the body of the report and attachments, with the following amendments:
  - That Councillor Macdonald be appointed the Chair of the Natural Resources Working Party;<sup>3</sup> and
  - That Councillor Morunga be appointed the principal member on the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee and Councillor Macdonald be appointed the alternate member.<sup>4</sup>

**The procedural motion was moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

That the appointment of members to the Natural Resources Working Party should lie on the table until the next ordinary council meeting; being 17 December 2025.

**Carried**

*(In putting the motion the Chair called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Hunt and Kitchen in favour of the motion and Councillors Craw, Macdonald and Tipene against).*

**A further procedural motion was moved (Craw/Carr)**

That the appointment of members to the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee should lie on the table until the next ordinary council meeting; being 17 December 2025.

**Carried (unanimously)**

*Secretarial Note: In accordance with Standing Order 23.4 'Substituted Motion', with the approval of the mover and seconder of the original motion the Chairperson put the following substituted motion:*

---

<sup>2</sup> Note: The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group continues in perpetuity (in accordance with section 12(2) of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002); as does Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Beach Board (in accordance with section 62(2)(b) of the Te Hiku Claims Settlement Bill). The Kaipara Harbour Remediation Committee, the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee and the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee were not discharged at the end of the triennium (in accordance with their Terms of Reference adopted by all founding members).

<sup>3</sup> The original report proposed that Councillor Crawford be appointed the Chair of the Natural Resources Working Party with Councillor Macdonald as a member.

<sup>4</sup> The original report proposed that Councillor Macdonald be appointed the principal member on the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee with Councillor Morunga as the alternate.

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

### Moved (Craw/Morunga)

5. That the council approves the membership of the committees, joint committees, statutory bodies and working parties, including the appointment of the Chairperson as ex-officio to all committees and working parties, as set out in the body of this report and attachments; with the exception of the Natural Resources Working Party and Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.

### Carried

### It was further moved (Macdonald/Hunt)

6. That the council appoints councillors to the following River Working Groups in the following roles:

Memberships / Delegation	Councillor
Kāeo-Whangaroa River Working Group	Cr C Kitchen as Chair (Alternate Cr J Carr)
Kaihū River Working Group	Cr J Blackwell as Chair (Alternate Cr J Carr)
Kerikeri-Waipapa River Working Group	Cr J Carr as Chair (Alternate Cr C Kitchen)
Taumārere River Working Group	Cr P Tipene and Community Member as Co-Chairs (Alternate Cr J Carr)
Urban Whangārei Working Group	Cr J Craw as Chair, Cr A Morunga (Alternate Cr A Macdonald)
Awanui River Working Group	Cr J Carr as Chair (Alternate Cr C Kitchen)

7. That the council confirms the following councillor portfolios:

Memberships / Delegation	Councillor
Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA)	Chair of council
Zone one (LGNZ)	Chair of council

8. That Cr J Hunt be nominated by NRC as a council representative on the Sport Northland Board of Trustees; for consideration by the Northland Mayoral Forum.
9. That the appointments detailed in recommendations 5 - 8 above constitutes as the local authority's business. Hence appointed members can claim vehicle and travel time allowances.
10. That the governance structure established at this meeting be reviewed for effectiveness and possible improvements after ten months of operation.
11. That based on the allocation of responsibilities outlined in the body of this report, that the governance remuneration pool for the Northland Regional Council of \$637,493 be fully allocated as follows:
  - a) That the Deputy Chairperson receives a higher duties allowance of \$10,000, bringing the Deputy Chair total salary to \$88,436.62.
  - b) That the remaining councillors receive a total salary of \$78,436.62. This is based on the underpinning principle of council that additional duties will be apportioned in such a manner that there will be an equitable workload between councillors.
12. That the higher duties allocation set out above (supplemented by the appropriate supporting information), be submitted to the Remuneration Authority-

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

13. That council appoints WDC Councillor Brad Flower (principal) and WDC Councillor Crichton Christie (alternate) to the Regional Transport Committee.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Councillor Crawford joined the meeting at 10.29am via audio-visual link. However, technological issues prevented his audio from being heard by those present in Chambers.*

### **Adoption of revised Standing Orders for the 2025-2028 Triennium (Item 7.2)**

**Report from Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

**Moved (Macdonald/Kitchen)**

1. That the report 'Adoption of revised Standing Orders for the 2025-2028 Triennium' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 30 September 2025, be received.
2. That council adopts the revised Standing Orders (*included as **Attachment One** pertaining to Item 7.2 of the 25 November 2025 council meeting agenda*).

**Carried**

### **Biosecurity Annual Report 2024-2025 (Item 7.3)**

**Report from Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity**

**Moved (Craw/Morunga)**

1. That the report 'Biosecurity Annual Report 2024-2025' by Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 3 November 2025, be received.
2. That council note the contents of the agenda item and attached Biosecurity Annual Report 2023-2024.
3. That council approves the Annual Report as a record of the actions and results that have occurred during the 2024-2025 year.
4. That council approves Don McKenzie, Group Manager Biosecurity, to make minor grammatical, typographic and accuracy amendments prior to publication of the Annual Report.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note: The Biosecurity Team was congratulated for what was described as 'an amazing effort for the year'.*

### **Quarterly Health and Safety Report (Item 8.1)**

**Report from Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor**

**Moved (Carr/Hunt)**

That the report 'Quarterly Health and Safety Report' by Tamsin Sutherland, Health and Safety Advisor and dated 4 November 2025, be received.

**Carried**

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

*Secretarial Note:*

- *Health and Safety was a key focus for the regional council given its operational focus with a large proportion of staff on the road and in the field.*
- *The Audit and Risk Committee was delegated authority, via its Terms of Reference, to monitor council's health and safety management.*

## **Chair's Report to Council (Item 8.2)**

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

**Moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

That the report 'Chair's Report to Council' by Rae Hetaraka, Executive Assistant to the Chair and dated 12 November 2025, be received.

**Carried**

## **Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 8.3)**

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

**Moved (Craw/Morunga)**

That the report 'Chief Executive's Report to Council' by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 30 October 2025, be received.

**Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *The regulatory services team and district councils were acknowledged for the notable improvement in the compliance of municipal wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs).*
- *Councillors to be advised the number of WWTPs that were required to sample/test for human E.coli (information supplied subsequently via e-mail).*
- *Concern was raised that MPI needed to be more aggressive in its campaign to eradicate Yellow Legged Hornet.*
- *Appreciation was extended to:*
  - *The Northland CDEM staff that were deployed to assist with the severe weather event in Southland;*
  - *Biosecurity staff for the eradication of Rudd (pest fish) from Northland; and*
  - *The communications team for facilitating a successful elections campaign, culminating in a significant increase in voter turnout.*
- *Attention was drawn to Kaipara Moana Remediation project which was described as 'an extremely successful programme' delivering significant results on the ground.*
- *Confirmation to be provided that the NRC website included spot spray instructions for Madagascar Ragwort (affirmative confirmation supplied subsequently via e-mail).*

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

### **Quarterly People and Culture Report (Item 8.4)**

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

#### **Moved (Kitchen/Blackwell)**

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

#### **Carried**

*Secretarial Note: Councillor Hunt to be provided further clarification regarding the total staff headcount ((information supplied subsequently via e-mail)).*

### **Reporting on Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Performance Measures for Quarter One of the 2025/26 Year (Item 8.5)**

**Report from Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist**

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

That the report 'Reporting on Long Term Plan 2024-2034 Performance Measures for Quarter One of the 2025/26 Year' by Robyn Broadhurst, Corporate Planning Specialist and dated 3 November 2025, be received.

#### **Carried**

*Secretarial Note:*

- *Councillors to be provided the analysis of data and trends for Summer in relation to Lake Omapere.*
- *Assurance was provided that council would be given the opportunity to workshop the Northland Inc. draft Statement of Intent.*

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

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

#### **Moved (Macdonald/Morunga)**

That the unconfirmed minutes of the:

- Civil Defence Emergency Management Meeting – 2 September 2025.
- Joint Regional Economic Development Committee – 26 September 2025 and
- Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board Meeting – 3 October 2025

be received.

#### **Carried**

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

## Working Party Updates Report (Item 9.2)

Report from Meloney Tupou, Māori Governance and Engagement Support Admin

Moved (Macdonald/Kitchen)

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

Carried

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

Moved (Macdonald/Blackwell)

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	Receipt of confidential council minutes - 23 September 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	Managed Funds Investment Management Agreement	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 disclose a trade secret s7(2)(b)(i).
10.4	Property Reinvestment Funding for Subdivision Project Due Diligence	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).

3. That the Independent Advisors be permitted to stay during business with the public excluded and that representatives from Argyle Estates Limited be permitted to be in attendance for confidential item 10.4.

Carried

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

## Open Meeting

### Moved (Kitchen/Macdonald)

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:

### Receipt of confidential council minutes - 23 September 2025 (Confidential Item 10.1)

#### Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

##### Moved (Craw/Hunt)

1. That the confidential minutes of the council meeting held on 23 September 2025 be received.

Carried

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

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

##### Moved (Carr/Kitchen)

1. That the unconfirmed minutes of the:
  - Joint Regional Economic Development Committee – 26 September 2025 be received.

Carried

### Managed Funds Investment Management Agreement (Confidential Item 10.3)

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

##### Moved (Craw/Hunt)

1. That the report 'Managed Funds Investment Management Agreement' by Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services and dated 3 November 2025, be received.
2. That council notes the Investment Management Agreement between Northland Regional Council and Russell Investments (*included as **Attachment 2** pertaining to Confidential Item 10.3 of the 25 November 2025 council agenda*).
3. That council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer and Group Manager Corporate Services to sign the Investment Management Agreement.

Council Meeting  
25 November 2025

4. That council delegates authority to the Chief Executive Officer to make any necessary minor drafting or typographical corrections to the Investment Management Agreement prior to signing.

**Carried**

### **Property Reinvestment Funding for Subdivision Project Due Diligence (Confidential Item 10.4)**

**Report from Phil Heatley, Strategic & Commercial Projects Manager**

**Moved (Blackwell/Carr)**

1. That the report 'Property Reinvestment Funding for Subdivision Project Due Diligence' by Phil Heatley, Strategic & Commercial Projects Manager and dated 20 October 2025, be received.
2. That council authorise spending of up to \$385,000 + GST from the Property Reinvestment Fund (PRF) portion of the Long-Term Investment Fund to undertake integrated due diligence investigations and design for the subdivision of council's 13.9ha Fertiliser Road, Whangārei property.
3. That the holding costs of the Fertiliser Road, Whangārei property are also included in the Project budget, funded from the Property Reinvestment Fund (PRF) shifting it away from ratepayer funding.

**Carried**

### **Whakamutunga (Conclusion)**

The meeting concluded at 11.55am with a karakia by Councillor Morunga.

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

**From:**                   Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

**Authorised by:**       Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist, on 08 December 2025

---

**Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

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


---

**Nga mahi tutohutia / Recommendation**

That the action sheet be received.

---

**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

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

**Council Actions as at 8/12/2025**

Id	Meeting	Target Date	Description	Request Details	Most Recent Comment
8381	Council 25/11/2025	9/12/25	Confirmation of governance structure, membership and councillor portfolios	That the higher duties allocation (supplemented by the appropriate supporting information), be submitted to the Remuneration Authority.	COMPLETE. Information sent through to the Remuneration Authority on 27 November 2025.
8388	Council 25/11/2025	9/12/25	Data analysis – Lake Omapere	Councillors to be provided the analysis of data and trends for Summer in relation to Lake Omapere.	COMPLETE. Information was sent to councillors on 26 November 2025.
8389	Council 25/11/2025	9/12/25	Wastewater Treatment Plants sampling.	Councillors to be advised the number of WWTPs that were required to sample/test for human E.coli (information supplied subsequently via e-mail).	COMPLETE. Information was sent to councillors on 26 November 2025.
8340	Council 25/11/2025	9/12/2025	Madagascar Ragwort	Confirmation to be provided that the NRC website included spot spray instructions for Madagascar Ragwort.	COMPLETE. Information was sent on 25 November 2025.

**TITLE:** **Financial Report 30 November 2025**

**From:** Taka Skipwith, Financial Accountant

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 10  
**Group Manager/s:** December 2025

---

**Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

This document acts as a 'placeholder' for the report 'Financial Report 30 November 2025' which was unable to be completed in time for the circulation of the agenda due to the early scheduling of the December council meeting. The finance report will be tabled on the day of the December council meeting.

The report will be sent out to members under separate cover.

**TITLE: Membership on Governance Bodies**

**From:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 03  
**Group Manager/s:** December 2025

---

**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

Council formally considered the construct of its governance structure at the 25 November 2025 ordinary council meeting. Two matters were left to lie on the table; being the membership of the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee and the Natural Resources Working Party. This report gives effect to the procedural motions from the November council meeting.

In addition, the report seeks to confirm an alternate elected member Co-Chair for Te Ruarangi (in the event Co-Chair Morunga is unavailable for a meeting) and retrospectively appoint FNDC and KDC members to the Regional Transport Committee.

---

**Recommendations**

1. That the report 'Membership on Governance Bodies' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 25 November 2025, be received.
2. That Councillor Macdonald be appointed the primary member and Councillor Morunga be appointed the alternate member on the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.
3. That:
  - Councillor Crawford be appointed the Chair,
  - Councillors Blackwell, Macdonald and Morunga be appointed members; and
  - The Chair of Council be appointed Ex-officioon the Natural Resources Working Party.
4. That Councillor\_\_\_\_\_ be appointed the alternate elected member Co-Chair on Te Ruarangi.
5. That council retrospectively appoints:
  - FNDC Councillor Ann Court (principal);
  - FNDC Councillor Rachel Baucke (alternate);
  - KDC Councillor Rachel Williams (principal); and
  - KDC Councillor Gordon Lambeth (alternate)to the Regional Transport Committee.

---

## Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Appoint representatives to the two governance bodies detailed in the report.	Finalises council's governance structure and allows preparations to be finalised for the meeting programme.	None-apparent.
2	Delay appointing representatives to the two governance bodies.	None-apparent.	Delaying council finalising its governance structure (potentially until late February 2026) will delay preparations to be finalised for the meeting programme.

The staff's recommended option is 1 - to appoint representatives to the two governance bodies.

---

## Considerations

Being an administrative matter the considerations, Climate Impact, Environmental Impact, Community Views, Māori Impact Statement, Financial Implications and Implementation Implications, are not directly relevant.

### 1. Significance and engagement

Given the administrative nature of the decisions being sought by this report, when assessed according to the council's Significance Policy is deemed to be of low significance.

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

The activities detailed in this report are in accordance with the council's decision making process and sections 76-82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

---

## Background/Tuhinga

The membership and functions of the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee and Natural Resources Working Party as per the original report in the 25 November 2025 council agenda was as follows;

### Joint Climate Change Committee

The Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee is a standing committee made up of elected members from all the Northland councils and representatives from Northland hapū and iwi.

Member: Cr A Macdonald

Alternate: Cr A Morunga

NRC iwi/hapū representative: One member of Te Ruarangi Working Party (TBA).

- Provide direction and oversight of the development and implementation of climate change adaptation activities by local government in Te Taitokerau
-

- Receive advice and provide direction and support to Climate Adaptation Te Taitokerau
- Make recommendations to member councils to ensure a consistent regional approach is adopted to climate change adaptation activities

#### Natural Resources Working Party

Chair: Cr G Crawford

Members: Crs J Blackwell, A Macdonald, A Morunga

Māori Representation: Four members of Te Ruarangi Working Party (TBA).

Ex officio: Cr P Tipene

- Provide oversight on activities that contribute to or influence the quality & quantity of water including land management and environmental monitoring.
- Provide oversight on council's resource management planning and regulatory activities.
- Oversee the implementation of the Proposed Regional Plan.
- Be the governance entity for the policy implementation of Essential Freshwater.
- Make recommendations to council on appeals and recommendations to accept, adopt or reject private plan change applications.

The relevant extract from the minutes of the 25 November 2025 ordinary council meeting are as follows:

### **1. Confirmation of governance structure, membership and councillor portfolios (Item 7.1)**

#### **Report from Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist**

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

1. That the report 'Confirmation of governance structure, membership and councillor portfolios' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 12 November 2025, be received.
2. That Northland Regional Council establishes the following committees, subcommittees and working parties:
  - a. Regional Transport Committee<sup>1</sup>
  - b. Infrastructure Committee
  - c. Investment Committee
  - d. Audit and Risk Committee
  - e. Natural Resources Working Party
  - f. Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party
  - g. WDC/NRC Whangārei Public Transport Working Party
3. That the Northland Regional Council reaffirms the continuation of Te Ruarangi.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with section 105(1) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003.

<sup>2</sup> Note: The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group continues in perpetuity (in accordance with section 12(2) of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002); as does Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Beach Board (in accordance with section 62(2)(b) of the Te Hiku Claims Settlement Bill). The Kaipara Harbour Remediation Committee, the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee and the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee were not discharged at the end of the triennium (in accordance with their Terms of Reference adopted by all founding members).

4. That council approves the Terms of Reference (TOR) for its governance bodies (included as **Attachments 1 - 13**). That the TOR be reviewed by the respective governance bodies at their first meeting and any agreed amendments be brought back to respective councils for ratification.

**Carried**

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

5. That the council approves the membership of the committees, joint committees, statutory bodies and working parties, including the appointment of the Chairperson as ex-officio to all committees and working parties, as set out in the body of the report and attachments, with the following amendments:
  - That Councillor Macdonald be appointed the Chair of the Natural Resources Party;<sup>3</sup> and
  - That Councillor Morunga be appointed the principal member on the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee and Councillor Macdonald be appointed the alternate member.<sup>4</sup>

**The procedural motion was moved (Carr/Blackwell)**

That the appointment of members to the Natural Resources Working Party should lie on the table until the next ordinary council meeting; being 17 December 2025.

**Carried**

*(In putting the motion the Chair called for an expression of opinion by a show of hands, the result being Councillors Blackwell, Carr, Hunt and Kitchen in favour of the motion and Councillors Craw, Macdonald and Tipene against).*

**A further procedural motion was moved (Craw/Carr)**

That the appointment of members to the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee should lie on the table until the next ordinary council meeting; being 17 December 2025.

**Carried (unanimously)**

*Secretarial Note: In accordance with Standing Order 23.4 'Substituted Motion', with the approval of the mover and seconder of the original motion the Chairperson put the following substituted motion:*

**Moved (Craw/Morunga)**

5. That the council approves the membership of the committees, joint committees, statutory bodies and working parties, including the appointment of the Chairperson as ex-officio to all committees and working parties, as set out in the body of this report and attachments; with the exception of the Natural Resources Working Party and Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.

**Carried**

---

<sup>3</sup> The original report proposed that Councillor Crawford be appointed the Chair of the Natural Resources Working Party with Councillor Macdonald as a member.

<sup>4</sup> The original report proposed that Councillor Macdonald be appointed the principal member on the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee with Councillor Morunga as the alternate.

The matter is now set down for discussion.

---

**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE: 2026 Meeting Calendar**

**From:** Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 02  
**Group Manager:** December 2025

---

**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

This report presents the proposed meeting calendar for 2026 for council's approval.

---

**Recommendations:**

1. That the report '2026 Meeting Calendar' by Chris Taylor, Governance Specialist and dated 1 December 2025, be received.
  2. That the programme of meetings for 2026, as detailed in **Attachment One**, be adopted
- 

**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Adopt the proposed 2026 meeting schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Councillors have a schedule to work to and are able to plan their commitments in advance.</li><li>• Having a schedule in place manages the expectations of the public, council officers and other interested parties.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None-apparent. The calendar is a 'living document' and can always be amended if required.</li></ul>
2	Do not adopt the proposed 2026 meeting schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None-apparent.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neither council, council officers or the public have a schedule to work/refer to.</li></ul>

The staff's recommended option is Option 1 that council adopt the meeting schedule.

---

**Considerations**

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

**1. Alignment to council strategic direction - community outcomes**

The matters covered in this report relate to the following community outcomes:

☐ Protected and flourishing native life

☐ Healthy waters, land and air

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and resilient transport networks                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable, innovative and equitable economy             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful partnerships with tāngata whenua                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon neutral, resilient communities in a changing climate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient, progressive and transparent council systems |  |

## 2. Significance and engagement

The scheduling of meetings is part of normal day to day operations of council, hence when assessed against council policy is deemed to be of low significance.

## 3. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

The Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 19, refers to the calling of meetings, and requires that a 'local authority must hold the meetings that are necessary for the good government of its region or district'.

---

### Background/Tuhinga

The Local Government Act 2002, Schedule 7, Clause 19, contains general provisions for the calling of meetings. In particular there is provision [Clause 19(6)] for the local authority to adopt a schedule of meetings that:

- may cover any future period that the local authority considers appropriate; and
- may be amended.

Previously council has found that setting an annual schedule of meetings has been an efficient way to plan for meetings listed for that period.

Note that the meetings schedule is a 'living document', with the flexibility to change, add and delete meetings as required to ensure maximum efficiency. Councillors will be informed in advance of changes to the calendar, with as much notice as possible.

### Proposed meeting schedule

The 2026 meeting calendar has been based on the following principles:

MEETING TYPE:	FREQUENCY:
Council Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet the fourth Tuesday of the month.</li> </ul>
Council Workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Default to a Tuesday and/or Wednesday; being 'council days'.</li> </ul>
Audit and Risk Committee and Infrastructure Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To meet quarterly and on the same day due to synergies of membership and to combine commitments for our furthest travelling councillors.</li> </ul>

MEETING TYPE:	FREQUENCY:
<b>Investment Committee and Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To meet quarterly and to be held on the first Tuesday of the month.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional Transport Committee (RTC) and Whangarei Public Transport Working Party</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The RTC to meet bi-monthly on a Tuesday/Wednesday that avoids district council commitments. The Whangarei Public Transport Working Party meets quarterly and on the same day as RTC.</li> </ul>
<b>Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (JREDC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The frequency of meetings to be determined by priority workstreams and ideally in conjunction with the Northland Mayoral Forum due to synergies in membership.</li> </ul>
<b>Te Oneroa a Tōhe Board</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To meet on the second to last Friday of the month (when required).</li> </ul>
<b>Natural Resources Working Party and Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To meet quarterly and on the same day.</li> </ul>
<b>Te Ruarangi</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Held on the second Thursday of the month to provide consistency for Māori representatives. Monthly commitments alternate between formal meetings and on marae hui.</li> </ul>
<b>LGNZ Zone One and Northland Forward Together Strategic Planning Workshops</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To meet three times a year and on the same day due to synergies in membership. The venue rotates amongst the four councils.</li> </ul>
<b>Northland Mayoral Forum</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To meet quarterly and to be held, where possible, in conjunction with JREDC due to synergies in membership. The venue rotates amongst the four Northland councils.</li> </ul>

Following adoption of meeting dates, staff will send out the relevant meeting invites to ensure these are in councillor diaries well in advance.

## Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: NRC Meeting Calendar 2026 [↓](#) 

29

**TITLE: Adoption of updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy**

**From:** Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

**Authorised by Group Manager/s:** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 10 December 2025

---

**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

This report presents the updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy for adoption by council.

The policy sets out the optional expenses that elected members are entitled to claim, in addition to their remuneration, in accordance with the Local Government Elected Members (2025/26) Determination 2025.

---

**Recommendation(s)**

1. That the report 'Adoption of updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 27 November 2025, be received.
2. That, subject to approval by the Remuneration Authority, council adopt the updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy, included as Attachment One.

---

**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Adopt the updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy.	The policy will include relevant updates and will set out the circumstances under which elected members can be reimbursed for home security costs.	Nil.
2	Do not adopt the updated Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy.	Nil.	The policy will not reflect the direction council provided during workshops and will not provide elected members with the option of being reimbursed for home security costs under set circumstances.

The staff's recommended option is Option 1.

---

## Considerations

### 1. Alignment to council strategic direction - community outcomes

The matters covered in this report relate to the following community outcomes:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected and flourishing native life                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy waters, land and air                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and resilient transport networks                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable, innovative and equitable economy             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful partnerships with tangata whenua                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon neutral, resilient communities in a changing climate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient, progressive and transparent council systems |  |

### 2. Climate Impact

As an administrative matter, no climate impact is anticipated.

### 3. Environmental Impact

As an administrative matter, no environmental impact is anticipated.

### 4. Community views

As an administrative matter relating to council expenses and operation, and as provided for by legislation, community views do not need special consideration.

### 5. Māori impact statement

This report relates to a council administrative matter and therefore does not have a direct impact on Māori. Any potential impacts of future related decisions will be addressed in the relevant reports.

### 6. Financial implications

This report proposes changes that would result in additional expenses being able to be claimed by elected members under a specific set of circumstances. Any additional costs will be covered from within existing governance budgets.

The report also proposes the removal of an allowance for alcohol, which will result in reduced costs for council.

### 7. Implementation issues

The proposed changes to policy clearly set out the process by which the changes would be implemented.

### 8. 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.

## 9. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

These changes are in accordance with the Remuneration Authority's amendment to the Local Government Elected Members (2025/26) Determination 2025.

The addition of some of the proposed clauses to the Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy requires the approval of the Remuneration Authority. Staff will gain any required approval after this council meeting, and before final publication of the policy.

---

### Background/Tuhinga

Councils Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy sets out the optional expenses that elected members are entitled to claim, in addition to their remuneration, in accordance with the Local Government Elected Members (2025/26) Determination 2025.

Updates are made to the policy from time to time to keep it up to date and respond to changes. The changes presented for adoption by council include:

- The addition of a section to outline the circumstances under which an elected member may claim for home security expenses.
- The removal of an allowance for an alcoholic beverage with dinner.
- The addition of wellbeing as a consideration in determining whether travel or overnight accommodation is most appropriate for an elected member on council business.

The attached policy highlights these changes.

### Home security allowance:

Earlier in 2025 the Remuneration Authority added a new clause to its Principal Determination that enables reimbursement as a contribution to an elected member's home security system under specific circumstances.

The Remuneration Authority has stated this is in response to many local government elected members experiencing significant incidences of abuse, harassment and threatening behaviour while undertaking their public roles.

The clause applied immediately after election results were declared. It is proposed that Council's Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy be updated to provide for this.

The proposed circumstances for application of the allowance (as prescribed by legislation) are highlighted in the attached policy, but in summary are as follows:

- The claim must be based on a threat established via a formal security threat and risk assessment
- Maximum amounts claimable:
  - \$4,500 for installation (one-off)
  - \$1,000 per year for monitoring, call-outs, and repair
- The security system must be at primary residence of elected member

### Removal of alcoholic drink allowance

A change has recently been made to the staff travel policy to remove the allowance for alcoholic drinks with dinner (up to \$16), meaning alcohol is no longer reimbursable.

It is proposed that the Elected Members Expenses and Allowances Policy be amended to follow suit. Currently the policy provides a standard overnight allowance to cover meals and drinks, inclusive of

one alcoholic drink with dinner up to the value of \$16, which was noted to be commensurate with provisions in the staff policy.

This proposed change is in line with guidance from the Office of the Auditor General that states:

*Increasingly, the expectation is that public organisations should not allow for reimbursement of alcohol purchases through travel or accommodation expenses. The public expect prudence. Alcohol consumption is seen as a personal choice that public servants should pay for themselves.*

The attached policy highlights the exact proposed wording changes.

---

### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Proposed amendments - Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy [↓](#) 



# Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances Policy

**DATE:** July 2025  
**AUTHOR:** Governance

DOCUMENT REVIEW APPROVAL		
Date	Change	Actioned by
18 January 2023	Overall review and refresh of the policy.	Governance Specialist
28 February 2023	Formally adopted by council.	Council
1 July 2023	Updated for 2023/24 Local Government Members Determination	Governance Specialist
14 February 2024	Policy with proposed changes for February council meeting approved by the Remuneration Authority.	Governance Specialist
27 February 2024	Updated Meals and drinks allowances and expenses and Accommodation costs	Council resolution – dated 27 February 2024
30 July 2024	Updated vehicle kilometre allowance	As per Local Government Members (2024/25) Amendment Determination 2024
1 October 2024	Updated to include a mediation process (Section 2.8).	Council resolution 22 October 2024
26 November 2024	Updated to include an approval process for expenses and allowances in the event the Chair/Deputy Chair is absent.	Council resolution 26 November 2024
22 April 2025	Change to Section 2.4 'Evidence of Expenses' requiring expense claims to be submitted on or before the 20 <sup>th</sup> day of the following month after an expense is incurred.	Council resolution 22 April 2025
16 July 2025	Updated for 2025/2026 Local Government Members Determination	Governance Specialist
1 September 2025	Updated for vehicle kilometre allowance as per amended Determination	Governance Specialist
27 November 2025	Addition of allowance for home security system, removal of allowance for alcoholic drink, and addition of wellbeing as a consideration for travel time and accommodation allowances	Corporate Strategy Manager (Council approval pending – 17 December Council meeting)

## Contents

1.	Preface .....	5
2.	Principles of the policy .....	6
2.1	General purpose.....	6
2.2	Reimbursement.....	6
2.3	Claims for expenses not covered by policy.....	6
2.4	Evidence of expenses .....	6
2.5	Maximum amounts payable for vehicle kilometre, travel and ICT allowances.....	7
2.6	Definition of local authority business .....	7
2.7	Approval of expenses and business activities for which expenses can be claimed.....	7
2.8	Mediation process for expense claims .....	7
3.	Travel expenses.....	9
3.1	Chair's car.....	9
3.2	Pool cars .....	9
3.3	Rental vehicles .....	9
3.4	Air travel.....	9
3.5	Subscriptions and loyalty reward schemes .....	10
3.6	Other travel .....	10
4.	Conference and training costs .....	11
5.	Costs whilst away on council business.....	11
5.1	Accommodation costs.....	11
5.2	Private accommodation paid for by local authority.....	11
5.3	Private accommodation provided by friends/relatives.....	11
5.4	Meals and drinks allowances and expenses .....	12
5.5	Hospitality and entertainment allowances and expenses .....	12
5.6	Subscriptions to clubs or associations.....	12
6.	Vehicle kilometre and travel time allowance .....	13
6.1	Vehicle kilometre allowance .....	13
6.2	Travel time allowance .....	14
7.	Information and Communications Technology (ICT) allowance.....	15
7.1	Provision of ICT devices.....	15
8.	Childcare allowance .....	16
9.	Home security allowance.....	16
10.	Credit Cards.....	17
11.	Hearing fees .....	18

12.	Tax treatment.....	18
-----	--------------------	----

# 1. Preface

This manual has been established as a reference and to reinforce our Elected Members' Expenses and Allowances policies and procedures. It should be read in conjunction with the 'Local Government Members (2025/26) Determination 2025'. This can be accessed using the following link:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2025/0140/latest/LMS1450225.html>

## 2. Principles of the policy

### 2.1 General purpose

In addition to remuneration, elected members of the Northland Regional Council are entitled as set out in this policy to claim:

- Actual and reasonable expenses, in full or in part;
- Vehicle kilometre and travel time allowance;
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT) allowance;
- Hearing fees (with exception of the Chair); and
- Childcare allowance
- Home security allowance

Elected members may choose not to claim these allowances or expenses.

### 2.2 Reimbursement

In general, terms the payment of expenses is governed by evaluating a claim against the principle that elected members should not incur personal expense in the performance of their representational or governance functions and that fair and reasonable expenses incurred in the course of their representational or governance functions should be reimbursed by the council.

### 2.3 Claims for expenses not covered by policy

Claims for expenses other than those listed in this policy will generally not be considered except in special circumstances. In the event that an elected member wishes to seek reimbursement for an expense not detailed in this policy, approval must be sought prior to the expense being incurred and shall be guided by the Auditor-General's 2007 good practice guide on "Controlling Sensitive Expenditure: Guidelines for Public Entities".

### 2.4 Evidence of expenses

With the exception of vehicle kilometre, travel time and annual ICT allowances, all other expense claims require supporting receipts. For vehicle kilometre expenses, please refer to Section 6 of the policy.

All expense claims must:

- Clearly state the business purpose of the expenditure;
- Be accompanied by adequate original supporting documentation;
- Document the date, amount, description and purpose of minor expenditure when receipts are unavailable; and
- Be submitted promptly; on or before the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the following month after the expenditure is incurred. For example, if an expenditure is incurred by an elected member between 1 - 31 March, the claim for its reimbursement must be submitted on or before 20 April (being the following month).

## 2.5 Maximum amounts payable for vehicle kilometre, travel and ICT allowances

Despite the inclusion of specific allowance values for vehicle kilometre, travel and ICT in this policy, maximum amounts payable will be automatically adjusted to match maximums fixed by the Remuneration Authority from time to time during the triennium.

## 2.6 Definition of local authority business

1. A local authority's business is defined as:
  - a) Council, committee/sub-committee, working party/working group meetings and workshops as noted in the formal meeting calendar. Claims will only be paid for travel to such public meetings at which an elected member has been elected or appointed to the forum concerned to represent the council, unless policy statement 2.6.1(b) below applies.
  - b) Attendance at other meetings, workshops, conferences, site visits and civic functions relating to an appointed portfolio. Claims outside of these areas will only be approved if there is evidence of prior approval.

## 2.7 Approval of expenses and business activities for which expenses can be claimed

All expenses, and business activities<sup>1</sup> for which expenses can be claimed, must be necessary for the fulfillment of the member's role and must be approved by:

- a. The Chair and the Chief Executive Officer<sup>2</sup>; or
- b. The Deputy Chair and the Chief Executive Officer<sup>3</sup> in the absence of the Chair and for the Chair's expense claims; or
- c. The Members Expenses and Allowances Panel (MEAP) (refer to Section 2.8) in the absence of either the Chair or Deputy Chair to perform the functions above (a. and b.); or
- d. By formal resolution of council at a meeting open to the public.

## 2.8 Mediation process for expense claims

Each triennium council will formally appoint three councillors to the Members Expenses and Allowances Panel (MEAP). The membership of MEAP is for the duration of the triennium unless council formally resolves otherwise. For the avoidance of doubt the Chair of council cannot be a member of MEAP.

In the event an elected member challenges a ruling under Section 2.7a or Section 2.7b of the Policy:

- a. The matter will be referred to (MEAP) for a determination.

---

<sup>1</sup> For the avoidance of doubt business activities refers to air travel (Section 3.4), other travel (Section 3.6) and conference and training costs (Section 4.0).

<sup>2</sup> The Chief Executive Officer or their delegate as the Acting Chief Executive Officer.

- b. If the elected member challenging a ruling is a member of MEAP they must withdraw from the decision making process (Section 2.8a above).
- c. If MEAP cannot reach a consensus decision then the original ruling under Section 2.7a or Section 2.7b remains in effect.

## 3. Travel expenses

### 3.1 Chair's car

1. Council will provide a vehicle with full private use <sup>3</sup>permitted. In accordance with Remuneration Authority methodology, a reduction in gross salary based [{actual purchase price of vehicle} x 41%] x {20%}] will be made;
2. The maximum purchase price that may be paid for a motor vehicle purchased for provision to a regional chairperson is:
  - a) In the case of a petrol or diesel vehicle, \$60,000; and
  - b) In the case of an electric or hybrid vehicle, \$70,500

To note purchase price means the amount paid for the vehicle:

- a) including goods and services tax and any on road costs; and
  - b) after deducting the amount of any rebate that applies under the clean car discount scheme in respect of the purchase of the vehicle.
3. In the case where the Chair decides that they will use their own private vehicle, instead of being provided one by council, they are eligible to claim vehicle-kilometre allowances in the same manner as any member of the local authority (refer to Section 6).<sup>4</sup>

### 3.2 Pool cars

1. Elected members are entitled to make use of Northland Regional Council pool cars for use on local authority business, in which case the NRC 'Vehicle Policy' shall apply.

### 3.3 Rental vehicles

1. If a rental car is required by an elected member when travelling away from home on local authority business and a council pool car is not available, arrangement and payment for the vehicle shall be booked and arranged directly between the Northland Regional Council and the rental car company, with fuel expenses reimbursed to the elected member on production of receipts. Furthermore, there should not be unreasonable or extensive private use of the vehicle. In these cases, "away from home" means outside of the region; within the region it is expected that a pool car would be used in the first instance.

### 3.4 Air travel

---

<sup>3</sup> For the avoidance of doubt the definition of 'full private use' is in accordance with the Local Government Members Determination 2021 as follows:

- a) The vehicle is usually driven home and securely parked by the regional chairperson; and
- b) The vehicle is available for the regional chairperson's unrestricted personal use; and
- c) The vehicle is used by the regional chairperson for a mix of local authority business and private use; and
- d) The vehicle may also be used by other local authority members or staff on local authority business, with the permission of the regional chairperson

<sup>4</sup> Note the Chair is not eligible to claim travel time allowances because the role of Chair is considered to be full time and is remunerated accordingly.

1. If required, council will meet 100% of any air travel costs (or the equivalent airfare or mileage, whichever is the lower) required by an elected member (subject to section 2.7). Travel is to be booked and arranged by the Northland Regional Council.

### **3.5 Subscriptions and loyalty reward schemes**

1. Subscriptions to airline clubs (such as the Koru Club), shall be at each member's discretion and own expense, with the exception of the Chair whose subscription shall be arranged by the Northland Regional Council.
2. Loyalty reward schemes such as airpoints or airdollars provide a benefit to the customer for continuing to use a particular supplier of goods and services. Where air travel is paid for by the council under this policy the loyalty reward will be treated as the property of council. Council will as far as practicable apply those rewards for the benefit of the council according to its documented procedures.

### **3.6 Other travel**

1. If required, council will reimburse or meet the actual and reasonable costs of any 'other travel' (e.g. ferry fares, bus fares, car parking fees etc.) required by an elected member to undertake local authority business.
2. 'Other travel' expenses may be claimed for meetings, workshops, and conferences provided there is evidence of prior approval (subject to Section 2.7).

## 4. Conference and training costs

1. If required, council will meet 100% of any conference fees or training costs required or incurred by an elected member and arranged by Northland Regional Council (subject to Section 2.7). In the case of the Chair, any conferences, training or meetings attended will be reported to council monthly.

## 5. Costs whilst away on council business

### 5.1 Accommodation costs

1. Council will meet 100% of any accommodation required by an elected member, subject to Section 2.7, as follows:
  - a. When local authority business spans multiple days and the cost of the accommodation and meals (refer to Section 5.4) is more cost-effective than the equivalent claims for vehicle kilometre and travel time allowances if the elected member was to travel to and from their point of residence using their own vehicle (refer to Sections 6.1 and 6.2 of the policy).
  - b. When local authority business is on a single day and an elected member would be required to travel in excess of five hours to travel to and from their point of residence using their own vehicle by the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances.
  - c. In either of the circumstances outlined above, the wellbeing of the elected member will be considered when determining whether travel or overnight accommodation is the most appropriate option.
2. Reimbursements for personal expenses such as movies, additional alcohol, mini bar charges, massages, and additional hotel facilities will not be reimbursed.

### 5.2 Private accommodation paid for by local authority

1. No private accommodation (e.g. apartments) will be provided to any member.

### 5.3 Private accommodation provided by friends/relatives

1. An allowance of \$70 per night may be paid to an elected member for accommodation provided by friends/relatives of the elected member when travelling away from home on local authority business. The value of this allowance is commensurate with provisions in the staff policy.
2. If an elected member stays in accommodation provided by friends/relatives they are still eligible to claim meal allowances.

## 5.4 Meals and drinks allowances and expenses

1. Standard overnight allowance to cover meals and drinks is \$137, as follows:
  - Breakfast \$31 or at the value charged by the accommodation booking, if this is charged back to the booking.
  - Lunch \$25
  - Dinner \$65<sup>5</sup>

These allowances are intended to cover elected members' expenses for their 'nourishment' while on local authority business and the value of this allowance is commensurate with provisions in the staff policy.

2. Meals purchased by an elected member while away from home on council business may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable costs, on production of receipts.
3. Meal expenses may not be claimed if a meal is provided as part of another package paid for by the entity.

## 5.5 Hospitality and entertainment allowances and expenses

1. Allowances or expenses reimbursement for hospitality and/or entertainment will only be considered where these are:
  - a) Associated with local authority business and cost-effective and appropriate for the occasion; and
  - b) Prior approval is sought; and
  - c) Substantiated by appropriate documentation that includes receipts, names of parties entertained, and the reasons for the entertainment and hospitality.

## 5.6 Subscriptions to clubs or associations

1. Expenses will not be reimbursed, nor allowances paid, in respect of membership of subscriptions to clubs or associations, except where there is a clear relationship between the elected member's role within the local authority and the club or association (e.g. Taituarā).

---

<sup>5</sup> Meals and drink allowances to be inflation adjusted annually.

## 6. Vehicle kilometre and travel time allowance

### 6.1 Vehicle kilometre allowance

1. A vehicle kilometre allowance may be claimed in accordance with the Local Government Elected Members Determination for an elected member's use of their own vehicle, including travel to and from the member's residence, if the travel is:
  - a) At a time when the member is not provided with a motor vehicle by the local authority;
  - b) In a private vehicle;
  - c) On local authority business; and
  - d) By the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances; and
2. The vehicle kilometre allowance is payable to elected members at the following rates:
  - a) for a petrol vehicle, -
    - (i) \$1.17 per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
    - (ii) 37 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term:
  - b) for a diesel vehicle, -
    - (i) \$1.26 per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
    - (ii) 35 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term:
  - c) for a petrol hybrid vehicle, -
    - (i) \$0.86 per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
    - (ii) 21 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term:
  - d) for an electric vehicle, -
    - (i) \$1.08 per kilometre for the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term; and
    - (ii) 19 cents per kilometre after the first 14,000 kilometres of eligible travel in the determination term.
3. However, if a member of a local authority travels from a place where the member permanently or temporarily resides that is outside the local authority area, to the local authority area on local authority business, the member is only eligible for a vehicle kilometre allowance for eligible travel after the member crosses the boundary of the local authority area.
4. Mileage claims must be made monthly.

## 6.2 Travel time allowance

1. Council will pay a travel time allowance to its members (other than the regional council Chair) for travel by a member, including travel to and from the member's residence, if the travel is:
  - a) Within New Zealand;
  - b) On the local authority's business;
  - c) By the quickest form of transport reasonable in the circumstances; and
  - d) By the most direct route that is reasonable in the circumstances
2. The allowance payable for each day under clause 1 is:
  - a) \$41.30 per hour; but
  - b) only for the travel for that day that exceeds 1 hour.
3. However, if a member of a local authority permanently or temporarily resides outside the local authority area and travels to the local authority area on local authority business, the member is only eligible for a travel time allowance in respect of eligible travel time:
  - a) After the member crosses the boundary of the local authority area; and
  - b) After the first hour of eligible travel within the local authority area.
4. The maximum amount of travel time allowance that a member may be paid for eligible travel in a 24 hour period is eight hours.
5. Travel time allowance claims must be made monthly.

## 7. Information and Communications Technology (ICT) allowance

### 7.1 Provision of ICT devices

1. The council will provide required ICT devices (e.g. mobile phone, computer /or tablet, scanner, printer, and any ancillary consumables or services, including standard internet connection) to elected members for the purpose of fulfilling their responsibilities. The cost of devices and service provision will be met by the council. Devices remain the property of the council and must be returned to the council at the Chief Executive's request. Devices may be replaced or updated triennially. Reimbursement of elected members' costs for any services or consumables in addition to those provided under this clause requires proof of expenditure and will be at the Chief Executive's discretion.
2. An elected member who uses their own ICT devices, services and ancillary consumables may claim annual allowances as set out in the following table. Reimbursement of costs for other ancillary consumables shall be on a cost recovery basis supported by proof of expenditure.

Item/Service	Maximum Allowance (for the determination term)
Personal Computer <b>or</b> tablet <b>or</b> laptop hardware (including any related docking station)	\$400 one device only
Printer (hardware)	\$50
Mobile telephone (hardware)	\$200
ICT consumables	\$200
Personal internet connection service	\$800
Personal mobile phone connection service, including calls, text and data	\$500 (or reimbursement of actual costs of calls made on local authority business upon production of relevant telephone records and receipts)

3. All costs reasonably attributable to the personal use of a mobile phone and related mobile services supplied by council must be paid by the elected member.

## 8. Childcare allowance

1. A childcare allowance may be claimed in accordance with the Local Government Elected Members Determination for childcare provided while the member is engaged in local authority business (as defined in section 6.1(4)).
2. A member is eligible to be paid childcare allowance in respect of childcare provided for a child only if:
  - a) the member is a parent or guardian of the child, or is a person who usually has the responsibility for the day-to-day care of the child (other than on a temporary basis); and
  - b) the child is aged under 14 years of age; and
  - c) the childcare is provided by a person who –
    - (i) is not a parent of the child or a spouse, civil union partner, or de facto partner of the member; and
    - (ii) does not ordinarily reside with the member; and
  - d) the member provides evidence satisfactory to the local authority of the amount paid for childcare.
3. The amount payable for childcare allowances to a member must not total more than \$7,500 per annum, per child.

## 9. Home security allowance

1. Elected members may claim an allowance to reimburse expenses associated with installing and maintaining a security system at the elected members primary place of residence, in accordance with the Local Government Elected Members Determination.
2. Any claim must be based on a security threat established through a formal security threat and risk assessment, carried out by a qualified external provider, procured by Council.
3. The amount payable on a reimbursement claim for installation and monitoring of a home security system is a maximum of:
  - a) \$4,500 for installation (one-off)
  - b) \$1,000 per year for monitoring, call-outs, and repairs.
4. If the elected member moves to another primary residence, a new security threat and risk assessment will be required before any further claim for reimbursement is considered. Council reserves the right to remove the security system (up to the value of that funded by council) prior to the elected member moving to another place of residence. The elected member will also be offered the option to purchase the security system from Council at a price equivalent to the value reimbursed, should they wish to retain the system upon relocation.

5. If the elected member is not re-elected, their position becomes vacant, or their seat is abolished any costs relating to monitoring, call-outs, and repairs will cease on their final day in office. Council reserves the right to remove the security system (up to the value of that funded by council) from the first day that the elected member is no longer in office. The elected member will also be offered the option to purchase the security system from Council at a price equivalent to the value reimbursed, should they wish to retain the system.
6. Additional expenses beyond this maximum may be considered for supplementary security measures such as security guards, if this is deemed necessary by the security threat and risk assessment, and following successful application by council to the remuneration authority.

**Eligibility and assessment**

7. All claims must be based on a council-authorised security threat and risk assessment, as approved by the CEO, conducted by a qualified external provider.
8. The installation must be at the elected members primary place of residence and located within the Northland region.
9. Reimbursement will be subject to the principles of the policy, set out in section 2 of the policy.
10. Subsequent claims will be assessed in the context of a change of primary residence and maintained threat, or the need for replacement due to function of the system as assessed by a qualified external provider.

## 10. Credit Cards

1. The Chair will be entitled to be issued with a council credit card. The credit card may only be used for council related expenditure and all expenditure must be supported by appropriate supporting documentation.
2. The Deputy Chair will be responsible for authorising the Chair's credit card expenditure on a monthly basis. In the event that the Deputy Chair benefits from the expenditure, another councillor not involved in the transaction shall approve the expenditure.

## 11. Hearing fees

1. A member who acts as the chairperson of a hearing is entitled to be paid a fee of \$130 per hour of **hearing time**.
2. A member who is not the chairperson of a hearing is entitled to be paid a fee of \$104 per hour of **hearing time**.
3. For any period of hearing time that is less than 1 hour, the fee must be apportioned accordingly.
4. The Chair of the Northland Regional Council or a member who acts as Chair of the regional council and is paid the Chair's remuneration is not entitled to hearing fees.
5. The definition of a hearing and hearing time is provided in the currently effective Local Government Elected Members Determination fixed by the Remuneration Authority.

## 12. Tax treatment

### **Withholding Tax**

1. Council is only required to deduct withholding tax from payments that it makes to members for any *work or services* that they perform.
2. Reimbursements that council pays to members for expenditure incurred as an elected member while on council-related business or any allowances that a member may receive from council are *not* subject to withholding tax.

### **Northland Regional Council**

**P** 0800 002 004

**E** [info@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:info@nrc.govt.nz)

**W** [www.nrc.govt.nz](http://www.nrc.govt.nz)



**TITLE: Elected Members Communications Policy**

**From:** Tamara Lee, Communications Manager

**Authorised by** Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and  
**Group Manager/s:** Engagement, on 10 December 2025

---

**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

Councillors discussed the Draft Elected Members Communications Policy at a workshop on 18 November.

The policy provides direction on how media, social media and other public communication activity involving elected members will be managed, in alignment with the Code of Conduct for elected members.

Councillors indicated they were satisfied with the draft and no changes were required, so a council decision is now being sought to formally adopt the policy.

---

**Recommendation(s)**

1. That the report 'Elected Members Communications Policy' by Tamara Lee, Communications Manager and dated 1 December 2025, be received.
2. That council adopts the attached policy document 'Draft Elected Members Communications Policy' as final.

---

**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Adopt the Elected Members Communications Policy as drafted.	Staff and elected members have a clear policy to follow	Nil
2	Do not adopt the Elected Members Communications Policy	Nil	Creates lack of clarity, increases reputational risk

The staff's recommended option is Option 1 – adopt the Elected Members Communications Policy as drafted.

---

**Considerations**

**1. Alignment to council strategic direction - community outcomes**

The matters covered in this report relate to the following community outcomes:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected and flourishing native life | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy waters, land and air                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and resilient transport networks | <input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable, innovative and equitable economy |

☐ Meaningful partnerships with  
tāngata whenua

☐ Carbon neutral, resilient  
communities in a changing climate

☒ Efficient, progressive and  
transparent council systems

## 2. Climate Impact

There are no known climate change impacts relating to the Elected Members Communications Policy.

## 3. Environmental Impact

There are no known environmental impacts relating to the Elected Members Communications Policy.

## 4. Community views

There is a reasonable expectation from our community and media that we provide timely, clear and transparent about council and our mahi, which this policy helps to support.

## 5. Māori impact statement

There are no known particular impacts on Māori which are different from the wider community in relation to the Elected Members Communications Policy.

## 6. Financial implications

There are no known financial implications relating to the Elected Members Communications Policy.

## 7. Implementation issues

There are no known implementation issues relating to the Elected Members Communications Policy.

## 8. Significance and engagement

The Elected Members Communications Policy is considered to be of low significance and does not trigger the Significance and Engagement Policy.

## 9. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

There is no known lack of alignment with policy risk management policy or legislative compliance relating to the Draft Elected Members Communications Policy.

---

## Background/Tuhinga

Councillors discussed the attached Draft Elected Members Communications Policy at a workshop on 18 November, with guidance to staff that councillors were satisfied with the draft and no changes were required.

The policy provides direction on how media, social media and other public communication activity involving elected members will be managed, in alignment with the Code of Conduct for elected members.

The purpose of the policy is to ensure:


- We're providing accurate, clear and timely information to our communities.
- Communications activity of elected members upholds the Code of Conduct.

- Elected members are clear on how non-council communications should be navigated, now that they are a councillor.
- Both elected members and staff are all on the same page about processes and policy for communications activity relating to elected members.

This policy would replace the current 'Communications Protocol for Elected Members' that was in place for the previous term of council.

---

### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Attachment 1: Elected Members Communications Policy [↓](#) 

# Elected Members Communications Policy

**This policy provides direction for elected members on engaging with media, social media and other public communication avenues, whether in a professional or personal capacity.**

## Purpose

This policy provides direction on how media, social media and other public communication activity involving elected members will be managed, in alignment with the Code of Conduct for elected members.

## Scope

This policy applies to all public communications involving elected members including (but not limited to) media interviews, media releases, social media, blogs, newsletters, events and speaking engagements.

## Policy Statement

### 1. Accountability for public comments

- Elected members are **personally accountable** for any public comments they make.
- All public and media comments must comply with the **Code of Conduct for elected members**, including:
  - No disclosure of confidential information.
  - No criticism of staff or comments that compromise staff impartiality or integrity.
  - Comments must be accurate and not misleading.
- Elected members should avoid commenting on matters before council in a way that suggests a **predetermined stance**.
- When speaking in an official capacity as a council spokesperson, elected members must reflect the agreed position of the council – not their personal views.

### 2. Personal opinions in public communications

- While elected members are expected to accurately represent council decisions and positions, any personal views they express must be **clearly distinguished** from the official position of the council.
- This applies to all public communications including (but not limited to) media, social media, blogs, newsletters, events and speaking engagements.

### 3. Non-council communications

Elected members may wish to share views or participate in public communications outside official council channels – such as media interviews, opinion pieces, social media accounts and posts, or speaking engagements.

- NRC is not responsible for supporting elected members communications activity outside official council channels.
- If identifying as a councillor (e.g. on councillor Facebook page or newspaper/newsletter column), members must include a disclaimer such as:

*“This is not a council-sponsored communication and reflects the personal opinion of Cr Joe Bloggs.”*

- Council branding (e.g. logos) must not be used in personal or non-council communications.

### 4. Authorised spokesperson for council

An authorised spokesperson is the individual who represents council and speaks on council’s behalf about a particular topic, or on a particular occasion.

- For **council decisions, governance matters, regionally significant issues and major council projects**, the NRC Chair (or Deputy Chair in the Chair’s absence) is the authorised spokesperson.
- The CE and/or NRC Chair may designate the role of spokesperson to someone else if they agree it is appropriate, taking into account (for example) whether there’s a clear link to any councillor’s portfolio; if the project is relevant to a particular constituency; and spokesperson availability.
- For topics aligned with a specific **committee or working party**, the Chair of that committee or working party (or Deputy Chair in their absence) is generally the spokesperson.
- For **operational or technical matters** it is appropriate that staff be the authorised spokesperson/people:
  - For organisational or staff-related questions the CE should be the spokesperson.
  - For operational and technical questions, a General Manager or other specialist (such as a programme manager with delegated authority from their GM) may be the spokesperson.

- For **emergency management and regional oil spills** the controller or Harbourmaster is generally the primary spokesperson during a response.

For key topics, the communications team will prepare messaging and support for the authorised spokesperson.

## 5. Media liaison

Responding to media enquiries in a timely and accurate manner is essential to ensure we make the most of opportunities to share our story, build public understanding of our services, and maintain transparency.

To maintain consistency, safeguard our reputation, and support elected members, we encourage elected members to:

- Have a discussion with the Chief Executive, relevant GM, or Communications Team ([media@nrc.govt.nz](mailto:media@nrc.govt.nz)) **before contacting or responding to media.**
- If you are not the authorised spokesperson, it is recommended that you don't provide commentary to the media. Instead, the Communications Team will liaise with the media and the authorised spokesperson to provide a council response.

The communications team will:

- Advise on the appropriate spokesperson, in line with the authorised spokesperson guidelines.
- Provide messaging and support as needed.

Approval process for media responses

- **Political or sensitive matters:** The GM reviews the response, with final approval from the CE and the designated governance spokesperson.
- **Standard governance responses:** The GM reviews the response, with final approval from the designated governance spokesperson.
- **Operational matters:** Approval typically sits with the relevant General Manager (GM), and may include a technical spokesperson if applicable.

Media generally expect a **same-day response**, unless the enquiry is complex.

- The role of spokesperson may be designated to someone else if needed to ensure we can provide a timely response – see 'authorised spokesperson for council' above.

## 6. Media releases

Media releases are issued regularly to inform and educate the public about council decisions, services, good news stories, and issues. Before proceeding, we assess newsworthiness (is it likely to get picked up by media) and audience value (is it relevant and useful).

DRAFT

IF PRINTED THIS POLICY IS VALID AT DATE OF PRINT

#### Process

- Drafting is led by the communications team, with input from the relevant programme manager or subject matter expert.
- The spokesperson is determined by the relevant GM, with advice from the Communications Team, in line with authorised spokesperson guidelines above.

#### Sign-off

- **Political or sensitive matters:** The GM reviews the draft release, with final approval from the CE and the designated governance spokesperson.
- **Standard governance-level releases:** The GM reviews the draft release, with final approval from the designated governance spokesperson.
- **Standard operational-level releases:** Approval typically sits with the relevant General Manager (GM).
- At the discretion of the CE or NRC Chair, additional internal or external approvals may be required.

#### Release

- Only the communications team can issue an NRC media release.
- All finalised media releases are automatically copied to elected members, CE, GMs at the same moment they are sent to the media.

#### Emergency management and oil spill response

- Media releases for regional emergencies are authorised by the CDEM Manager (for civil defence emergencies) or Harbourmaster/controller (for oil spill response).

#### Elected member requests

- Any media release ideas or requests from elected members should be directed to the CE and relevant GM.

### 7. Media monitoring

- All elected members will be subscribed to council's external media monitoring service.
- Elected members can choose to opt out if they do not wish to receive media monitoring updates.
- Requests for paid subscriptions to media services will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Chair and CE.

### 8. Social media

- Elected members are responsible for managing their own social media accounts and content.

- Posts must comply with the Code of Conduct, especially when referring to other members, staff, or the public.
- Personal views must be clearly identified as such and not presented as council positions, especially identifying as an NRC councillor (e.g. a Facebook profile “Joe Bloggs – NRC councillor”).
- Elected members should avoid releasing content on their own social media channels prior to NRC releasing it through official channels, to ensure consistency, accuracy and alignment.

### 9. Council and community events

Council participates in and/or sponsors a range of public events (e.g. Waitangi Day celebrations, A&P shows, boat shows, business awards, Enviroschools events), which are carefully planned to align with strategic priorities.

- Tickets for NRC-sponsored events and awards are generally limited and are offered to elected members in consultation with the NRC Chair and/or CE.
- Tickets for NRC-attended community engagement (e.g. A&P shows) are offered to elected members in relevant constituencies.
- If not allocated a ticket but wishing to attend in an official capacity, you may purchase one and request reimbursement, subject to prior approval from the NRC Chair.
- Formal invitations received by the NRC Chair or CE will be shared with relevant elected members as appropriate.
- Other opportunities for elected member attendance at events (e.g. Enviroschools) will be offered via the relevant GM.

## Essential supporting information

### Key relevant documents

- [Code of Conduct for elected members](#)
- [Generative Artificial Intelligence Policy](#)
- [Taituarā guidelines on Communications in the Pre-Election Period](#)

**TITLE: Business Case for Flood Mitigation Long Term Plan Projects**

**From:** Joseph Camuso, Rivers & Natural Hazards Manager and Barney Brotherhood, River Engineer

**Authorised by Group Manager/s:** Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 03 December 2025

---

**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

This report seeks council's approval for unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$571,380 to develop a business case to assess flood risk mitigation options for Dargaville and Kerikeri/Waipapa areas, to investigate the current state of the Awanui coastal stop banks and to confirm the design solution with updated costs for Tauranga Bay. This business case will be used to inform the 2027-2037 Infrastructure Strategy that forms part to the Long-Term Plan (LTP).

It is recommended that unbudgeted expenditure be funded via a combination of existing salary savings and the salary of those positions proposed to be disestablished as part of the Annual Plan budget cuts (which will not take effect until next financial year). This work would be actioned over the next 9 months to inform LTP conversations and decisions and to ensure that council is well positioned for future central government co-funding opportunities.

---

**Recommendation(s)**

1. That the report 'Business Case for Flood Mitigation Long Term Plan Projects' by Joseph Camuso, Rivers & Natural Hazards Manager and Barney Brotherhood, River Engineer and dated 15 October 2025, be received.
2. That council approve development of a business case to determine flood risk mitigation options for Dargaville, and Kerikeri/Waipapa and to investigate the current state of the Awanui coastal stop banks and to confirm the design solutions with updated costs for Tauranga Bay.
3. That council approve unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$571,380 to fund development of a business case for flood risk mitigation options to inform future Long Term Plan decisions and to ensure that council is well positioned for future co-funding opportunities.

---

**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Approve unbudgeted expenditure to fund the development of the flood risk mitigation business case.	Council will have up to date information to make informed decisions on LTP Flood Mitigation Projects.  Council will be well placed to take advantage of any future government funding opportunities.	Funds from salary savings and position cuts are not available for other projects.

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
2	Do not approve unbudgeted funding for a business case and consider developing a business case over a longer time period through funding identified in the 2027 - 2037 LTP.	Funds from salary savings and position cuts are available for other projects.	Understanding of potential flood risk mitigation options and associated costs will not be available for Infrastructure Strategy and LTP decision making.  Council has limited projects ready to take advantage of any future central government co-funding opportunities.

The staff's recommended option is Option 1, approve unbudgeted expenditure for the development of the business case for flood risk mitigation projects for Awanui stopbands, Dargaville, Kerikeri/Waipapa and Tauranga Bay.

## Considerations

### 1. Climate Impact

This is primarily a desk-top and modelling exercise and will have minimum climate impact, some site visits and physical testing maybe required for geotechnical and other site investigations. However, if the flood mitigation is progressed, the adaptation will provide Northland with greater community resilience from future flooding.

### 2. Environmental Impact

This is primarily a desk-top and modelling exercise and will have minimum Environmental Impact.

### 3. Community views

The proposed projects have been identified by the relevant river liaison working groups, apart from the Dargaville flood mitigation. However, following Cyclone Gabrielle, several community meetings were hosted by the Dargaville Community Development Board Inc who have indicated that they are supportive of further investigative work. Staff anticipate setting up a working group and technical group with KDC (similar to the NRC/WDC technical working group) to better align both councils LTPs to advance flood mitigation for Dargaville.

### 4. Māori impact statement

Māori are represented on the River Liaison Working Groups and have been part of the discussions regarding these potential projects. The development of this business case has the potential for positive effects for all local people include Māori.

### 5. Financial implications

Unbudgeted expenditure be funded via a combination of existing salary savings and the salary of four positions proposed to be disestablished as part of the Annual Plan budget cuts (which will not take effect until next financial year).

### 6. Implementation issues

It is intended to complete the business case by August 2026 which will mean that it spans two financial years and will require a carry-over of funding. The contract will include milestones that prioritises the work to ensure the highest priority areas are completed first. Progress on the business case will be reported through the Infrastructure Committee and relevant River Liaison Working Groups.

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

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

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

---

## **Background/Tuhinga**

Over the last 5 years NRC has received \$19.1m of funding towards flood risk mitigation projects detailed in the infrastructure strategy. Most recently NRC has been awarded a further \$1.5m from the Regional Resilience Fund towards further work on the Awanui flood scheme setting back the stop banks on the Lower Whangatane spillway. This has led to a situation where several projects that would have been undertaken over several years have been completed well ahead of schedule. For example, the work undertaken on the Awanui scheme over the last 4 years was programmed to take 9 years and the 35-marae project was a 10-year programme delivered in just over a year. Given the tight timeframes for delivery associated with government funding, the focus of council resources has been on project delivery. As a result, without additional dedicated resources and focus, we will not have a pipeline of investment ready flood infrastructure projects available for consideration as part of the next LTP and future government investment opportunities.

To inform the upcoming review of the Infrastructure Strategy as part of the Long-Term Plan process in 2026, and to take advantage of future co-funding opportunities, staff have undertaken new modelling work in the Dargaville and Kerikeri/Waipapa catchments. Whilst both models remain in the ground truthing phase they can be used to investigate potential flood risk mitigation options and associated costs. Additionally, the Awanui coastal stop banks upgrade is a project detailed in the current Long-Term Plan that is due to be completed in 2033. Whilst there is work underway to understand the full extent of the risks associated with these stop banks, any opportunity to bring this work forward should be taken.

The flood risks at Tauranga Bay have been known about for some time and a design to address these issues has been developed. To bring this solution forward to be shovel ready work needs to be undertaken to confirm that the design remains fit for purpose and to bring the costs up to date.

Awanui and Tauranga Bay residents currently pay a Targeted Flood rate in addition to a Regional Flood Infrastructure Rate (FIR). There is currently no targeted rate for Dargaville or Kerikeri/Waipapa residents.

[Before the Deluge](#) is the regional councils' proposal for co-investment for river management and flood protection. Northland has had all of the projects included in this document funded to date. The document is current being updated as many other regional councils are in a similar position of needing to regroup and develop a new stream of shovel ready projects. In the drafting of this next edition it has been agreed that projects do not have to be "shovel ready" but can be under

investigation. As a result, staff have submitted project placeholders for Awanui (coastal stopbanks), Dargaville, Kerikeri/Waipapa and Tauranga Bay. Awanui (Donald Road Bridge (shovel ready)) and Whangārei Urban have also been included.

The estimated cost for this work is \$571,380. There are no resources available to undertake the new work for Dargaville or to bring forward the work currently included in the Infrastructure Strategy 2024-2034. Staff are seeking council agreement for unbudgeted expenditure to be approved to complete this work.

If the total cost is considered too high council could consider resourcing part of the business case development now and decide on funding the remainder through the LTP at a later date. Should partial funding be considered when providing direction on priorities, councillors are asked to consider the following:

- a. In accordance with the NRC regional infrastructure strategy flood risk mitigation work criteria, projects are prioritised as follows:
  - i. Threat to loss of life
  - ii. Protection of existing infrastructure
  - iii. Protection of existing facilities
  - iv. Protection of existing private homes.
- b. Advice from Te Uru Kahika is that a combination of shovel ready projects and projects under development will be most successful as this will help in providing a pipeline of flood risk mitigation infrastructure projects around the county. The solution for Tauranga Bay has already been designed and agreed with the local community, but costs need to be updated to inform funding applications. It is acknowledged that staff will need to reengage with the community to confirm the design, but this is the project that is closest to being shovel ready.

To assist with any discussions on council priorities, staff have used Resilience Explorer (GIS based tool for assessing areas potentially exposed to hazards) to interrogate each area to determine an estimate of the impacts of coastal and fluvial flooding on residential and commercial properties and roading and storm water pipes. Current sea level conditions have been considered as well as a future scenario with 1.6m sea level rise. These findings are included at tables 1 and 2. This provides a rough guide to the property and infrastructure that could be exposed to the flooding risk under each scenario.

**Table 1. Properties and Infrastructure Risks to Coastal and Fluvial Flooding - Current**

(1% AEP for today with 0m of sea level rise)

Catchment/Urban area	% Industrial and commercial property at risk and estimated costs	Average Depth of Flood	Residential Property Risk	Average Depth of flood	Roads Threatened	Stormwater pipes threatened
Awanui Coastal Stopbanks	82% (\$6.6M)	0.75m	16% (\$2.8M)	0.31m	4.54km	N/A
Dargaville	52% (\$52M)	1.57m	18% (\$20M)	0.51m	4.27km	16km
Kerikeri/Waipapa	41% (\$63.1M)	0.44m	24% (\$103m)	0.42m	5.72km	2.22km
Tauranga Bay	100% (\$230K)	0.75m	84% (\$8.9M)	0.74m	0.17km	0.17km

**Table 2. Properties and Infrastructure Risks to Coastal and Fluvial Flooding - Future**

(1% AEP for 2100 with 1.6m of sea level rise)

Catchment/Urban area	% Industrial and commercial property at risk	Average Depth of Flood	% Residential Property Risk	Average Depth of flood	Roads Threatened	Stormwater pipes
Awanui Coastal Stopbanks	100% (\$7.6M)	2.18m	91% (\$11.3M)	2.11m	15km	N/A
Dargaville	91% (\$90.9m)	2.49m	58% (\$66.9M)	2.13m	14km	31km
Kerikeri/Waipapa	59% (\$75.7M*)	0.4m	86%(\$113.5m)	0.6m	7.83km	2.60km
Tauranga Bay	100% (\$230K)	1.68m	97% (\$10.3m)	1.54m	0.35km	0.18km

\* \$10.3M of this is assessed as “insignificant” damage.

(AEP - Average Exceedance Period)

It is acknowledged that this is a significant funding undertaking but the benefits of having several projects with up-to-date costs embedded in our 2027-2027 LTP positions NRC well to bid for future funding opportunities which if successful will reduce the requirement to increase targeted rates.

## Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil



**TITLE: Delegations for submissions on resource management reforms and fast track application**

**From:** Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

**Authorised by Group Manager/s:** Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 10 December 2025

---

**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

A number of key pieces of processes including the Resource Management reform and the Bream Bay Sand Mining application, potentially require input from Northland Regional Council (NRC) over the Christmas/New Year period when staff and councillor availability is reduced. In order to ensure the ability of NRC to participate in these processes, a decision is sought from council to delegate authority to the NRC Chair and selected councillors to approve submissions/comments.

Note that the recommendation to delegate authority to the chair and selected councillors is a contingency should timeframes and associated capacity limits remove the ability to follow the normal process. Should timeframes be favourable to bringing any of the processes to a council meeting, the delegations will not be exercised.

---

**Recommendation(s)**

1. That the report 'Delegations for submissions on resource management reforms and fast track application' by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 27 November 2025, be received.
2. That authority is delegated to the Chair of Northland Regional Council plus Councillors Hunt, Blackwell and Macdonald to jointly provide comments on behalf of NRC with regard to the Bream Bay Sand Mining Fast Track application.
3. That authority is delegated to the Chair of Northland Regional Council plus Councillors MacDonald and Carr to jointly approve a submission on behalf of NRC with regard to Resource Management reform.
4. That the delegations set out in resolutions 2 and 3 lapse 24 February 2026 or immediately before the commencement of the first formal council meeting of the 2026 calendar year, whichever is sooner.

---

**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	That council delegate authority to the NRC Chair plus selected councillors to approve NRC input Resource Management Reform and the Bream Bay Sand	This will provide the best opportunity for NRC to be able to participate within the required timeframes. The delegation would not be exercised if sufficient time is available for full	While Councillors will have the opportunity to provide feedback via e-mail, not all Councillors will be involved in the

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
	Mining Fast Track application.	council participation, but it provides a backup position if time does not allow for normal process.	approval of the final submission.
2	Delegation remains with full council.	All councillors will be able to participate.	Given the limited availability and short timeframes, NRC may not be able to provide input in time.

The staff's recommended option is 1

## Considerations

### 1. Alignment to council strategic direction - community outcomes

The matters covered in this report relate to the following community outcomes:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected and flourishing native life                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy waters, land and air                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and resilient transport networks                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable, innovative and equitable economy             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful partnerships with tāngata whenua                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon neutral, resilient communities in a changing climate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient, progressive and transparent council systems |  |

### 2. Climate Impact

The decisions proposed are procedural matters that will facilitate NRC involvement in the resource management reform process and the Bream Bay Sand Mining Application with no direct impact on climate change.

### 3. Environmental Impact

Providing appropriate delegations for submissions/comments on upcoming matters will allow council to participate in the process and to ensure environmental impacts are documented for consideration by decision-makers.

### 4. Community views

There are strong community views regarding the resource management reforms and Sand Mining application, however, this decision is a procedural matter that will allow NRC to participate in decision-making to the full extent provided for by the legislation.

### 5. Māori impact statement

This report relates to a council administrative matter and, therefore, does not have a direct impact on Māori. Any potential impacts of future related decisions will be addressed in the relevant reports.

### 6. Financial implications

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

## 7. Implementation issues

There are not considered to be any implementation issues associated with this decision.

## 8. 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.

## 9. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance

Providing decision making delegations to nominated councillors is considered to be prudent given the limitations of the holiday period and short timeframes for responses.

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

---

## Background/Tuhinga

This report seeks a decision for managing key council processes happening or likely to happen over the Christmas/New Year period where actions may be required before the February council meeting. A workshop was held on the 2 December 2025 briefing councillors and seeking direction on how to prioritise and manage the submission process for these processes should the closing dates for feedback/submissions occur before the February council meeting.

*Table 1. Summary of key processes for council feedback and associated deadlines*

Process	Status	Closing date for submission
<b>Resource Management Reform</b>	Reform bills imminent. Likely to be released <b>8 December</b> or soon after	Unkown. Based on experience, assume <b>24 January 2026</b> . Best case Late February.
<b>National Direction</b>	Week starting <b>8 December</b> .	Unofficial timeframe is <b>24 January 2026</b> .
<b>Bream Bay sandmining Fast Track proposal</b>	Unkown. Assumed Late <b>December/Early January</b> ,	Unknown. Moderate risk it will be before <b>February 2026</b> council meeting

The resource management reform packages and the Bream Bay Sand Mining Fast Track application have significant implications for council but timeframes for input are tight and span over the Christmas break when elected member availability will be limited; there is a high risk the submission periods will close before the first council meeting in February.

A recommended approach is set out in the options table above. In summary, staff propose council delegate approval for submissions and fast track commentary to the Chair and selected councillors as a contingency to manage risk should deadlines for the above processes occur outside of the first council meeting in February 2026.

Staff also propose limiting submission points on the resource management changes to high level principles and focus on solutions rather than technical detail.

It should be noted staff will not be submitting on the national direction drafts. The merits of releasing this work before the reform bills are enacted is not clear. Staff consider it likely the national direction work will need to be adapted to meet the final form of the new resource management legislation and so the value of submitting at this point in time is considered to be low.

Staff are seeking formal conformation of option 1 in the table above as discussed in the 2 December workshop.

Note that the recommendation to delegate authority to the chair and two other councillors is a contingency should timeframes and associated capacity limits remove the ability to follow the normal process. Should timeframes be favourable to bringing any of the processes to a council meeting, the delegations will not be exercised.

---

### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE:** **Fast Track Approvals Application - Bream Bay Sand Mining**

**From:** Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager

**Authorised by Group Manager/s:** Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 10 December 2025

---

### Whakarāpopototanga | Executive Summary

An application by MBL Ltd for sand extraction in the Coastal Marine Area (CMA) of Bream Bay is one of the listed projects under the Fast Track Approvals Act (FTA). The substantive application has not been lodged, but staff understand the application is imminent.

One of the functions of council under the Fast Track process is to nominate a person to the Expert Panel that will assess the application. Delegations for nominating a person to the panel sit with full council. The purpose of this report is to seek a decision from council to that end. The decision is being sought prior to the application process formally commencing because there is a risk nominations will be sought before the next Council meeting in February 2026.

---

### Ngā mahi tūtohutia | Recommendations

1. That the report 'Fast Track Approvals Application - Bream Bay Sand Mining' by Ingrid Kuindersma, Senior Policy Planner and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 25 November 2025, be received.
2. That Northland Regional Council nominate Troy Brockbank as a member of the Expert Panel convened to determine the McCallum Brothers Bream Bay Sand Mining Application lodged under the Fast Track Approvals Act. Should Troy Brockbank be unavailable at the time of convening the expert panel Dr Malcom Green be nominated as an alternate.

---

### Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Nominate Troy Brockbank as NRC's selection for the Expert Panel. In the instance that Troy is unavailable at the time of convening the expert panel, Dr Malcom Green is nominated.	Troy Brockbank is considered to have the appropriate expertise to contribute to the Expert Panel and consider environmental risks and impacts as well as represent a Te Ao Māori perspective. The hearing convenor has also confirmed that Te Ao Maori expertise was being sought. Malcom Green as an alternative is also appropriate given his technical expertise.	Nil
2	Do not nominate anyone for the Panel	Reduced council administration costs associated with seeking a nomination.	Further reduces the role of council in participating in the fast-track process. Nominating

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
			a person to the panel provides an opportunity for council to ensure local expertise and experience is part of the decision-making process.
3	Other Nominee	May increase the diversity of expertise nominated to the panel.	Serious time constraints on confirming appropriate expertise, availability and any conflicts of interest.

Staff's recommended is Option 1.

## Considerations

### 1. Alignment to council strategic direction - community outcomes

The matters covered in this report relate to the following community outcomes:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected and flourishing native life                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy waters, land and air                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and resilient transport networks                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable, innovative and equitable economy             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful partnerships with tāngata whenua                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon neutral, resilient communities in a changing climate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient, progressive and transparent council systems |  |

### 2. Climate Impact

The decisions proposed are procedural matters under the Fast Track Approvals Act no direct impact on climate change.

### 3. Environmental Impact

Although the sand mining activity itself will have an environmental impact, the decisions sought through this report are procedural matters

### 4. Community views

There are strong community views regarding the Sand Mining application, however, this decision is a procedural matter provided for by the Fast Track legislation.

### 5. Māori impact statement

Council's submission on the fast track approval bill stated that the legislation runs significant risk of severely constraining iwi and hapū participation in decision making by failing to provide adequate provision for Māori rights and interests and cut across the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The recommendation in this report is to nominate an individual with expertise in Te Ao Māori. It is acknowledged that a panellist's roles will be to provide objective expertise in their given field, and so they will not be representing the rights and interests of affected iwi, hapū and whanau. However, nominating an individual with Te Ao Māori expertise will help ensure the panel's decision takes into the Māori world view, which inherently will involve considering the impacts of the activity and the relationship and responsibilities of mana e te whenua and mana e te moana with the affected environment. This report relates to a council administrative matter and, therefore, does not have a direct impact on Māori. Any potential impacts of future related decisions will be addressed in the relevant reports.

**6. Financial implications**

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

**7. Implementation issues**

There are not considered to be any implementation issues associated with this decision.

**8. Significance and engagement**

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is considered to be of low significance when assessed against council's Significance and Engagement Policy because it has previously been consulted upon and provided for in council's Long Term Plan and/or 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.

**9. Policy, risk management and legislative compliance**

Providing a nomination to the expert panel is an action provided for under the FTA, therefore, confirming the NRC nomination for the panel achieves legislative compliance.

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

---

**Tuhinga | Background**

Government passed the Fast Track Approvals Act in 2024 to provide an alternative process for consenting large-scale resource consent applications that are considered to have national or regional benefits.

At the Council meeting on 25 March 2025, council decided on a process of having workshops to develop comments and nominate expert panel members for fast-track applications once submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The process included comments and nomination being decided via council workshops and then at Council meetings.

MBL Ltd has a listed Fast Track proposal to extract (using a motorised trailing suction dredge) up to approximately 150,000 cubic metres of sand per annum for an initial period of three years and up to approximately 250,000 cubic metres per annum thereafter. The application relates to a 17 square kilometre area of seabed in the marine and coastal area of Bream Bay. The substantive application has not been lodged yet, but we anticipate lodgement with the Environmental Protection Agency early next year.

As the relevant local authority for the sand mining application, NRC will be asked to nominate a person to sit on the expert panel. The expert panel's function is to determine an application in a similar way to a consent authority, but under the FTA.

The delegation for nominating a person to sit on the panel requires a full (formal) council decision.

Feedback from other councils who have been involved in recent FTA decisions is that the Panel Convenor moves very quickly to appoint panel members; and under the amendments proposed by the Fast Track Approvals Amendment Bill, the convenor will have no more than 15 working days to set up a panel. The take-home is that pre-empting the nomination process is the only practicable way to gain a council decision to nominating a person to sit on the panel.

The recommended nomination is [Troy Brockbank](#)

Troy (Te Rarawa, Ngāti Hine, Ngāpuhi) is a civil engineer, water practitioner, technical advisor, and cultural navigator, primarily within the water industry. He has over 15 years of experience spanning engineering consultancies, civil contracting, and government roles. He is also a certified hearings commissioner.

Should Troy be unavailable, the following commissioner is recommended for nomination:

Dr Malcom Green

An expert in estuarine, coastal and marine science. A member of the NZ Coastal Society, Malcom has held a range of positions relating to Marine Science since 1979. He has worked on coastal projects around the Auckland, Kaipara, and Whangarei area as well as acting as an independent hearings commissioner.

---

**Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE: Madagascar Ragwort**

**From:** Joanna Barr, Biosecurity Manager Pest Plants and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity

**Authorised by** Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and Jonathan Gibbard,  
**Group Manager/s:** Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, on 10 December 2025

---

**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

The purpose of the report is to outline the engagement, research, and delivery activities that could be funded by council in the short to medium term to support the response to Madagascar ragwort, and the potential source of this funding.

A number of priority actions are described, and staff are proposing \$277,000 of unbudgeted expenditure is allocated to the Madagascar ragwort programme.

Funding of \$206,000 is available this financial year through realigning commercial revenue income and utilising budget associated with the FIF fund. If supported this could be reallocated to undertake the activities identified as the highest priority short-medium term actions for the Madagascar ragwort programme.

An additional \$71,000 would be required to fund the balance of the priority actions identified and council's share of the development of the economic impact assessment and position paper, and it is proposed this be allocated from salary savings.

---

**Recommendation(s)**

1. That the report 'Madagascar Ragwort' by Joanna Barr, Biosecurity Manager Pest Plants and Don McKenzie, Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao - GM Biosecurity and dated 1 December 2025, be received.
2. That council approves the funding of \$277,000 to progress priority actions and the Economic Impact Analysis and position paper for Madagascar ragwort.

---

**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Council approves the reallocation of \$206k from the FIF and a further \$71k from salary savings to fund priority management actions, the economic analysis assessment and position paper for Madagascar ragwort.	Accelerates the plan to slow the spread of Madagascar ragwort across Te Taitokerau	Draws down on commercial revenue and salary savings that could be spent on other priorities

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
2	Council does not approve the funding.	No cost to council	Delays actions which could slow the spread of Madagascar ragwort

The staff's recommended option is **Option 1**

## Considerations

### 1. Alignment to council strategic direction - community outcomes

The matters covered in this report relate to the following community outcomes:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected and flourishing native life                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy waters, land and air                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and resilient transport networks                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A sustainable, innovative and equitable economy  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meaningful partnerships with tāngata whenua | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon neutral, resilient communities in a changing climate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Efficient, progressive and transparent council systems |  |

### 2. Climate Impact

This decision will have no foreseeable impact on the ability of council to respond to the impacts of climate change within the following year.

### 3. Environmental Impact

This decision is largely administrative and environmental risks or impacts on the environment are unknown although the report is expected to increase public awareness of Madagascar ragwort across Te Taitokerau.

### 4. Community views

Far and mid north farming communities are aware of the issues and strongly support additional action being taken by agencies to slow the spread of Madagascar ragwort. There has also been extensive media on the issue and representations made to government from concerned local farmers concerning the apparent lack of action by Ministry for Primary industries and pest agencies.

### 5. Māori impact statement

The decision to fund the priority options has the potential for positive effects for all local people including Māori. Slowing the spread of this pest plant will enhance on farm profitability. The chief executives from Ngati Kahu and Te Rarawa Runanga have also been made aware of the issues and have been involved in the development of an Economic Impact Analysis and support additional control actions being taken.

## **6. Financial implications**

This decision will require unbudgeted expenditure of \$206k funded through a realignment of commercial revenue income and utilising budget associated with the FIF fund, which is no longer required. A portion of the expenditure (\$71k) will also be sourced from salary savings.

## **7. Implementation issues**

A consultant will be engaged to project manage the funding and operational delivery while staff manage the relationship responsibilities.

## **8. Significance and engagement**

In relation to section 79 of the Local Government Act 2002, this decision is considered to be of low significance when assessed against council's significance and engagement policy because it has previously been consulted on and provided for in council's Long-Term Plan and/or 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.

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

This decision is consistent with the Regional Pest Management Plan which establishes rules for the management of Madagascar ragwort.

---

### **Background/Tuhinga**

Madagascar ragwort is an aggressive, toxic pasture weed which can result in significant on farm productivity losses. It produces tens of thousands of windblown seeds, that can mature and set seed within six weeks of germination. It is widespread in the far north and is increasing in density in the mid north as it continues to spread. Climate modelling shows that it could grow as far south as Canterbury in the South Island.

A map of the current known distribution can be found on the Council's Madagascar ragwort information page: [www.nrc.govt.nz/MadagascarRagwort](http://www.nrc.govt.nz/MadagascarRagwort)

Council has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DairyNZ, Beef + Lamb New Zealand, and Pāmu to develop an economic impact assessment and position paper for managing Madagascar ragwort. This economic impact assessment and position paper will highlight the need for greater investment in awareness, regulation, and research, and identify agreed priorities for this investment. Alongside Pāmu, staff and elected members have also appeared before the Primary Production Committee to advocate for central government support and leadership and have previously met with the Minister for Biosecurity.

NRC, along with Pāmu, DairyNZ and Beef and Lamb New Zealand are proposing that the response to Madagascar ragwort needs to be treated as a nationally important issue that is jointly led and funded by a cross-sector working group, comprised of Regional Councils, key primary industry representatives and Biosecurity New Zealand.

This cross-sector group would collaboratively progress and resource the priority actions across the key workstreams, including awareness and advocacy, biological control development, research to refine agrichemical control methods and pasture management, and the potential use of regulatory tools to slow the spread. Council and industry representatives have also been

advocating for a national awareness campaign to be led by MPI, as staff propose that national coordination of this aspect is vital.

In the interim, while we progress the shared cost model, there are a suite of short-term actions that, if resourced now, would enable escalation of the existing work on the programme in our region and initiation of key research priorities.

The table below contains a total of \$397,700 of proposed activities across key workstreams.

Within this, the highest priority options have been highlighted in yellow. These include:

- Multi-channel awareness campaign - \$25,000 - \$50,000
- Events and display collateral \$3000- \$5000
- Stage 1 of biocontrol research - \$50-\$100K
- Additional proactive surveillance and mapping \$14,000
- Production and distribution of tools to assist with identification \$4,000
- Ecogene DNA marker analysis and DNA test development \$30,000
- Additional project management capacity \$37,000

These priority activities total \$240,000, with some flexibility to scale within this.

Most of these options would be able to be progressed over a period the next 6-8 months, while some, like the biocontrol research would enable work to be initiated and contracted but not necessarily completed.

Workstream	Activity	Estimated cost
<b>Higher priority items highlighted in yellow</b>		
Project management	<b>Project management support</b> External support to help manage the cross sector working group and associated sub-committees beyond the initial options analysis process and help deliver the project plan actions if funded. Scale of support needed dependent on what other streams of work funded.	Initial support of \$37,000  <b>Priority</b>
Awareness and advocacy	<b>Multi-channel awareness campaign</b> An external agency-led multi-channel campaign including online and offline channels to reach target audiences. This includes a targeted digital advertising campaign, physical collateral, and public relations activities like Farmers Weekly articles. BNZ contributions to more awareness needs to be negotiated.  Potential timeline: 2-6 months	\$25,000–\$50,000  <b>Priority</b>
Awareness and advocacy	<b>Events and display collateral</b> Display material for events and displays including gazebo side wall, pull-up banners, flying flags etc.  Potential timeline: 2 months	\$3000 - \$5000  <b>Priority</b>

Workstream	Activity	Estimated cost
Awareness and advocacy	<p><b>Additional contract support for door-to-door farm advisory</b></p> <p>Estimated cost: \$70 per hour plus mileage costs, approximately \$3,800 per person, per week</p> <p>The advocates could also attend additional events and farming workshops and meetings to handout information material.</p> <p>Timeline: within 6 months (dependent on availability of suitable contractors).</p>	<p>1 pax 12 weeks: \$45,600</p> <p>2 pax 12 weeks \$91,200</p>
Awareness and advocacy	<p><b>Additional awareness videos: Identification and spread prevention</b></p> <p>Production of two further videos – How to identify Madagascar ragwort and spread prevention. Include photography of infected areas for use in marketing and promotional activities.</p> <p>Potential timeline: 3 months</p>	\$10,000
Awareness and advocacy	<p><b>Mobile signage</b></p> <p>We are currently trialling mobile signs that can be deployed on farmland adjacent to road corridors (restrictions significantly limit what signage can be placed in the road corridor).</p> <p>Development of signage for use with mobile sign frames \$1,000 per skin</p> <p>Purchase of additional mobile sign frames \$3,000</p> <p>Potential timeline: 3 months</p>	\$1000 - \$8,000
Awareness and advocacy	<p><b>3D headset video</b></p> <p>Trial development of footage for use with 3D Headsets for use at events to convey scale of infestations.</p> <p>Potential timeline: 4 months</p>	\$5,000
Awareness and advocacy	<p><b>Vehicle branding</b></p> <p>Wrap an NRC Ute to promote farm biosecurity hygiene messages to increase visibility in rural areas and at events.</p> <p>Potential timeline: 1-2 months</p>	\$3,500

Workstream	Activity	Estimated cost
Biocontrol	<p><b>Biocontrol Stage 1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update feasibility study with research developments that have occurred since publication</li> <li>- Identify whether collaborations and/or data sharing are possible with CSIRO, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, and other institutions around collecting samples of <i>S. madagascariensis</i> for genetic testing and host specificity testing for potential <i>S. madagascariensis</i> agents.</li> <li>- Conduct a genetic analysis of populations of <i>S. madagascariensis</i> in New Zealand, Australia and within the broader native range.</li> </ul> <p>Potential timeline: Would need to be scheduled into Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research workplan. The initial work to scope the work and identify and contract overseas collaborators could be undertaken within 6 months.</p>	<p>\$50,000 -100,000</p> <p><b>Priority</b></p>
Distribution mapping	<p><b>Additional proactive surveillance and mapping:</b></p> <p>Contractor Jenny Dymock and staff currently undertaking proactive survey and responding to reports. Opportunity to increase capacity for this work with dedicated contract hours allocated to proactive surveillance.</p> <p>Potential timeline: 3 months, primarily targeted to autumn flowering</p>	<p>\$14,000</p> <p><b>Priority</b></p>
Identification and Distribution mapping	<p><b>Production and distribution of tools to assist with identification:</b></p> <p>Produce and supply a tool with a 0.8mm tip to assist landowners and industry and agency staff with identification.</p> <p>Potential timeline: 6 weeks</p>	<p>\$4,000</p> <p><b>Priority</b></p>
Identification and Distribution mapping	<p><b>Ecogene DNA marker analysis and DNA test development</b></p> <p>Review of sequence data to identify potential test markers for the development of a cost-effective DNA test that would simplify and provide more certainty around identification. Requires additional herbarium specimen collection/ formal identification.</p> <p>Potential timeline: 6 months</p>	<p>\$30,000</p> <p><b>Priority</b></p>
<p><b>Distribution modelling</b></p> <p>(Although not currently highlighted as a priority but this</p>	<p><b>INA Pest Spread modelling</b></p> <p>Modelling the potential spread of Madagascar ragwort, using INApest, a novel network simulation method model. This model integrates climate, pest biology and multiple management variables.</p>	<p>\$40,000</p>

<p>item would be very valuable for demonstrating the potential spread in other regions and the impact on the rate of spread due to longer range human mediated dispersal. Co-funding from BNZ and other regions may be possible.</p>	<p>INApest is set up to model spread of pests and weeds between individual farms. It works at a regional level and can model spread for each region. It can also incorporate spread between regions and can assess the impact of different management scenarios in the currently invaded region.</p> <p>The modelling framework allows flexibility to tackle different questions or explore a wide range of management scenarios. The main management variables are farm level eradication probability, spread reduction (eg. from movement restriction or vehicle cleaning), management adoption probability and detection probability.</p> <p>Initial work has already been undertaken on this model but it requires further input and data to refine it. Other Regional Councils could be approached to co-fund this item given its relevance to them.</p> <p>Potential timeline: 4 months</p>	
<p>Total estimated cost of all proposed activities</p>		<p>\$397,700</p>

### Funding source

Funding of \$206,000 is available this financial year through realignment of commercial revenue income and utilisation of budget associated with the FIF fund. If supported this could be reallocated to undertake the activities identified as the highest priority for the Madagascar ragwort programme. An additional \$71,000 of salary savings would be needed to fund the balance of the \$240,000 required for the priority actions the council's share of the development of the economic impact assessment (EIA) and position paper.

### Co-funding

Any significant funding decisions would need to be considered in view of the findings of the EIA and position paper and be taken back to Industry boards and a future council workshop. At this stage in the process, we are unable to predict a strong industry appetite to co-fund however, dependant on councils' direction, staff can go back to Dairy NZ, Beef and Lamb and Pāmu with the opportunity for them to co-fund these priorities in advance of any future funding decisions.

### On-going funding

If approved, this will make funding available to progress the identified priority actions this financial year. There is currently no additional funding allocated for Madagascar ragwort for 2026-2027 and beyond, and this will need to be addressed once the economic impact assessment and position paper have been completed and co-funding negotiated.

---

### Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

**TITLE: Membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)**

**From:** Jane Hickmott, Governance and Policy Manager

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 10  
**Group Manager/s:** December 2025

---

**Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga**

Northland Regional Council (NRC) is a member of Te Uru Kahika (TUK) and Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). Both organisations provide advocacy, support and a range of services to member councils.

In response to current economic and environmental pressures many councils are reviewing memberships as a means of reducing organisational costs.

The previous Council raised considerations around NRC's LGNZ membership in early 2025, however, the decision was deferred to the incoming (current) council.

On December 4 a workshop was held to inform elected members with the benefits, services, and costs associated with Council's LGNZ membership. The workshop was attended by LGNZ Interim Chief Executive Scott Necklan and Zone Three Representative Mayor Rehette Stoltz who provided an overview of LGNZ's role and offerings.

The purpose of this report is for Council to review and make a decision on its LGNZ membership.

---

**Recommendation(s)**

1. That the report 'Membership of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ)' by Jane Hickmott, Governance and Policy Manager and dated 4 December 2025, be received.
2. That Council resolves to resign its membership with LGNZ, effective 17 December 2025, and authorises the Chair to give notice of the resignation in writing to Local Government New Zealand.

---

**Options**

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Retain LGNZ Membership.	Advocacy and representation through a unified voice at Central Government, influencing policy and legislation.  Access to additional resources offering best practice guides and policy advice.  Networking and Collaboration with opportunities to connect	Annual subscription fees and additional costs for travel and accommodation  Perceived value when outcomes are misaligned with regional priorities.  Duplication of services provided other regional bodies and geographical alliances.

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
		<p>with other councils outside the regional sector.</p> <p>Professional Development programmes for elected members and council officers improving governance capabilities.</p> <p>Sector Influence as NRC has the ability to vote on LGNZ policy positions.</p>	<p>Representation concerns with LGNZ predominately having a district council focus.</p>
2	Resign LGNZ membership.	<p>Cost saving with the immediate reduction in the annual subscription fee and associated costs (travel and attendance fees etc).</p> <p>Avoiding misalignment and duplication of representation.</p> <p>Potential to have direct investment into local government capability programmes.</p> <p>Opportunity to strengthen regional alliances that better align with NRC's priorities.</p>	<p>Reduced access to sector resources through Ākona and best practice guidelines.</p> <p>Fewer opportunities to connect with other councils.</p> <p>Reduced ability for NRC to support a united regional sector perspective to influence LGNZ position and advocacy during a significant period of local government reform where the value of regional councils is being challenged.</p> <p>Reputational considerations, as there is a risk NRC will be perceived as disengaged from the wider local government sector.</p>

The recommended option is Option 2.

## Considerations

### 1. Alignment to council strategic direction - community outcomes

The matters covered in this report relate to the following community outcomes:

☐ Protected and flourishing native life

☐ Healthy waters, land and air

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and resilient transport networks                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable, innovative and equitable economy             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful partnerships with tāngata whenua                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon neutral, resilient communities in a changing climate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient, progressive and transparent council systems |  |

## 2. Climate impact

As this is an administrative matter there are no climate change impacts anticipated as the result of this decision.

## 3. Environmental impact

As this is an administrative matter, there are no environmental impacts anticipated as the result of the decision.

## 4. Community views

Council has not actively sought community views in relation to their membership with LGNZ, however recent consultation on strategic plans and feedback received by way of council's residents survey indicates ongoing concern in relation to cost saving and efficiency.

## 5. Māori impact statement

Should council opt to leave LGNZ this could have an impact on the ability of an elected member who is also a representative of Te Maruata to remain a voting member of this committee and therefore reduce the voice of both the region and Māori in this space.

There are no other additional impacts on Māori anticipated, over and above that on the general community, as a result of this decision.

## 6. Financial implications

NRC's current LGNZ membership subscription is \$53,330.97, with additional expenditure incurred for elected member and staff participation in LGNZ activities, including registration fees, travel and accommodation. For the financial period from 1 April to December 2025, the total expense to Council is \$67,518.02. Rescinding membership would deliver a cost saving of approximately \$50,000 in subscription fees, while eliminating variable cost associated with conferences, training and related travel which fluctuate based on participation. Those savings could be redirected to local priorities or regional initiatives, providing greater flexibility in Council budget allocations.

## 7. Implementation issues

There are no implementation or resourcing implications associated to this report. The process of leaving LGNZ will be managed by council officers with the Chair and CEO.

## **8. Significance and engagement**

The decision to resign from LGNZ has been considered in accordance with Section 76AA of the LGA and does not trigger any further considerations under councils Significance and Engagement Policy.

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

There are no policy or legislative complicate risks associated with the decision to leave LGNZ. There is a small risk that leaving LGNZ would mean that the regional sector has one less member.

---

### **Background/Tuhinga**

NRC has held financial membership with LGNZ since 2015. LGNZ supports councils through policy advocacy, sector wide collaboration, and providing tools and training that strengthens governance, and performance for elected members and Council Officers. Although LGNZ advocates for the interests of all councils – city, district, unitary, and regional – its predominately made up of city and district councils (65 in total). As a result, its advocacy often prioritises issues that are more relevant to those sectors.

Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) provides additional benefits to member councils These include professional development for elected members through the Ākona platform, access to best practice templates and governance tools, and opportunities to influence LGNZ's policy positions and advocacy from a regional sector perspective. The ongoing value of LGNZ membership is particularly relevant during the current process of local government reform.

Much of LGNZ's mahi focuses on collaboration and relationship-building. NRC already maintains strong ties through its membership of TUK, participation in the Upper North Island Strategic Alliance, and involvement in several joint committees with neighbouring councils. These relationships will continue regardless of LGNZ membership. It is acknowledged that a number of benefits currently received through LGNZ can also be accessed via these other organisations and alliances.

Given the timing, there is a heightened strategic consideration for remaining a member of LGNZ. Leaving would mean that the regional sector has one less member to support and exert influence over the LGNZ position and advocacy to central government at a time when the government is proposing significant local government reform, including the abolishment of regional councils. There is a risk that the more regional councils that leave LGNZ membership, the more LGNZ becomes a district council focus organisation which may increasingly advocate for positions not in the best interest of the regional sector.

---

### **Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga**

Nil

**TITLE:** Triennial Agreement for the 2025-2028 triennium

**From:** Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager

**Authorised by** Bruce Howse, Pou Taumatua – Group Manager Corporate Services, on 10  
**Group Manager/s:** December 2025

---

### Executive summary/Whakarāpopototanga

The purpose of this report is to present the draft Triennial Agreement for council consideration. The Local Government Act 2002 requires Northland's four local authorities to enter into a Triennial Agreement, post 2025 elections, and no later than 1 March 2026. The Triennial Agreement, attached to this report, has been drafted through the Mayoral and CEOs' Forums and was workshopped with council on 18 November 2025.

Council approval is now sought for the Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of council.

---

### Recommendations

1. That the report 'Triennial Agreement for the 2025-2028 triennium' by Kyla Carlier, Corporate Strategy Manager and dated 8 December 2025, be received.
2. That the Chair be authorised to sign the Triennial Agreement on behalf of council; including the ability to approve any necessary minor drafting, typographical, presentation or otherwise non-material corrections prior to the signing of the document.

---

### Options

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
1	Council approves the Triennial Agreement be signed in its current form.	Confirms NRC's firm commitment to work collaboratively with all the Northland councils.  Approval will enable the Triennial Agreement to be signed by the 1 March 2026 statutory deadline.	Although the Triennial Agreement was workshopped individually with all Northland councils and the Northland Mayoral Forum there may be further amendments that would enhance the intent of the document.
2	Council requests further amendments to the Triennial Agreement.	Council can ensure the Triennial Agreement accurately reflects its intent.	Additional negotiations with the district councils would be necessary to ensure agreement.  This may put pressure on the councils' ability to sign the Agreement by 1 March 2026.

No.	Option	Advantages	Disadvantages
3	Council does not approve the signing of the Triennial Agreement.	None apparent	<p>Potential damage to NRC's relationship with the district councils, and reputation.</p> <p>Council would need to enter into a statutory mediation process should it not agree to signing a Triennial Agreement by 1 March 2026.</p>

The staff's recommended option is Option 1 to approve the Chair signing the Triennial Agreement on behalf of council, and have the delegated authority to make minor amendments that do not have a material impact on council.

---

## Considerations

### 1. Alignment to council strategic direction - community outcomes

The matters covered in this report relate to the following community outcomes:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protected and flourishing native life                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Healthy waters, land and air                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Safe and resilient transport networks                             | <input type="checkbox"/> A sustainable, innovative and equitable economy             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Meaningful partnerships with tāngata whenua                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Carbon neutral, resilient communities in a changing climate |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient, progressive and transparent council systems |  |

### 2. Climate Impact

The Triennial Agreement details the councils' commitment to working together through the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee which is the main 'vehicle' within councils' governance structures for progressing the region's aspirations to address climate impacts.

### 3. Environmental Impact

The decision to adopt the Triennial Agreement is, in itself, administrative. The agreement sets the framework for the four Northland councils to work together on key strategic objectives, including environmental objectives.

### 4. Community views

It is understood that the community expect Northland local authorities to work together as efficiently and effectively as possible to advance the best interests of Northland, which is facilitated by way of the Triennial Agreement.

## **5. Māori impact statement**

The Triennial Agreement is specific regarding the relationship agreement with Te Kahu o Taonui 'Whanaungatanga Ki Taurangi', and the Iwi Local Government Agencies Chief Executives Forum, and reflects the commitment of councils to enhance relations with all Māori.

## **6. Financial implications**

There are no immediate financial implications related to the signing of the Triennial Agreement.

## **7. Implementation issues**

If council elects to make changes to, or not sign, the Triennial Agreement then there may be logistical issues meeting the 1 March 2026 statutory deadline.

If any of the three district councils in Northland propose amendment to this agreement after council has approved it and authorised the Chair to sign on behalf of council, this will result in a need to change the final document prior to formal signing. Providing these amendment are non-material, this paper provides for the Chair to approve these changes under delegated authority.

## **8. Significance and engagement**

Although the Triennial Agreement is notably a significant document that reflects the Northland councils' continued commitment to work together, 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 operational activities.

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

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

The decisions within this report are consistent with council's legislative requirements as specified in section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002.

---

## **Background/Tuhinga**

Section 15, Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), requires Northland's four local authorities to enter into a Triennial Agreement, post 2022 elections (and by no later than 1 March 2026).

The Triennial Agreement sets out the protocols for communication and co-ordination amongst the Northland councils during the three year term. It also represents the shared desire of local government in the Northland region to work together, maximise efficiency and promote well-being in their respective communities. It recognises a significant level of formal and informal co-operation already exists between the Northland councils.

An agreement under section 15 of the LGA must include:

- (a) protocols for communication and co-ordination among the local authorities; and
- (b) a statement of the process by which the local authorities will comply with section 16 in respect of proposals for new regional council activities; and
- (c) processes and protocols through which all local authorities can participate in identifying, delivering, and funding facilities and services of significance to more than one district.

An agreement under section 15 may also include:

- (a) commitments by local authorities within the region to establish or continue one or more joint committees or other joint governance arrangements to give better effect to one or more of the matters referred to in subsection (2); and
- (b) the matters to be included in the terms of reference for any such committees or arrangements, including any delegations.

The draft Triennial Agreement (included as **Attachment 1**) seeks to build on last term's agreement, and the collaborative work committed to by all councils during that term.

The Triennial Agreement has been reviewed by both the Chief Executives' Forum and the Northland Mayoral Forum. In summary the refinements were as follows:

- Minor editing, accuracy and readability updates.
- A more aspirational and outcome focussed purpose statement.
- Clearer alignment with legislative requirements under section 4 'Framework for Regional Leadership'.
- Improved ordering of forums under 'Regional Leadership' section, with the Mayoral and CEs forum being first and second, to better reflect strategic direction setting and implementation.
- Clarification of the appointment and role of alternate members for joint committees.
- Clarification in relation to LGNZ Zone 1 membership.
- Reframing of the 'Regional Shared Services' section to 'Local Government Reform' with a focus on proactive regional leadership, and a commitment to forming a collaborative governance body (structure to be determined).
- The addition of 'Local Waters Done Well' as a standalone section.
- Clarification of the process for consultation on proposals under the section on 'New Regional Council Activities'.
- Expanded wording for section 10 'Dispute Resolution'.
- Expanded wording for section 11 'Costs'

Delegated approval is now sought from council to allow the Chair to sign the Triennial Agreement, incorporating all of these proposed refinements, on its behalf.

---

## Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Triennial agreement for the 2025-2028 triennium [↓](#) 

## Document Management

Date	Action	By
13 May 2025	Initial review	Kyla Carlier, NRC
15 May 2025	Initial review	Emily Thompson, WDC
27 July 2025	Initial review	Michael Day, KDC
28 July 2025	Legal review	Kathryn Candy, NRC
28 July 2025	Tidy up of comments, resolution of queries where possible and further edits	Kyla Carlier NRC
06 August	Updates made after CE Forum on 4 August. All changes subsequent to the forum remain highlighted.	Kyla Carlier NRC
07 August	Rep meeting – changes accepted, and final updates made – text from Simon Weston incorporated.	Kyla Carlier NRC
21 August	Addition of text on Local Government Reform	Jonathan Gibbard, NRC
10 September	Review by reps at meeting.	All reps
24 September	Updates made to reflect feedback from Jason Marris and Jonathan Gibbard.	Kyla Carlier NRC
24 November	Rep meeting – input from council workshops discussed and included.	All reps
4 December	Feedback from Mayoral forum of 1 December incorporated	Emily Thompson, WDC, and Kyla Carlier NRC.



# TRIENNIAL AGREEMENT

**Far North District Council, Kaipara District Council, Whangarei District Council, and  
Northland Regional Council**

## 1. Purpose of the Triennial Agreement

The parties acknowledge that the 2025 – 2028 triennium will be a time of continued change for local government. This Triennial Agreement represents a continued commitment by Northland councils to:

- Work proactively and collaboratively to deliver strong governance for Te Taitokerau/ Northland
- Address common issues openly and constructively to achieve positive outcomes for the region
- Streamline efforts and eliminate duplication to maximize impact and efficiency

A Triennial Agreement is required by, and is made pursuant to, section 15 of the Local Government Act 2002.

## 2. Commitment to a Consensus Approach

The parties:

- Acknowledge the benefits to the communities of Northland of the four councils working together in a consistent manner and wherever possible, with a united voice.
- Respect that at times our different roles and responsibilities may cause the parties to have different positions.
- Agree to endeavour to reach a consensus position on matters of common interest.
- Agree that our remaining differences will not detract from our commitment to work together cooperatively and maintain constructive relationships.

## 3. Communication and Collaboration

Parties agree to communicate and co-ordinate their activities and be collaboratively responsible for<sup>1</sup>:

- Notification of major policy discussions which may have implications beyond the boundaries of the decision-making authority.
- Application of a “no surprises” policy whereby early notification is given between local authorities concerning significant policy or programmes before public announcements are made.
- Progressing issues agreed to by the Northland Mayoral Forum.
- Sharing resources wherever possible to gain improved efficiency, effectiveness and increased levels of customer service.
- Abiding by group decisions, subject to the relevant authority’s decision-making processes.

<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to section 15(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002

- Working together in the best interests of the people of Northland. Emphasis is to be placed on building credible and enduring relationships with all Northland local authorities, tangata whenua, the neighbouring authority of Auckland and central government.
- Coordinating and aligning local authorities collective voice both to inform our local community and, through communication with Wellington, at a national level on key regional issues.

#### **4. Framework for Regional Leadership**

The parties acknowledge the progress made towards greater local authority collaboration in Northland and the benefits this provides for the region. Parties agree to continue their commitment to the collaborative working relationship through the following joint local authority forums, committees and regional representation<sup>2</sup>. These groups provide the processes and protocols through which the four Northland councils can participate in identifying, delivering and funding facilities and services of significance to more than one district in the Northland Region.

##### **Regional Leadership**

###### **a) Northland Mayoral Forum**

The purpose of the Northland Mayoral Forum is to provide a forum for the Chair and Mayors of the four councils of Northland to provide regional leadership and seek local authority alignment on key strategic governance priorities for the region and its communities and address any governance issues of the day.

A core role of the Northland Mayoral Forum is to provide governance leadership, oversight and direction to drive the Northland|Forward Together work programme and priorities. Each party is responsible for reporting progress back to their respective governance bodies and seeking council approval where decisions are outside existing council decisions or management delegations.

For the avoidance of doubt, while the Mayoral Forum provides an opportunity for the Chair and Mayors to provide regional leadership and seek strategic alignment, the forum has no delegated authority to make decisions or commit council resources. Any agreements which fall outside previous council decisions or management delegations, are made on the understanding that these agreements need to be approved by respective council resolutions before any agreements can be confirmed.

It is for each member of the of the Mayoral Forum to determine how best to communicate with their Council to ensure important information is shared.

###### **b) Northland Chief Executives' Forum**

The purpose of the Northland Chief Executives' Forum is to provide a vehicle through which the four councils of Northland can support the work of the Northland Mayoral Forum, progress implementation and monitoring of the Northland|Forward Together programme, work on operational projects of common interest and benefit, share knowledge and consider any shared services arrangements.

Council staff who represent the region or district on any national working groups will report directly or indirectly to the Chief Executive Forum on the activities and decisions of those groups.

###### **c) Northland|Forward Together Strategic Planning Workshops**

The Northland|Forward Together Strategic Planning Workshops are a collaborative forum of all

---

<sup>2</sup> Pursuant to sections 15(2)(c) and 15(3)(a) of the Local Government Act 2002

elected members from the four councils. The purpose of these workshops is to provide an opportunity for elected members to meet, discuss and seek agreement on high level strategic governance priorities and direction for the region. In 2023 and 2024 the document called Northland|Forward Together (Tai Tokerau | Kōkiri Ngātahi) was reviewed and adopted by all councils as a shared collaborative document. This document sets out a vision, goals and objectives for greater local authority collaboration and identifies priorities to investigate the potential for improved shared services, centres of excellence and joint procurement. This document sets the platform for the councils' ongoing collaborative relationship and further regional leadership (the document was ratified by all four councils). The Northland councils are committed to reviewing the Northland|Forward Together (Tai Tokerau | Kōkiri Ngātahi) strategic vision and values document during the 2026-2028 triennium.

The Northland|Forward Together Strategic Planning Workshops enable the Northland councils to monitor, review and update the vision, goals and objectives of Northland|Forward Together. The Northland Mayoral Forum, Chief Executives' Forum (and working parties that are established on a case-by-case basis) support the development, review and implementation of the Northland|Forward Together work programme, to be reported on during the Strategic Planning Workshops

**d) Whanaungatanga Kī Taurangi**

The Relationship Agreement 'Whanaungatanga Kī Taurangi' entered into between the Northland councils and Te Kahu o Taonui (Iwi Chairs) outlines the commitment to work together and invest in an intergenerational relationship that is based on mutual respect, is enduring and provides continuity through a shared vision, purpose and goals for mutually beneficial outcomes.

The parties acknowledge that the Relationship Agreement does not require the parties to perform any particular action or bind them to a specific outcome, but rather to work together in mutual good faith and reasonableness. The Agreement also acknowledges that, in signing the Agreement, it does not undermine or minimise any existing or future relationships and agreements between local authorities and iwi / hapū but rather seeks to strengthen and support those relationships.

It is acknowledged that Whangarei District Council has not signed the Relationship Agreement and is therefore not a party to the Agreement.

**e) Iwi Local Government Agencies Chief Executives Forum**

The purpose of the Iwi Local Government Agencies Chief Executives Forum (ILGACE) is to provide a forum where local government Chief Executives and iwi Chief Executives can seek opportunities to share information and work collaboratively to address issues and progress projects for the betterment of Te Taitokerau | Northland.

**Joint Committees**

**f) Northland Regional Transport Committee<sup>3</sup>**

The purpose of the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) is prescribed in the Land Transport Management Act 2003 and includes the preparation, for Northland Regional Council approval, of a Regional Land Transport Plan and Regional Public Transport Plan for Northland, to monitor and review progress towards the adoption and implementation of these plans and to provide the regional council with any advice and assistance, as requested, in relation to Northland Regional Council's public transport responsibilities.

Membership comprises one representative nominated by each district council and two members from the Northland Regional Council appointed as Chair and Deputy Chair. Each council is also required to appoint an alternate member who may exercise full membership rights in the absence of

<sup>3</sup> Established pursuant to Part 2, section 105(2) and (6) of the Land Transport Management Act 2003

the primary representative. It also includes a representative from Waka Kotahi.

**g) Northland CDEM Group<sup>4</sup>**

The Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (CDEM) is established as a joint standing committee of Northland councils and is responsible for the conduct of the regional CDEM functions of the Group, setting the strategic direction via the CDEM Group plan, approving annual work programmes, conducting joint management of civil defence events and monitoring and reporting on progress. For the avoidance of doubt, each territorial authority's obligations to respond to local emergency events under the Civil Defence Act are retained.

Membership comprises one representative nominated by each of the local authorities. Each council is also required to appoint an alternate member who may exercise full membership rights in the absence of the primary representative. It also includes a representative from NZ Police, Fire and Emergency NZ and the National Emergency Management Advisory (observer status).

**h) Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee**

The Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC) was established in 2020 as a joint standing committee of the Northland councils and is responsible for providing direction and oversight of the development and implementation of climate change adaptation activities by local government in Te Taitokerau.

Membership comprises one elected member and one representative from iwi/hapu nominated by each council from within their jurisdiction. Each council is also required to appoint an alternate member who may exercise full membership rights in the absence of the primary representative.

**i) Joint Regional Economic Development Committee**

The Joint Regional Economic Development Committee was established in 2021 as a joint standing committee of the Northland Regional Council, the Far North District Council, and the Kaipara District Council, with Whangarei District Council joining in September 2024. This committee has delegated authority to oversee the operations of Northland Inc., and is fundamental to ensuring that Te Taitokerau's aspirations for economic development are achieved in a coordinated and collaborative manner.

Membership comprises two elected members from the four councils. Each council is also required to appoint an alternate member who may exercise full membership rights in the absence of the primary representative.

**Representation and Communication**

**j) Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Zone 1 Representation**

The Northland councils who are members of LGNZ make up Zone 1 of Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ). Zone meetings provide an opportunity for councils to provide information and advice and highlight issues and concerns affecting Northland with the National Council of LGNZ. It also provides an opportunity to receive sector information and advise the National Council in dealing with national issues.

The Chair of Zone 1 is appointed by the Zone 1 members and is usually a District Mayor or Regional Chair for one of the member Councils. Secretariate support for LGNZ Zone 1 meetings is provided by the office of the appointed Chair.

---

<sup>4</sup> Pursuant to section 12 of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002 and Schedule 7, clause 30 of the Local Government Act 2002

LGNZ provides for a representative from the elected members and community board members within Zone 1 to be on National Council as well as space for a member to be on the Young Elected Members Committee. Representation can also be achieved if elected members stand for sector representation on the Te Maruata Rōpū Whakahaere for Māori in council. Where appropriate, in making appointments to LGNZ, parties will consider the need to provide for rotational representation.

Each Zone has discretion to determine their own rules around decision-making methodology. While most LGNZ Zones operate under a one-vote-per-council system with decisions made by majority vote, Zone 1 is committed to collective decision making, with all endeavours made to achieve consensus of all parties. If no consensus can be reached the one-vote-per-council system will be used.

The inclusion of LGNZ Zone 1 representation within this Triennial Agreement does not limit or override the autonomy of individual councils in determining their membership status with LGNZ. Each council retains the right to independently decide whether to continue or withdraw from LGNZ membership.

#### **k) UNISA**

The Upper North Island Strategic Alliance (UNISA) comprises Auckland Council, Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Northland Regional Council, Waikato Regional Council, Hamilton City Council, Tauranga City Council and Whangarei District Council. These seven parties have committed to a long-term collaboration for responding to and managing a range of inter- regional and inter-metropolitan issues.

UNISA has agreed to regularly update all the territorial authorities from the Upper North Island following each Governance Group meeting, with each of the regional councils taking responsibility for communicating with the territorial authorities in their region. The Northland Regional Council will provide regular updates and reports through the Mayoral Forum and CEO Forum with each territorial authority responsible for updating their own governance bodies.

#### **l) Sport Northland Board of Trustees**

Sport Northland's core purpose is 'Enriching lives through play, active recreation and sport'. The Sport Northland Board of Trustees comprises of three (3) elected trustees, two (2) Māori trustees appointed by the Board Appointments Panel, two (2) trustees appointed by the four (4) Northland councils and one (1) Māori trustee appointed by Ta Kahu o Taonui.

### **5. Local Government Reform**

Local government reform has been widely discussed over the last decade, both nationally and regionally. Reform of local government has been on the agenda of all political parties and is likely to be part of any future government agenda. The four Northland councils agree it's important to provide proactive regional leadership and ensure that any reform delivers improved outcomes for Northland communities.

In providing regional leadership over the future of local government, councils commit to the principle of form follows functions. Parties agreeing that all structural options are on the table and no party has any predetermined future structural outcome. Potential structure options should be preceded by an assessment of roles and functions and at what scale and integration interdependencies delivers improved outcomes.

Parties commit to forming a collaborative governance body, supported by collective management support, to oversee this assessment and provide recommendations to respective council governance bodies.

## **6. Local Waters Done Well**

Towards the end of the previous triennium FNDC, KDC and WDC agreed to submit to government a regional asset owning CCO water services delivery plan in response to the governments Local Water Done Well (LWDW) initiative. The proposal focuses on the delivery of wastewater and drinking water services, with stormwater services continuing to be supplied by their respective council.

Significant further work will need to be completed to facilitate the three council CCO with the establishment date anticipated to be 1 July 2026 and an operational date being 1 July 2027.

The participating councils will work collectively to establish and operate the CCO, including where appropriate the Northland Regional Council in its regulatory, environmental, and planning roles, and by the Department of Internal Affairs.

The parties acknowledge that the successful delivery of LWDW is a key regional priority.

## **7. Regional Policy Statement<sup>5</sup> and Regional/ District Plans (RMA)**

This section applies to the Northland Regional Council when reviewing or changing the Regional Policy Statement or regional plans and also applies to district councils when reviewing or changing district plans, under the Resource Management Act (RMA)<sup>6</sup>.

When reviewing or changing their plans, all councils will operate on the principle of 'no surprises' – whereby early and meaningful consultation across all stages of plan development will occur. The party promoting the plan shall initiate and manage the agreement actions, and four stages of interaction and consultation, as outlined in Appendix 1. Early notice will be given over any disagreements between councils concerning policy or programmes, and prior to any critical public announcements being made.

## **8. New Regional Council Activities<sup>7</sup>**

Under section 15(2)(b) of the Local Government Act, a Triennial Agreement must include a statement of the process for consultation on proposals for significant new regional council activities, where a territorial authority is already carrying out that activity or has signalled its intention to do so via a Long Term Plan.

In such an instance, the Northland Regional Council will follow the process outlined in section 16 of the Local Government Act 2002 including notification, production of a consultation document, and mediation if required.

## **9. Meeting Times and Servicing the Triennial Agreement**

- The Northland Mayoral Forum and CEO Forum will meet quarterly, with the location and

<sup>5</sup> Under section 3A of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act, a Triennial Agreement must include agreement on the consultation process to review or change a policy statement.

<sup>6</sup> Where this Agreement refers to "Plan", read also plan or policy statement change and variation.

<sup>7</sup> This section is in accordance with Section 15(2)(b) of the Local Government Act.

hosting to rotate between the parties.<sup>8</sup>

- The Chair for the Mayoral Forum and CEO Forum will be selected at their respective inaugural meetings and remain in place for the triennium unless otherwise agreed. When appointing a Chair consideration will be given to the need to rotate the chair role between parties.
- The Northland|Forward Together Strategic Planning Workshops will occur three times a year, with the location and hosting to be rotated between the parties.
- The Northland Regional Council will provide secretarial services and media support to the Northland Mayoral Forum and Chief Executives' Forum.

## 10. Dispute resolution

If there is a dispute over the terms of this Triennial Agreement, where possible the parties will, via the Mayoral Forum, attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute through discussion. If the dispute cannot be resolved in good faith within 20 days from the date the parties met, any party may refer the dispute to mediation and must advise all other parties of the referral. If the parties fail to agree on a mediator within 14 days from the date of the referral notice, the mediator will be appointed by the President of the New Zealand Law Society. Each party shall share equally the fees and costs of the mediator.

## 11. Costs

Councils are responsible for their own costs related to meeting attendance and internal work. Hosting councils will also cover meeting expenses — including venue hire, catering, and guest presenters — unless agreed otherwise. Additional costs will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

## AUTHORITY

This agreement is signed on \_\_\_\_\_, by the following on behalf of their respective authorities.

Mayor

Mayor

Mayor

Chair



<sup>8</sup> It is important to note that the host council may decide to run the meeting virtually.

## Appendix 1: RMA Regional Policy Statement and Regional/District Plans

The Agreement, and this appendix for RMA RPS and plans, aims to:

- ensure good practice and early consultation between councils during plan preparation, changes and review;
- avoid possible misunderstandings of respective roles and statutory obligations;
- clearly define when comments and/or submissions by either party are appropriate; and
- establish an agreed process to be followed, including expectations and timeframes.

There are four stages of interaction and consultation:

- pre-plan
- draft plan (a matter of best practice rather than legally required)
- notified plan
- appeal to Environment Court.

### 1. Pre Plan

In this stage, all parties will take full advantage of the opportunity to fully understand each other's position, provide initial assessments of issues or matters likely to be of concern and explore techniques and methods to achieve the desired outcomes.

This phase will focus on significant points of difference. Effort will be spent on resolving these differences. Minor points of difference will not get in the way of the parties dealing with the significant ones.

Once the reasons for the plan are understood and the areas of difference are established then the parties will decide if further progress can be made to resolve these differences and a process and timeframe to move forward will be established and these matters will be recorded.

### 2. Draft Plan

When a plan reaches a draft stage and before it has been approved for notification by council for formal statutory consultation, it shall be forwarded to councils in the region for their comment (i.e. this phase occurs before public notification of a proposed Plan). This stage may be formal or informal. (It can occur alongside consultation with the wider community.)

A presentation to affected councils on the draft plan will, where possible, occur. Council comments on a draft plan will usually be:

- discussed with or reported to the council, and
- represent the organisational view.

To avoid confusion, and for transparency, comment should include a summary of any positions reached in pre-consultation. Comments should relate to policy implications (and assuming the above process has been followed) they should highlight the points of difference already identified. Comments should clearly distinguish between significant and more general matters.

Comments by the regional council or district councils on other councils' plans should be clearly referenced to the council's LTP and/or any relevant policy or operational document (including existing or emerging growth strategies and models). All comments made should explain the impacts on the council in terms of cost, practicality, necessity and reasonableness in sufficient detail to be credible and stand scrutiny, i.e. in such a way that the feedback can be used in a section 32 RMA

analysis. In making comments councils should also highlight how the plan can meet the relevant council's statutory functions and responsibilities while addressing or taking on board the submitting council's comment.

Matters not resolved at this stage are likely to be the subject of formal submissions. Unless the draft plan changes significantly, no new issues would be expected to arise once the plan is notified.

Senior managers of the councils involved will review the position reached and satisfy themselves that the procedural requirements have been followed and all reasonable steps have been taken to resolve matters still in dispute. If a senior manager, in consultation with their Chief Executive Officer, is not satisfied then the matter may be escalated to the council's respective governance level.

### **3. Notification**

Submissions in opposition from a party should not be a surprise and should relate only to significant matters already commented on, unless the plan has been materially changed between draft and notification.

A second tier manager will carefully review any submission prior to its approval to ensure:

- it is well founded in terms of policy or other relevant criteria
- it is a significant matter on its own or gives rise to significant implications for the council in carrying out its responsibilities and/or implementing its policy
- it specifies a means of relief that is appropriate.

All district council submissions (except further submissions) on a change to the RPS submissions to the new regional plan will be approved by the relevant council.

All regional council submissions (except further submissions) on proposed (new) district plans will be approved by the regional council (time permitting).

Given that significant matters are involved to justify a submission, relevant staff are expected to appear at the hearing.

### **4. Environment Court**

By this stage every effort will have been made to resolve significant differences efficiently and cost effectively.

Mediation will be used where parties genuinely wish to find common ground. At times a Court decision will be preferred or will be necessary, for example where a point of law or a difference of professional opinion is at issue.

**TITLE:** **Te Ruarangi Working Party - Appointments**

**From:** Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement

**Authorised by** Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and  
**Group Manager/s:** Engagement, on 10 December 2025

---

### **Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary**

This document acts as a 'placeholder' for the report 'Te Ruarangi Working Party - Appointments' which was unable to be completed in time for inclusion in the agenda as the Te Ruarangi meeting took place after the agenda was circulated

The report will be sent out to members under separate cover.

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

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

**Authorised by  
Group Manager/s:** Pita Tipene, Chair of council, on 10 December 2025

---

### 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 November 2025.

---

### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

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

---

### Meetings/events attended

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

**1. 19<sup>th</sup> Nov - Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society (including Mangawhai Matters)**

An invitation was extended by Councillor John Hunt, to me and our CE, Jonathan Gibbard, to attend the meeting of the Mangawhai Harbour Restoration Society (including Mangawhai Matters).

The society has been working really hard for many years on the harbour restoration.

Jono and I attended, alongside Cr Hunt, to listen and see how we might be able to tautoko the work on the Mangawhai Spit and other key Kaupapa.

The key message I took away was 'Healthy Spit, Healthy Harbour, Healthy Community.'

The meeting was also attended by Cr Craig Jepson of KDC.



## **2. 20<sup>th</sup> Nov - Te Uru Rākau and Northland Wood Council**

I attended a meeting with Te Uru Rakau in Whangarei alongside Cr Geoff Crawford, Cr Joe Carr and Cr John Hunt who joined online. Both Ruben Wylie and Darryl Jones attended as well.

As councillors, we outlined key strategic imperatives for NRC including economic development, the environment, infrastructure etc. Our management focused discussions on NRC regulations etc.

In discussions with my fellow councillors who attended, we agreed that the forestry industry is critical for Northland's economy and is a major employer providing meaningful jobs. That said, added value wood processing is also critical for Northland's growth, driving high-paying jobs and innovation.

NRC should also demonstrate meaningful support through regulations and by working toward common-sense outcomes.

## **3. 24<sup>th</sup> November – Bruce Copeland and Mary Sinclair**

I took our CE along with me to meet over coffee with both Bruce Copeland and Mary Sinclair who wanted to talk with us in regard to the Bream Bay Sand Mining – Fast Track. We listened to them and made it clear that we heard their approach but weren't committed to anything and would consider our way forward through our transparent council processes.

## **4. 24<sup>th</sup> November - Kaipara Moana Remediation**

I attended this event held in Dargaville which was a farewell for the Pou Tataki, Justine Daw as well as the Field Advisor Awards. I attended alongside Cr John Blackwell, Cr Colin Kitchen, CE Jonathan Gibbard and Auriole Ruka. It was a great opportunity to mix and mingle with key identities involved in the Kaipapa.



**With Te Roroa representative, Alex Nathan and Snow Tane (Councillor at KDC)**

## **5. 24<sup>th</sup> Nov – Climate Commission**

I attended a meeting with the Climate Commission held at our NRC offices. Earlier this year the Climate Commission visited Northland to speak to our communities to develop case studies to inform work of the Commission. This work had been completed, and the Climate Commission were hosting this hui here at NRC to thank the participants. I was personally disappointed by the

speech of the CEO of the Climate Commission who failed to articulate anything in relation to our Māori community.



#### **6. 28<sup>th</sup> Nov – Awanui Flood Scheme Milestone Celebration**

Our NRC team led by Louisa Gritt and Auriole Ruka did a great job to organise the celebration of the Awanui Flood Scheme.

I had the honour of acknowledging and giving thanks to the many individuals and entities that had contributed to the completed Awanui Flood works just north of Kaitaia.

Our fellow Councillor Joe Carr was described by Minister Shane Jones as being one of the consistent leaders for this Kaupapa over many, many years.

There were a bevy of local community members such as Fiona King who has been a real leader of the Kaupapa.

The project was hailed by speakers as an exemplar for other similar type Kaupapa in Northland to follow.

A key ingredient for success was the unity of purpose of the Awanui River Management Liaison Group including previous and current councillors.

I, along with Cr Carr and the other speakers acknowledged and thanked central government and Minister Shane Jones for contributing towards the significant funding of \$15 million-plus contributed to the project. We also acknowledged the very dedicated contractors and all those who had contributed to the Kaupapa.

Some of the locals gave context to the stark history of flooding in the local area, like the 1958 floods that saw the Kaitaia main street inundated with more than metre deep waters.

More recently, in mid-2022, we experienced a much larger flood that, at its peak, saw up to 320 cubic metres per second flowing down the river — roughly 45% more water — yet there was no flooding in Kaitaia.

The scheme performed as designed, potentially saved lives and essentially spared Kaitaia from millions of dollars of potential damage.

Also, in his speech Cr Carr stated that this is an exemplar of Central Government, Regional Councils, District Councils, and local community all working effectively to successfully complete projects.



#### **7. 1<sup>st</sup> Dec - Northland Mayoral Forum**

I attended this forum, along with CE Johnathan Gibbard, which was held at the Whangarei District Council.

Agenda items:

- 1 Appointment of the Chair of the Northland Mayor Forum
- 2 Northland Mayoral Forum – Terms of Reference
- 3 Draft Triennial Agreement
- 4 Strategic Approach to the Triennium
- 5 Perspectives on local government in Northland
- 6 DIA Update
- 7 NZTA Update
- 8 Tangata Whenua representation on joint committees
- 9 Preparations for Waitangi Day 2026
- 10 Local Waters Done Well
- 11 Appointment to the Sport Northland Board of Trustees
- 12 Meeting Dates 2026
- 13 Topics for future Northland Mayoral Forums

Further clarification or additional insights on any agenda items can be provided upon request.

## Correspondence

During November 2025 I sent out the following correspondence:

Date	Addressed To	Subject
20 Nov 2025	Hon Minister Simon Watts	Invitation to attend Northland Forward Together Strategic Planning Forum – 16 December 2025
25 Nov 2025	Hon Minister Simon Watts	Acknowledgement of response and request for a meeting

---

## 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 03  
**Group Manager/s:** December 2025

---

### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

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

---

#### 8.2.1 HIGHLIGHTS

##### Clean Vessel Plan (National Pathway Management Plan)

All core documents for the proposed National Pathway Management Plan (the Clean Vessel Plan - CVP) have now been fully updated, internally aligned, and are ready for presentation to the Minister for Biosecurity, Hon. Andrew Hoggard. This includes the final draft NPMP proposal and the revised cost-benefit analysis.

The updated material consolidates approximately 10 years of regional collaboration and provides a consistent, risk-based regulatory package for managing biofouling, responsible for an estimated 70-80% of domestic marine pest spread across the Upper North Island. The documents now contain complete rule definitions, updated maintenance equivalence provisions for commercial and ≥25 m recreational vessels, refined costs and funding pathways (including the levy design), and a strengthened benefits case. The CBA shows a net present value benefit >\$1B over 20 years, with annual vessel compliance costs significantly lower under the CVP than current regional arrangements.

All four northern councils (Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty), MPI/Biosecurity NZ, and DOC have confirmed the documentation is ready for ministerial consideration. Delegates from these agencies are scheduled to meet Minister Hoggard on 15 December, where the package will be formally presented and next-step decisions sought including direction on Cabinet timeframes for 2026, targeted consultation, and funding signals for transition and early implementation. Overall, the programme is on track. With documents now finalised, the main focus shifts to coordinated ministerial engagement, ensuring clear alignment across agencies, and preparing for possible pre-Cabinet policy refinement early in 2026. Final council approval will be sought in the new year.

##### Caulerpa Update

The Phase III programme has continued to advance through November, with a strong focus on construction progress, shipping logistics, and risk management. Most fabrication and integration work remains on track, and the team has proactively addressed a key challenge relating to the availability of hydraulic motors for the SDP track units. Alternative mechanical gearing solutions are currently being assessed, and commissioning custom-built motors remains a viable option should it be required. These pathways give the project flexibility to maintain momentum while ensuring the final configuration meets performance requirements. In parallel, the significant decline of exotic Caulerpa biomass in Omākiwi Cove and across the wider Bay of Islands, means the original biological testing scope is no longer achievable. NRC, Cawthron, and JBL have therefore developed a revised testing framework that will still allow validation of the Phase III mechanical and ecological performance despite limited biomass. The updated plan prioritises verification of manoeuvrability,

positioning accuracy, endurance, dredge head and pump efficiency, and data capture improvements. Although a small number of *Caulerpa*-specific tests cannot proceed, the programme can still achieve approximately 92% of its intended objectives, ensuring a robust evaluation of the SDP's capability and its applicability to wider biosecurity and seafloor management tasks.

NRC's marine biosecurity dive team completed a targeted biomass assessment on 17–18 November within the consented dredge area, surveying 17 transects (approx. 2,900 m). Only small, isolated patches of *Caulerpa* were detected, confirming a substantial reduction since previous surveys. A governance meeting on 5 December will confirm revised objectives, risk treatments, and programme direction moving forward.

### **Awanui Flood Mitigation Celebration Event**

“Kua tawhiti kē tō haerenga mai, Kia kore e haere tonu. He nui rawa o mahi, kia kore e mahi tonu” – “You have come too far not go further, you have done too much not to do more”

Minister Shane Jones, NRC Chair Pita Tipene and Councillor Joe Carr shared their praises with those in attendance at the Awanui Flood Mitigation celebration. Minister Jones offered intimate history and local knowledge of the area, weaving in the significance of the overarching flood works mahi. Chair Pita Tipene brought the day to a close with the well-known Whakataukī of Sir James Henare, summing up the spirit of the occasion.

The Community Engagement team supported the organisation and media activities for the Awanui Flood Mitigation celebration event. This included event coordination, liaising with attendees such as the Minister, and managing media requirements to ensure the day was well captured and shared. Led by the Rivers team and the local steering group, with support from the Strategic Partnerships team, the event represented a strong example of collaboration between Regional and District councils, tangata whenua, and stakeholders. It was a fitting acknowledgement of collective effort and shared commitment to community resilience.

## **8.2.2 PROTECTED AND FLOURISHING NATIVE LIFE**

---

### **INCURSIONS**

#### **Yellow Legged Hornet**

Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) has confirmed 27 yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*) queen specimens in the Glenfield/Birkdale area, with 16 showing evidence of nesting. Early brooding within one nest indicates that at least one queen successfully overwintered from the previous season. Over 537 traps have been deployed within a 5 km buffer zone, supported by ground and apiary surveys in collaboration with Government Industry Agreement partners. No request for NRC resources has been made at this stage.

The response will implement a UK-style trap-and-trace system to improve nest detection. This approach uses carbohydrate-baited traps throughout the season, streamlining training and field operations. Captured hornets will be tagged and tracked back to their nests for targeted destruction. An additional 3,000 VespaCatch traps are expected to arrive for deployment within the surveillance zone this week, alongside the Robor Nature radio trackers.

Unlike fruit fly responses, this is not a trap-to-eradicate strategy; the goal is to locate and eliminate nests. BNZ's eradication objective remains unchanged, and detections are not cause for alarm at this point as reproduction will not occur until later in summer.

To support the response, BNZ has launched an enhanced public awareness campaign. The MPI website is updated daily with new collateral, including resources for beekeepers. Large roadside signs have been installed within the 1 km hot zone, and nationwide messaging focuses on reporting

suspected sightings, supported by clear images of the hornet. Auckland and Northland are priority regions, with additional emphasis on North Shore through digital billboards and signage in high-traffic areas such as Glenfield Mall and transport hubs. Regional media includes print ads in the NZ Herald and Northern Advocate, complemented by social media and digital advertising. National coverage will use digital ads and Google search advertising to direct the public to MPI's hornet webpage.



Snapshot of the biosecurity response dashboard showing trap locations across Zones A and B. All queen detections to date have occurred in Zone A

### Wild Animal Control

On 3 November 2025, NRC received a report from a deer farmer regarding the escape of twelve red yearling stags from his property after a central race gate was inadvertently left unlatched. Recovery efforts by the farmer, supported by NRC and DOC, resulted in six stags being successfully returned to the deer farm over time. The remaining six animals dispersed further, leaving no viable option other than culling.

NRC led the operation with contractor support, using a combination of thermal drones and ground hunting to enable rapid location and removal of all remaining animals. The operation was completed efficiently and without incident. Following the operation, the farmer contacted NRC to provide feedback and express his appreciation for the support received, noting his gratitude for the work undertaken and the professional way in which the operation was carried out.



Thermal drone footage tracking deer to guide ground hunting teams with pinpoint accuracy.

## **PREDATOR FREE - Pēwhairangi Whānui**

### **Going high tech for predator elimination**

Real time reporting and infield decision-making, which can be provided by AI devices, have been a game changer for our Predator Free projects. Traps that can decide in real time whether they trigger or not, and cameras that instantly send pre-classified images are saving our field teams valuable time, enabling a more concentrated effort in areas of higher value, resulting in a more cost-effective operation.

The Purerua-Mataroa project, part of Predator Free Pēwhairangi Whānui, has been trialling some of the latest in trapping and monitoring technology, such as the AT520-AI. This is a high-tech, self-resetting, self-rebaiting, multi-species, and multi-kill non-toxic trap that activates only on the presence of target species and resets itself automatically after each catch. They have 50 of these traps set up in an intensive tracking network at the neck of the Purerua Peninsula, at the Taronui-Tapuaetahi barrier, which is a zone of about 1,000 hectares protecting the peninsula itself of about 6,000 hectares. Time saved from reduced trap checking and rebaiting has allowed the team to focus on more challenging areas and other local pest issues, such as feral cats.

The project is also working with thermal cameras equipped with night vision in the elimination zone to detect any predators at night, particularly possums. It's made for a quicker response to incursions, saving trappers time and making their effort more targeted. All these efficiencies are helping the drive to get the peninsula predator free.



A bittern spotted during the day, and a cat sighted at night by the same camera

## **PEST PLANTS**



Adult mile-a-minute plant climbing into the canopy of native vegetation in the Baylys beach area

Pest plants Officers have been busy out in the field with spring surveillance and control work across several low incidence programmes, including yellow flag iris, mile-a-minute, bat-wing passion flower, ochna, akebia and lantana. The first round of control for Manchurian wild rice also got underway, with contractors able to target the preferred spring control window this year due to having a two-year funding agreement in place with MPI. Treating Manchurian wild rice while it is more actively growing/not under stress improves the effectiveness of control of this difficult to kill pest.

The one remaining active nassella management area in Northland was surveyed and no plants were found. The majority of the large area previously affected by nassella has been retired from grazing and is now in very thick kikuyu or under canopy. This makes germination of new nassella plants from the seed bank less likely but also makes survey and detection of the plants more difficult. Ongoing inspections will continue for this site into the future due to the long persistence of nassella seeds but may require a different approach.

The spartina programme has also now started for the summer season after approval of the control and monitoring plans by the EPA. Consultation to progress control at several sites is ongoing. For the sea spurge programme, the three-monthly checks of all known sites continue to ensure all emerging seedlings are removed before flowering. Two seedlings were removed at the first follow up inspection of the Kapowairua (Spirits Bay) site that was found in June. At the last inspection of the Mitimiti site only 5 seedlings and one larger adult plant were found (flowering but not seeding). The Hukatere sites on Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe (90 Mile Beach) remain the most active, with numerous seedlings emerging at these sites.

One new small site was detected during wider surveillance work between the known Waipapakauri sites and the outlier seedling found at Ahipara in 2024. This wider location is now comprised of 9 small sites spread along 11 km of Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe (90 Mile Beach). Staff and the Ngāti Kuri's Te Haumihi team also searched Tom Bowling Bay and Te Huka Bay along the North Cape as part of the extended surveillance programme and fortunately no sea spurge was found.

Under the community awareness and Sustained Control programmes for more widespread plant pests, pest plants staff attended the Kerikeri Garden Safari, the Bay of Islands Show and the Peria & Honeymoon Valley Landcare Day and have been undertaking visits of properties in the mid-north area affected by Madagascar ragwort. Nursery inspections for plants banned from sale and propagation were also completed for spring in the far north, Kerikeri and Whangarei.

## **MARINE BIOSECURITY**

### **Egeria control trial**

Approximately 500m<sup>2</sup> of wool matting was laid by dive operators in the bed of Lake Rotokawau, a high value, Regionally Outstanding, dune lake on the Poutō Peninsula. This project, undertaken by Biodiversity, Marine Biosecurity and Maritime Team members, is part of a trial to eradicate Egeria oxygen weed in this lake by using 50m lengths of wool mat secured on the lake bottom to smother Egeria and provide a fresh bed for native plants to regenerate on. This method has been used successfully elsewhere in New Zealand. In addition, small patches of Egeria were weeded by hand. This highly invasive oxygen weed cannot be eradicated using herbicide and, because it grows in limited areas in Rotokawau, there is a good chance it can be eradicated over time.

### **Biosecurity**

Over the past month, the Community Engagement team has supported the Biosecurity group across several key initiatives:

- **Freshwater Invasive Clam**  
Planning and delivery of summer communication and promotional activities, including the creation of flyers, signage, vehicle branding, updates to the website, planning for earl-engagement and a digital advertising campaign.
- **Madagascar Ragwort**  
Developed short-form and long-form handouts for landowners for use at events and engagement activities. Liaising with MPI on the development of an awareness campaign and preparing to share information and resources at summer events.
- **Yellow-Legged Hornet**  
Created a dedicated website page with information and referral links to MPI for updates.

Participating in a communications working group to stay informed and aligned with planned awareness campaigns.

- **Tiakina Taitokerau**  
Working with the two Tiakina project leads to refine messaging and branding for consistency and alignment with NRC.

### 8.2.3 HEALTHY WATERS, LAND AND AIR

#### Current Legal Proceedings

Department	Description	Status
<b>Consent decision appeal</b>	New groundwater take at Tautoro (south of Kaikohe) for irrigation of a proposed avocado orchard	One appeal was received from Te Riingi Marae. Environment Court assisted mediation was held on 21 October 2025. A mediation agreement was signed which has several tasks for parties to complete by agreed deadlines, with an update to the Court on progress being required 28 November 2025. The parties have advised the Court that progress towards resolving the appeal is still ongoing and have requested an extension to continue discussions. The parties await confirmation from the Court for this extension.

#### Consents Update

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

Coastal Permits	3
Bore Consents	6
Land Discharge Permits	11
Land Use Consents	60
Water Discharge Permits	7
Water Takes	8

Fifty-one applications were received in November 2025.

Of the 138 applications in progress at the end of November 2025:

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

#### Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

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











Applications Publicly/Limited Notified During Previous Month	1
Progress on Applications Previously Notified	4
Appeals/Objections	1

#### Compliance Monitoring

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














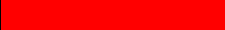
Classification	Total	Full compliance	Low risk non-compliance	Moderate non-compliance	Significant non-compliance
Air Discharge	5	5	0	0	0
Bore Consent	3	1	2	0	0
Coastal Discharge	9	6	0	3	0
Coastal Permit	3	3	0	0	0
FDE - Discharge permit	109	71	0	28	10
FDE – Permitted activity	35	22	0	5	8
Land Discharge	23	13	7	3	0
Land Use Consent	24	20	2	2	0
NES-F	0	0	0	0	0
Water Discharge	28	16	3	9	0
Water Permit	2	1	0	1	0
Water Take	135	108	21	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>70.7%</b>	<b>9.3%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>
<b>Year to date</b>	<b>2646</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Percentage</b>		<b>75.7%</b>	<b>10.6%</b>	<b>11.9%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>

#### Municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance/enforcement

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
<b>Kaiwaka</b> Expires 2049			<u>Under AN</u> (issued in August 2025) Moderate non-compliance for wetland overflowing and short circuiting. Most recent results compliant.
<b>Hikurangi</b> Replacement consent granted – expires 30 November 2031			<u>Under AN</u> TSS, BOD5 and E. coli results continue to be above RC limits for median and 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile. Results are showing improvement following recent upgrades.
<b>Paihia</b> Expires 2034			<u>Under AN</u> Moderate non-compliances due to ammoniacal nitrogen exceeding RC limits for 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile. Some results missing.
<b>Whatuwhiwhi</b> Expires November 2025 (replacement consent application being processed)			Moderate non-compliances for TSS exceeding RC limits. Self-monitoring not being undertaken in accordance with consent requirements. CH exploring options for plant upgrade alongside consent renewal.
<b>Opononi &amp; Ōmāpere</b> Expires 2027			<u>Under ANs</u> Moderate non-compliances for BOD, ammoniacal nitrogen, E. coli, and TSS. Remedial actions and plant maintenance recently undertaken. Further monitoring required to determine effectiveness.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
<b>Rāwene</b> Expired 2023 (replacement consent being processed)			TSS exceeding 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile consent limits. Remedial work scheduled.
<b>Taipā</b> 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 and working towards a land-based discharge.
<b>Hihi</b> Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)			Ammoniacal nitrogen and E. coli exceeding RC limits. Some self-monitoring results missing.
<b>Ahipara</b> Expires 2033			<u>Under ANs</u> (reissued in September 2022). None currently.
<b>Kohukohu</b> Expires 2026			<u>Under AN</u> Self-monitoring not being undertaken correctly. FC and ammoniacal nitrogen exceed consent limits. Discharge volumes have also exceeded RC limits on some occasions.
<b>Kaitiāia</b> Expired 2021 (decision on replacement consent due soon)			<u>Under AN</u> (for reticulation overflows). Ongoing works on reticulation system. Some sample results missing. RC limits exceeded for percentiles. Discharge volume exceeding consent limit.
<b>Russell</b> Expired 30 April 2024 (replacement consent being processed)			<u>Under AN</u> Reporting requirements outstanding and volume of leachate discharged to plant exceeded consent limits.
<b>Kawakawa</b> Expires 2036			E. coli spikes on two occasions have caused exceedance in percentile limits. Cause of spikes fixed, and E. coli levels have returned to normal.
<b>Kaikohe</b> Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed but also listed Fast-track proposal)			<u>Under AN</u> Self-monitoring data missing or not reported correctly.
<b>Ruakākā</b> Expires 2046			Elevated ammoniacal nitrogen levels now only in two bores (and are slowly dropping). Investigations showed that no elevated levels were found in the receiving environment.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
<b>Ngunguru</b> Expires 2035			None currently. Historic result still affecting 95 <sup>th</sup> percentile for E. coli.
<b>Tutukaka</b> Expires 2054			Moderate non-compliance for historic elevated E. coli (from February 2025).
<b>Te Kopuru</b> Expires 2044			Dry weather flows have exceeded discharge limit on several occasions. Most recent results compliant.
<b>Maungaturoto</b> Expires 2032			<u>Under AN; IN issued September 2024</u> No issues currently.
<b>Rangiputa</b> Expires 2032			None currently.
<b>Whangārei City</b> Expires 2045			<u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant. Additional odour controls being implemented. BOD5 and TSS exceeding median limits. Reticulation issues relating to the Whangārei Heads line and pump stations is being managed. Investigations for long term remediation are underway. Further information is available from WDC website.
<b>Kaeo</b> Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)			Some self-monitoring results missing.
<b>Kerikeri</b> Expires 2036			Some self-monitoring results missing.
<b>Mangawhai</b> Expires 2042			<u>Under ANs; IN issued September 2024</u> Enforcement relates to odour. Low risk non-compliance for exceedance of TDS on one occasion.
<b>Ōākura</b> Expires 2025			None currently.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
<b>Waipū</b> Expires 2030			None currently.
<b>Dargaville</b> Expires 2043			<u>Under ANs</u> None currently.
<b>Portland</b> Expires 2054			None currently.
<b>Glinks Gully</b> Expires 2034			None currently.
<b>Waiotira</b> Expires 2030			None currently.
<b>Compliance Status</b>			
Full compliance			
Low risk non-compliance			
Moderate non-compliance			
Significant non-compliance			

### Farm dairy effluent (FDE) monitoring

FDE inspections commenced in August 2025. A total of 699 farms are scheduled for monitoring (199 permitted activities and 500 consented farms). All the farms have now been visited, but not all reporting has been completed. Comparisons of this season's results with last year (at the same time) are given in the tables below. Overall, compliance is similar between last year and this year.

#### Consented farms

Full Compliance		Moderate Non-Compliance		Significant Non-Compliance	
This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
237	348	98	135	30	37
65%	67%	27%	26%	8%	7%

#### Non-consented farms

Full Compliance		Moderate Non-Compliance		Significant Non-Compliance	
This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
90	132	26	26	12	12
70.3%	78%	20.3%	15%	9.4%	7%

### Court Cases Update

Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
<b>Enforcement Order and Prosecution</b> Environment Court Earthworks and vegetation removal in a wetland	NRC has approved the Remediation and Mitigation Plan which was a requirement of the Enforcement Orders (issued on 20 January 2025). Charges for prosecution served on defendants on 25 July 2025. A pre-trial hearing was held on 1 December 2025 to determine eligibility for election of jury trial. The judge reserved his decision. A nominal date of 26 January 2026 has been scheduled.
<b>Interim Enforcement Orders</b> Environment Court Discharge to air from the manufacturing of Asphalt and open burning	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. 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.
<b>Interim Injunction (Civil Matter)</b> <b>Māori Land Court</b> Encroachment and damage of Māori land	The Māori Land Court requested the NRC, as a Third Party, to attend the hearing for an application for an interim injunction by a person regarding alleged encroachment and damage of Māori land by their neighbour's earthworks. The Group Manager Regulatory Service prepared an affidavit for and attended the hearing on 31 October 2025. The substantial hearing of the matter was deferred to next year (hearing date awaited), but the presiding judge granted an interim injunction restricting the neighbour's earthworks in the vicinity of the contested land boundary.

### Wastewater Discharge Standards

Wastewater discharge standards for public networks have been released and come into effect 19 December 2025.

The regulations are made under the Water Services Act 2021 and prevail over Resource Management Act (RMA) instruments (regional plans, policy statements, and even some national environmental standards) where there is inconsistency.

The standards apply to:

- Discharge of biosolids to land (with permitted, controlled, or discretionary status depending on contaminant levels and management plans).
- Overflows and bypasses from wastewater networks and treatment plants (with delayed commencement until 19 December 2028).
- Discharges from wastewater treatment plants to water and land.

Councils must amend any conflicting or duplicative rules soon as possible without a formal plan change process. The assessment of consequential changes needed to be made to regional plan wastewater discharge rules has yet to be undertaken (notably the regional plan rules apply to both public and private wastewater network discharges, whereas the standards only apply to public networks).

The regulations introduce mandatory conditions for wastewater-related consents.

Some activities regulated under the standards have defined activity status (e.g., controlled activity for engineered overflow points), which means consents cannot be declined but conditions will apply. Section 124 RMA protection for operating under an expired consent will be limited to two years. Hayley. S Hātea Clean-up Around 45 people from NRC and FNDC attended the Hayley. S Hātea Clean-up. This is Roughly 540 kg of litter was removed from the land and inter-tidal mangroves adjacent to the Hātea.

2025 Kaipara Estuary Monitoring Preliminary results from the 2025 Kaipara estuary monitoring programme were presented to the Kaipara Moana Remediation Board and Auckland Council staff on 24 November. Monitoring indicates very muddy conditions in upper harbour tidal creeks, with a sediment gradient extending toward deeper harbour environments.

Earth Sciences NZ Far North Hui Council staff, including groundwater resource scientists, members of the Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement, and Climate Action teams, attended four hui held in the Far North, hosted by Earth Sciences NZ and funded by MBIE. The community hui focussed on sharing scientific and mātauranga knowledge about wai and to understand local experiences and priorities for communities in Te Hiku. The project “Future Proofing Groundwater systems” is building off existing work completed by the Te Hiku aerial aquifer survey (SKY TEM Project). One key outcome is to provide the Te Hiku communities with a sense of how resilient the Aupōuri aquifer is to the impacts of climate change, the research aims are listed below:

- Identify where groundwater systems can buffer drought impacts.
- Identify where groundwater is most able to buffer nitrate load.
- Simulate the effectiveness of management interventions at decision-relevant scales.
- Deliver simulations to support adaptation decisions and management pathways.

#### **KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION: Key Performance Indicators**

As at 30 November 2025, not quite 4 years into delivery, KMR has delivered the following results on the ground:

##### Nature & Resilience

- Over 2.87 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant this winter
- 1,644 hectares planted or contracted, or regenerating into native forest
- 1,105 km of fencing completed or contracted – the same distance as from Cape Rēinga to Picton
- Over 151,000 hectares managed under KMR plans

##### Jobs & Skills

- Over \$29.5 million invested in restoration projects
  - 51 local businesses and nurseries accredited to supply KMR
  - Over 424,000 hours of new work created – a year’s work for over 272 people (\*end October)
  - 247 people trained and mentored, many from local iwi/hapū, to advise on project design and delivery (\*end October)
- (\*Data collated at each quarter end)

### Participation

- 1,409 landowners have expressed interest in KMR
- 929 plans have been completed with landowners
- 115 more plans are in development
- 130 group-led projects led by hapū, marae, community groups, catchment groups and other collectives.

### **Impact monitoring and reporting**

The information shown above reflects the formal KMR Key Performance Indicators, as required under the Deed of Funding with the Crown. We will continue to report monthly on these indicators, which are common across all *Jobs for Nature* investments.

As previously reported, these indicators are largely activity and output metrics, so with the support of the Crown, KMR will be implementing a Local Stream Health Case Studies project to better assess the benefits on the ground from KMR investment. The Project aims to demonstrate and tell the story of localised, measurable improvements in water quality and stream health resulting from KMR co-funded remediation project work across a range of sub-catchments within the Kaipara Moana catchment. Rather than producing highly technical or long-term datasets, the Project uses a semi-qualitative, community-based method to highlight the major benefits of KMR activities — including clearer water, cooler temperatures, improved habitat and more resilient riparian ecosystems. We envisage this project as complimentary to the ongoing scientific environmental monitoring being undertaken by Northland Regional Council and Auckland Council, as mentioned below.

### **Outcomes monitoring and reporting**

At our Joint Committee hui on 24 October, presentations were given by Jenni Gadd, Auckland Council, on the State of the Environment Monitoring: Kaipara Harbour, and by Richard Griffiths, Northland Regional Council, on the Kaipara Ecological Survey, undertaken in collaboration with Te Uri O Hau Environs.

Both presentations on monitoring of the sediment properties and estuarine ecology were highly relevant and affirming of the kaupapa of KMR in working to reduce the sediment load across the catchment.

The Northland survey reported “very muddy sites in upper harbour tidal creek environments, with 20 out of 41 sites classified as ‘poor’ “. A correlating pattern was evident for other contaminants in these sites.

## **8.2.4 SAFE AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT NETWORKS**

---

### **Maritime**

- 8 maritime incidents were reported in November, these mostly concerned accidents or near misses on the water and offences such as speeding and illegal mooring.
- Pilotage services were provided for 3 cruise ships visiting the Bay of Islands.

Routine maintenance and repairs were carried out on 4 aids to navigation; this includes painting and replacing components such as batteries and fixings.

The team provided assistance to NIWA and NgātiWai Ki Whangaruru Whenua Topu Trust to install a 70kg underwater camera to conduct research on their ocean garden in the Bay of Islands. The ocean gardens or māra moana established in Whapukapirau Bay in the Bay of Islands is associated with the Kaingahoa Marae (Patukeha). The installation ran smoothly and was appreciated by NIWA and the Trust representatives onboard.

A small aircraft crashed into the water in the Bay of Islands following complete engine failure, fortunately the 2 occupants were swiftly rescued by a private fishing vessel. The Waikare II was quickly mobilised, no pollutants were found in the water. The following day the maritime team carried out an underwater survey search in the area but the plane was not located. At 375kg, and a very light construction its possible it has moved some way underwater. If the plane is located there is a provisional plan to recover with underwater drones.



Light aircraft crashed in vicinity of the sister BOI

It was another busy month with oil spill response preparedness activities; a desktop training exercise was completed where regional responders simulated a response to a scenario where a road tanker had crashed into a remote, steep-sided gully close to the coast. The tank collapsed spilling the entire contents of waste oil into the waters of a nearby and fast-flowing stream leading to the sea. The team also spent 3 days assisting the Maritime New Zealand pollution response team in practicing deployment of oil spill response equipment aboard the Waikare II. A selection of national response team members in the council also attended beach clean-up training exercise at Ruakākā.

The annual Harbour Warden meeting was held at the Bay of Islands Yacht Club. These wardens are situated in harbours throughout the region and are not employees but honorary enforcement officers. They are the maritime team's eyes and ears around the region, providing invaluable support to the team by monitoring their respective harbours, reporting incidents and providing response assistance when required. The network has recently been expanded through the recruitment of iwi harbour wardens, 3 recruited last year and another 3 are in the process. Sadly, we also mourned the loss of our Hokianga warden Peter Clark who passed away earlier this year.

### **Transport Planning**

#### Draft Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) 2026–2036

The draft Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) 2026–2036 is currently being finalised in collaboration with the communications team.

The final draft will be presented to the Northland Regional Council for approval to begin public consultation in February 2026. Full public consultation is planned for March 2026, including online and in-person engagement activities across the region.

Following consultation, feedback will be analysed and reported to Council during April and May 2026, with a workshop to review submissions. Final approval and adoption of the RPTP is anticipated at the June 2026 Council meeting, after which the plan will be formally released and published.

## **Public Transport**

### **Contracted Bus Services**

#### Tendering of Contracted Bus Services

Staff, with the assistance of a consultant have commenced compiling the various documents required for the tendering the following Link Services:

- Far North Link – Kaitaia/
- Mid North Link – Kaikohe/Paihia/Kerikeri
- Hokianga Link – Opononi/Kaikohe
- Hikurangi Link – Hikurangi/Whangārei
- CityLink and SchoolLink – Whangārei
- Bream Bay Link – Mangawhai/Waipu/Whangārei.

The tendering of these contracts will be accordance with the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi Procurement Policies and the Northland Regional Council Transport Procurement Strategy 2024-2027. New contracts will come into effect between June 2027 and September 2027.

#### New Buslink website

The launch of the new Buslink website went live in November 2025. Transport staff worked closely with the comms team to roll out the new site.

The new website combines the previously separate CityLink and Buslink websites, which had become old and outdated. The refreshed Buslink website is designed to be more user-friendly and engaging, with the aim of attracting more passengers to use the bus services.

<https://www.buslink.co.nz/>

## **Total Mobility Scheme**

#### National Total Mobility hui/meeting

On 19 November, a national hui for all Total Mobility (TM) coordinators was held in Christchurch. This hui, attended by 23 representatives from regional councils, NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and the Ministry of Transport covered a range of subjects and addressed a number of issues which included: -

- Update Minsitry of Transport Review of the Scheme.
- Transfer of clients between regions
- The Electronic Ticketing system.
- Update of Nationa Total Mobility Guidelines.
- Total Mobility use of council contracted bus services.
- The new national Total Mobility card.
- Financial issues facing the Sceheme.

## **8.2.5 A SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMY**

### **Climate Resilience**

#### **Sustainable Business Network “Electrify Business” event**

Northland Regional Council supported the “Electrify Business” event hosted by the Sustainable Business Network and EECA on 4 November at the Hundertwasser Art Centre. The event showcased presentations from Chilltech, Daikin and McKay on the benefits of electrification, from efficient heating and cooling to solar generation and fleet transition. Turning Point Coffee also highlighted how electrification can boost resilience and reduce costs. We will continue working with

the Sustainable Business Network and Northland Inc to raise awareness of emerging risks and support Te Taitokerau businesses to build resilience and plan for the future.

### **Property Update**

- The Modern Spaces Project, refurbishment of the ground floor of Whangarei HQ Offices, is complete with 80% desking (desk sharing) and a significant increase in collaboration areas that are now in play. Levels 1, 2 & 3 are to be completed by mid-Autumn 2026. The 40-year-old lift is being replaced over summer months so will be out of commission until early March 2026.
- The agreement has been executed by the purchaser of a large council owned Whangarei CBD property.
- Council's development partner is in advanced negotiations with two Australasian brands as possible tenant(s) of the two redevelopment sites in Whangarei's CBD, a combination of the two developments would be complimentary in modernising the area and enhancing council's property portfolio.

### **Regional Economic Development**

An induction session of the new triennium Joint Regional Economic Development Committee is being organised for Friday 12 December. The JREDC consists of eight members, two from each council, with only three members returning from the previous JREDC. The session will cover the roles and responsibilities of JREDC as shareholders of Northland Inc and in relation to the Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR), as well as a presentation from Northland Inc board and senior staff.

The Northland Infrastructure Plan continues to be developed by Beca in consultation with a project team involving staff from all four councils. The need for investment in infrastructure is woven through strategies such as Te Rerenga and the Northland Regional Deals proposal. A key objective is to deliver a clear, evidence-based roadmap for prioritising projects, attracting investment, and coordinating delivery among Councils, iwi, Central Government, and private sector industry partners. Work in November included ongoing engagement with infrastructure providers and users, and a workshop to frame up the narrative and options for assessing priorities. The draft will be provided to JREDC at its first meeting on 6 March 2026.

Senior staff from the Social Investment Agency (SIA) visited Northland to meet with various groups to gather views on SIA pathways three and four, namely Community Commissioning and Co-Investment. Staff meet with SIA to offer perspectives on the opportunities and challenges in Northland, including the role of council. SIA staff have been visiting several regions through New Zealand and will be providing advice to Ministers in December on next steps including possible trial areas.

Conversations continued with Juken NZ and Northland Inc to enhance the operation of the Kaitaia tri-board factory. Options explored included water recycling, water storage, electricity generation and coastal shipping. Options for funding from the IGR will be explored.

### **Economic Development Funding**

Northland Inc, in close coordination with staff from all four councils, are preparing an impacts and outcomes report on the benefits of the IGR. This report was requested by the JREDC at its meeting on 26 September 2025 and will be presented to the first meeting of the new triennium JREDC on 6 March. As part of this work council staff have engaged with the managers of Manea Footprints of Kupe and Waitangi Mountain Bike Park to discuss the impacts of these investments.

Through its engagement with Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust, council has invested into the Kaipara Water Company and Mid North Water Company. Staff and Northland Inc are working closely with TTTWT to develop actions that would support the private sector uptake of shares in the Kaipara Water Company, including the possibility of some trial crop initiatives.

NIWA are developing a business case for expanding their current 600 tonne per annum Kingfish Reticulating Aquaculture System (RAS) facility into a large commercial scale 3000 tonne operation. As part of owners of the infrastructure, NRC staff are engaging with NIWA on this. The business case is expected to be completed by early 2026.

### **Economic Information**

A presentation on the Northland labour market was given to the Tertiary Providers Forum, hosted by Ministry of Education. Discussion included the changing industry and occupational structure of employment, and the ethnic and age impact of unemployment.

Statistics NZ are consulting on the new Census design. Staff participated in an online briefing with Stats NZ along with other members of the Northland Data Group. The group pushed hard on equity, stronger small area data, and how to properly count communities living off the grid in remote and inaccessible places.

Data was provided to support the assessment of the economic impacts of Madagascar Ragwort, a Te Hiku Iwi Development Trust presentation to the NZ Power Summit, and advice to WDC on Whangarei City centre economic data.

### **Northland Inc**

In early November, Northland Inc and Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Massey University signed a Waka Hourua (Heads of Agreement), establishing a new partnership to strengthen education, research and innovation across Te Tai Tokerau's food and fibre sector. The partnership aims to close long-standing gaps in local training and research access by developing clearer tertiary pathways, increasing locally delivered programmes and strengthening collaboration between industry, iwi, schools and tertiary providers. Shared priorities include supporting secondary school delivery in agriculture, horticulture, food technology and environmental management, alongside co-developing new regionally focused programmes and microcredentials. Work is already underway to scope Massey's involvement in the proposed Whangārei Knowledge Hub and to expand regional research partnerships, including with NARF, Kaipara Moana Restoration, Ngāwhā Innovation and Enterprise Park and iwi-led food and fibre initiatives. <https://www.northlandnz.com/northland-inc/news/new-partnership-to-boost-northlands-food-and-fibre-future/>

The second Savour Northland event concluded with an Awards dinner on 10 November. More than 54 events were delivered across the region throughout October, and over 2,400 Savour Northland Challenge dishes were sold across 24 participating venues, with 20% of attendees from outside the region. Survey results show strong appetite for the event's growth, with 83 percent of attendees planning to return and 80 percent indicating they would consider planning a future trip specifically around the programme. Air NZ have committed to a three-year sponsorship commitment. <https://www.northlandnz.com/northland-inc/news/northlands-food-and-beverage-community-gathers-to-celebrate-at-savour-northland-awards-night/>

## **8.2.6 MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH TĀNGATA WHENUA**

### **Ngā karere o Te Raki e-pānui**

This edition of [Ngā karere o Te Raki](#) - an e-pānui on behalf of Te Ruarangi developed by the Community Engagement team, featured articles announcing newly elected NRC Chair, Ngā Reo o Te Ruarangi (Voices of Te Ruarangi) video series and Tāiki ē Annual Report. Reaching 540 subscribers, this edition achieved a 36.2% open rate.

### **Te Ruarangi video series**

During November we released a series of five video case studies featuring five Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū representatives who shared their whakaaro on Tāiki ē, Te Ruarangi, and the partnership between Kāwanatanga and Rangatiratanga. [Te Ruarangi video series](#)

### **Refreshed website section - Tāngata whenua and Northland Regional Council**

During November we completed an overhaul of the section of our website previously called 'Working with Māori', to make it more relevant and useful for tāngata whenua. [Tāngata whenua and Northland Regional Council](#)

### **Coastal Biodiversity Update**

A dune weed control wananga was held at Taipa on 29 November, organised by NRC CoastCare and led by expert Mike Ulrich, following requests from local marae to upskill their kaimahi. The event brought together kaitiaki from Parapara, Karepori (Taipa), and Haititaimarangai (Whatuwhiwhi) Marae alongside local residents to learn about native and pest dune plants, their role in coastal protection, and practical weed management strategies. Participants explored site prioritisation, tools, monitoring, and ways to reduce herbicide use, before heading into the dunes for hands-on identification and control demonstrations. The day highlighted how invasive species like kikuyu weaken foredunes compared to natives such as spinifex and pīngao, and inspired attendees to share their new knowledge and strengthen community efforts in dune restoration.

### **Far North – He Tirohanga Māori education event held**

90 ākonga (students) plus accompanying kaiako (teachers) attended the final 'He Tirohanga Māori' event at Waimanoni Marae in Awanui.

Attending schools included Herekino, Matauri Bay, Ngataki, Paparore, Pukenui, Pukepoto, Te Hapua and Waihāra Schools, Bay of Islands International Academy and Whangaroa College. After pōwhiri, participants took part in hands-on learning exploring Te ao tuna (eels), Te mana o te whakairo (carving artwork), Ngā taonga tākaroa (sports and games), and Rongoā Māori (traditional medicine).

Much positive feedback was received, this is an example from kaiako at Te Hapua School:  
"I just wanted to extend a huge thank you for the wonderful Encounters Day at Waimanoni. It was a fantastic experience for all of us. Every station was engaging, informative, and so thoughtfully delivered. Our tamariki learned so much and were excited to bring their new knowledge back to kura."



Rongoā Māori with Whaea Kylie Simeon.



Te ao tuna with Te Hokinga Tuna.

### **Engagement with Kaitiaki Roopu – Whangārei Harbour**

We worked closely with the Kaitiaki Roopu and Marine Team to identify toxic seaweed in Whangārei Harbour. Our ongoing conversations with the Roopu are helping to shape a collaborative research project, ensuring hapū perspectives lead the way.



Kaitiaki and staff working to identify toxic seaweed. Matua Tom – Patuharakeke

### **Wild Deer Free Kaupapa**

At Ngaioletonga Marae, we met with Hau Kainga to discuss the impacts of wild deer in the rohe. The engagement was an opportunity to listen to hapū concerns and explore how we can best support current eradication mahi and future collaborative efforts.



### **Hapū Support at Whangārei Heads Taiao Hui**

As invited participants at the Whangārei Heads Taiao Hui, our team offered hapū support and tikanga guidance in a forum with DOC, NRC, and Bream Head Conservation Trust. This engagement continues to build trust and enables meaningful hapū contribution to environmental kaupapa. Through these activities, we remain committed to authentic engagement with hapū, ensuring their voices and tikanga are central to our mahi.



### **RMA Commissioner Training**

NRC and Far North District Council (FNDC) supported kaitiaki, hapū and iwi members to undertake the most recent Making Good Decisions (MGD) training, ensuring their participation in resource management decision-making processes. This backing helps strengthen the capacity of councillors, community board members, and independent commissioners to make fair and informed decisions under the Resource Management Act 1991.



### **Future Proofing Groundwater Hui – Te Hiku o Te Ika**

In the week starting 17 November, Te Tiriti Partnerships team supported four community engagements set up in and around Kaitaia. Our team's involvement was taking care of the tikanga and providing a helping hand to our water quality team. The hui was delivered over four consecutive nights engaging with local iwi Ngāti Kurī, Te Aupōuri, Ngāitakoto, Te Rarawa and Ngāti Kahu hapū representatives and private landowners in the area.



NRC, along with scientists and researchers from Earth Sciences NZ (GNS Science) and an iwi led steering group presented on current data and information regarding the Te Aupōuri/Hiku aquifer and the Te Hiku water study. Studies go back to the early 2000's. Whilst numbers in attendance were limited, the discussions were robust and direct, giving opportunities to further enhance future mahi and engagements

## **8.2.7 CARBON NEUTRAL, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE**

### **Climate**

#### **Natural Hazards on Land Information Management Reports**

Staff continue to work on the sharing of 'all known' information with district councils and then the public. District councils report high demands for LIMs driven by the banking and insurance however most queries relate to other aspects of LIM reports, such as codes of compliance.

#### **Flood modelling guidelines**

NRC have been working with a contractor to finalise our flood modelling guidelines and develop modelling specifications. These guidelines clearly define the information and standards for any future flood models developed for NRC. The standards will support tenders and contracts, providing clarity to consultants and staff and provide robust contact.

#### **Whangarei Urban Flood strategy**

Additional work on the hydraulic model that underpins the strategy has been identified as being required to complete the assessments of mitigation options. Budget has been reprioritised with the existing project and WDC are contracting a flood modelling company to undertake this work. NRC have provided the draft NRC Modelling Guidelines to ensure the outputs will meet regional council needs.

#### **National Flood Map**

The Ministry for the Environment are developing a national flood map as part of the National Adaptation Plan. Their aim appears to be amalgamation of existing council maps and the first step in

this process is assessing the information held by regional councils around the motu. Staff have until the end of February to provide this information.

The national flood map is a separate project to the national flood model we discussed in last month's update.

### **Mangawhai Museum Storm Zone Opening**

Staff attended the opening night of The Storm Zone Exhibition, a project funded through this year's round of Climate Resilient Communities funding.

This has been a great cross-council collaborative project with Natural Resources contributing hydrology data and information on storms and weather events in the Kaipara, and advice on pulling together some of the technical aspects of this exhibition. Natural Hazards, Climate Resilience, Civil Defence and the Communications team have also been involved.

The Mangawhai Museum team have put together a very creative, interactive and educational exhibition for the Kaipara community, that strongly aligns with climate resilience messaging, and we're excited to see uptake from the community over summer and the delivery of the programme to schools in the New Year. A video that plays as part of the exhibition can be viewed [here](#).



Visitors to the exhibition are greeted with the story of Tāwhirimātea - atua of weather, storms and wind.

### **Climate Change Commission Return Visit**

The Climate Change Commission returned to Te Taitokerau to present the final case study publication *Ā Te Taitokerau urutau i ngā āhuarangi - Responding to a changing climate in Te Taitokerau/Northland*.

The case study explores the impacts of a changing climate on Te Taitokerau/Northland and shares how communities and businesses are responding. It will be used as an input into the national climate risk assessment and report on progress against the national adaptation plan both of which will be delivered in 2026.

NRC is supporting the two community led adaptation projects commencing in our region, based in Hokianga and Whangaruru in partnership with FNDC and WDC respectively, both of which are referenced in the report.



Staff from the Climate Change Commission, Rural Support Trust, HortNZ and NRC who were all contributors to the report.

## Rivers

### Kaeo Stage 2 Flood Infrastructure Project

The tender evaluation for Kaeo Stage 2 is complete, and a preferred contractor has been selected, pending sign-off.

Iwi, hapū, project archaeologist and project team are organising a training session between the cultural monitors and archaeologist before works begin. A wānanga will be held to kōrero around the environmental aspects of the project, wetland enhancement, inanga spawning, fish refuge and habitat, water quality and fish salvage that will take place during construction.



Site plan showing environmental additions for the project, wetland restoration, construction, inanga spawning habitat and fish refuge/tuna spawning habitat has been designed by our project ecologist and geologist, coming from input from the community on what they would like to see.

### **Kawakawa Deflection Bank**

Further benching work on the right-hand bank opposite the deflection bank has commenced and is progressing swiftly with the favourable weather conditions.

A culvert extension is also underway, adding to the existing culvert infilling to remove the area of low flow that currently acts as a debris catch for woody debris.

Planting will be the final stage of works with a local kaitiaki group.



### **Otiria**

A construction tender closed on Monday 24th November, with bids received. Evaluation is underway, with award expected early December. Once the contract has been awarded, staff expect this work to be completed within two months (weather dependant).

### **Mangamuka Marae**

Following an onsite hui with stakeholders, a programme has been put in place to complete outstanding tasks at the marae. Remaining works include; fencing, re-grassing minor rock and earthworks – expecting 1-2 week turnaround to complete at this stage (weather permitting).

### **Civil Defence Emergency Management**

#### **Operational Overview**

The Group Office has been actively navigating the local government environment, preparing and contributing to elected member induction briefings and participating in both regional and national forums, including Northland Lifelines, SIG and national leadership meetings. These engagements continue to support alignment with national emergency management reforms and integration into broader strategic initiatives.

Members of the Group Office and NRC attended the EMPA Awards in Wellington where CDEM won the Recovery category for Excellence in Emergency Communication.

NEMA leadership recently visited the Far North to engage with Te Rarawa. The visit, initiated by an invitation from Te Rarawa, aimed to deepen understanding of the many challenges faced by the iwi. During the trip, NEMA visited 17 of Te Rarawa's 23 marae, fostering stronger relationships and collaboration. The effort was greatly appreciated by Northland CDEM and the wider community. Ongoing community resilience initiatives include Marae Preparedness workshops, Community Response Group (CRG) hui, and inter-agency collaboration, all aimed at strengthening regional and local readiness and response capabilities.

### Capability Development

To support ongoing capability and capacity building, team members have participated in a range of professional development programmes, including Coordinated Incident Management Systems (CIMS) training and Exercise Whakahaumarū.

Exercise Whakahaumarū, held on November 19, was a regional exercise designed to test Northland's integrated response capability. Internal and multi-agency debriefs are currently underway, with findings to be consolidated for feedback and continuous improvement. These efforts align with both national and regional priorities, reinforcing a strong commitment to operational excellence.

### Section 17A Review

Finding of as recent Section 17A Capability Assessment Review have been shared with the Coordinating Executive Group (CEG). Key recommendations from the review will be presented to the CDEM Group Joint Committee meeting for consideration and strategic direction in the new year.

## 8.2.8 EFFICIENT, PROGRESSIVE AND TRANSPARENT COUNCIL SYSTEMS

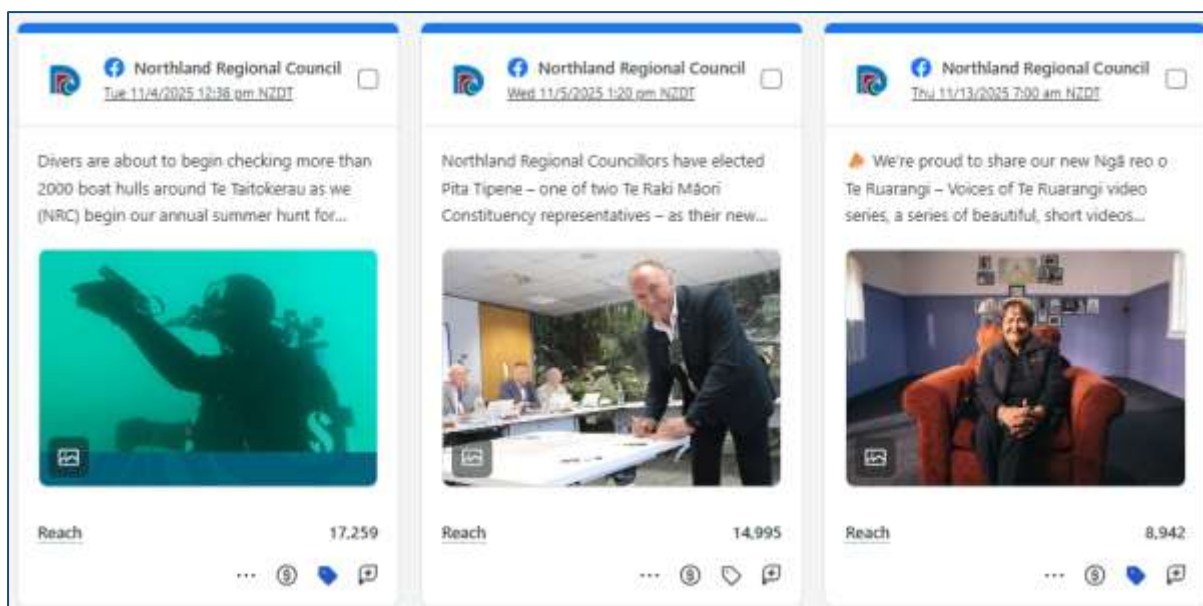
### Digital engagement

#### Overall performance across social media platforms:

Profile	Audience	Net audience growth	Published posts	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate (per impression)	Video views
Reporting period 1 – 28 November	23,332 ↑0.7%	170 ↑6.3%	36 ↓30.8%	140,460 ↓46.9%	8,257 ↓41%	5.8% ↑10.7%	14,737 ↓73.9%
Compare to 1 – 31 October	23,161	175	57	297,761	16,795	5.6%	60,767
Facebook	15,801	72	7	118,798	7,560	6.4%	6,761
LinkedIn	4,085	87	4	12,555	521	4.1%	0
Instagram	2,835	6	12	9,107	116	1.3%	5,302
YouTube	611	5	13	N/A	60	N/A	2,674

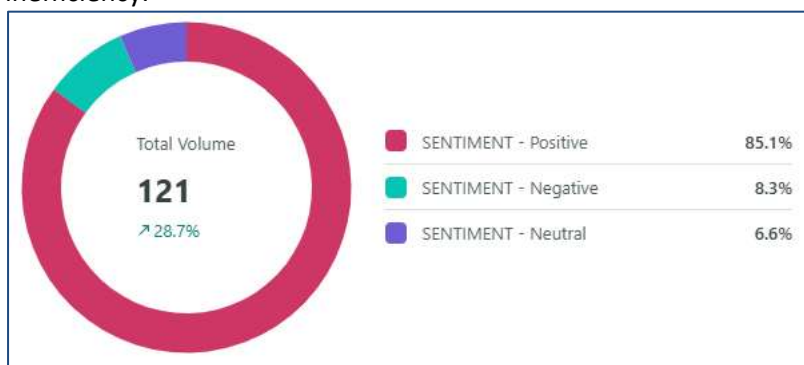
#### Top three posts reaching the most people:

[Annual summer hull checks](#), announcing the NRC's newly elected [Chair and Deputy Chair](#), and sharing [Ngā reo o Te Ruarangi](#) (Voices of Te Ruarangi) video series.



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

**Sentiment:** Positive sentiment related to support for the newly elected NRC Chair and commending NRC for biodiversity efforts and partnerships. Negative sentiment is few but strongly worded and centred around governance accountability, frustration with marine biosecurity and perceived inefficiency.



#### Top website pages:

Page	Views
<a href="#">Environmental Data Hub</a>	17,998
<a href="#">Pest Control Hub</a>	5,548
<a href="#">Online maps</a>	1,145
<a href="#">Our Northland -Stories</a>	1,521

Key Performance Indicators	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
<b>WEB</b>					
# Visits to the NRC website	79,477	40,440	58,790	84,925	51,476
E-payments made	56	44	40	25	24
# subscribed web alerts (cumulative)	1,730	1,741	1,749	1,757	1,790
# subscribed to eNewsletters (cumulative)	5,571	5,577	5,568	5,576	5,585
<b>CDEM SOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)</b>					
# CDEM Facebook followers	39,665	39,647	39,775	40,025	41,752

Key Performance Indicators	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
# CDEM Overall Facebook Reach (30D)	497,513	54,889	195,981	181,273	339,874

### Media liaison

Five Northland Regional Council media releases were created and distributed throughout Te Taitokerau and beyond during November:

- [Awanui flood scheme progress celebrated](#)
- [Local government reform discussion welcomed - Mayoral Forum](#)
- [Passion for rangatahi and te taiao drives Ngāti Rēhia's climate action success](#)
- [Former regional councillor Monty Knight remembered](#)
- [Pita Tipene is new NRC chair, Jack Craw deputy](#)

Two media brief items were also shared: *Bream Bay 'Explore and Restore' road trip*; and *NewBusLink website*.

Media coverage generated 50 mentions of NRC during November, with most assessed as mixed or positive (source: Truescope).

### Northland Business Excellence Awards

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia received the Northland Regional Council Sustainability and Climate Action Award at the 2025 Northland Business Excellence Awards, hosted by Northland Chambers of Commerce. This award celebrates businesses making measurable progress in environmental responsibility and climate resilience. To share Ngāti Rēhia's success, we promoted the win on social media during the event and published a feature story: [Passion for rangatahi and te taiao drives Ngāti Rēhia's climate action success](#).

### Fraud, Corruption and Dishonesty Statement

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

### Finance

During November, the Finance team began implementing EFTsure, which will enhance payment security and reduce fraud risk through real-time verification of supplier banking details. The rollout of an eInvoicing solution is scheduled to commence in December, aimed at streamlining invoice processing and improving accuracy and compliance. In addition, we are progressing with the transition of council-managed funds from EriksensGlobal to Russell Investments, ensuring alignment with strategic investment objectives and improved portfolio oversight.

### People and Culture

#### Correction to the P&C Quarterly Report

The staff turnover rates in the November People and Culture report for August and September were incorrect. The corrected data is:

- **August:** 11.14%
- **September:** 11.39%

The People & Culture team is currently reviewing these figures to determine whether they reflect seasonal trends or if other factors may have contributed to the increase in turnover.

The People & Culture team is actively providing support to our people following the recently announced local government reform proposal.

Our focus includes aiding in clear communication and supporting staff wellbeing and engagement while we wait for the consultation outcome.

### Health and Safety

We continue to provide training and support to staff, including the updated *Before You Go* survey and the *Take 5* process for those working on-site. Additional training is being offered on working alone, the buddy system, and the use of Garmin inReach devices as we approach the busy summer season.

Following the recent quarterly Health & Safety report and subsequent questions regarding the high number of driving-related incidents, the Health & Safety team will develop a mechanism to enable council to gain a clearer understanding of the factors contributing to these incidents.

### Corporate Strategy

Staff have been progressing a number of projects and working to support mahi across the organisation:

- WayPoint, a system to manage projects, programmes, Risk, KPI reporting, and activities was launched mid-year, with almost 300 projects and 150 programmes now entered in the system. The team have been working with managers to ensure the data entered can support future planning and prioritisation across the organisation.
- Council's newly established in-house legal counsel has been in demand, providing comprehensive legal reviews of contracts and offering expert advice on complex matters, including biosecurity incursion contracts, the Awanui flood management scheme, and proposed government bills.
- Development of the Annual Plan 2026/27 is well underway, with staff compiling proposals and considering consultation options.
- Development of council's strategic direction, that will drive development of the Long Term Plan 2027-2037 is underway.
- The strategic delivery refresh has achieved some key milestones with successful rollout of Project Insight (timesheeting) across the whole organisation. Other projects in the refresh programme continue.
- Improvement programmes such as corporate policy management, contract management improvement and support, internal audit and quality management are continuing as resourcing allows.

### Information Service & Technology

#### Operations:

- Laptop and Mobile Phone refresh underway with steady progress being made and will continue through to April 2026.
- IT support for the Modern Workspaces project has required a significant investment of team resources.
- Some overnight processes related to GIS system updates are currently failing. Alternative approaches are being explored to minimise disruption, and a comprehensive review is scheduled for February 2026.

#### Projects:

- Project Axis:

Asset Management - Test environment is currently being configured, data is being cleansed and workshops to agree the configuration design with the various business departments are being scheduled to gain sign-off.

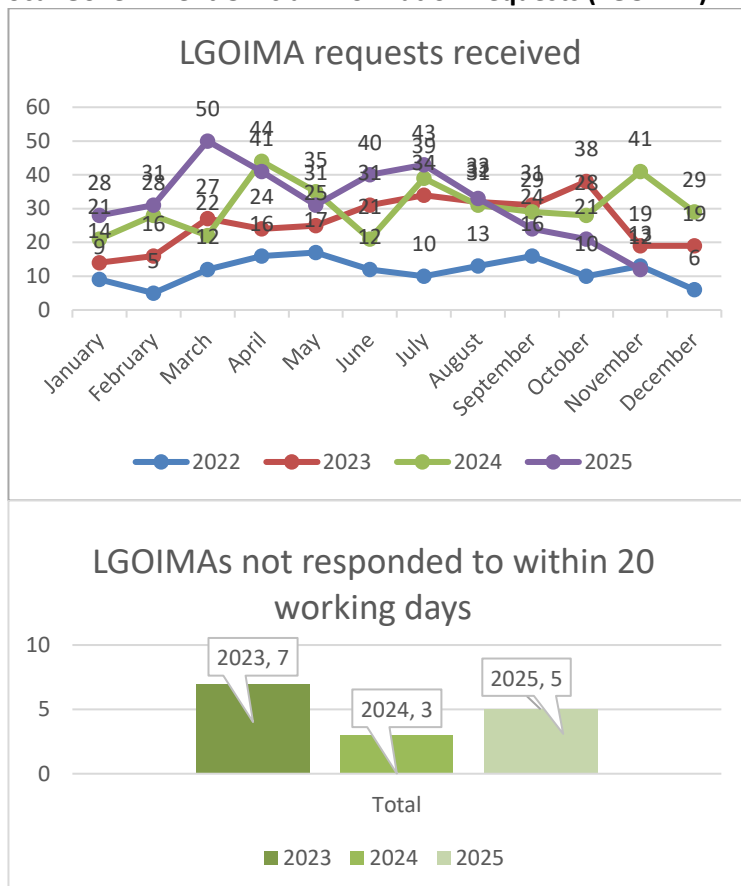
Human Resource Information System (HRIS) - the current Production system for recruitment has been reconfigured to be based on 'Positions' with effect from 1 December.

- IRIS Next Generation:

Sector Programme - The Otago Regional Council began the Pilot project for the system on 10 November which will continue until December 2026. Next to implement will be, Bay of Plenty and Waikato in 2027, followed by Northland, Horizons and Hawkes Bay in 2028, then Environment Southland, Nelson City Council and West Coast Council.

- NRC Project - The current focus includes data planning and migration (reviewing current data and housekeeping for system replacement), assessing customer service delivery and supporting systems, defining council core activities to meet regulatory obligations, and identifying IT requirements to prepare for project implementation.

### Local Government Official Information Requests (LGOIMA)



In November 2025, we received a total of 12 LGOIMA requests, 29 less requests than at the same time in November 2024. The overall trend shows an increase in LGOIMA requests each year, with 15 more requests compared to the same period in 2024.

A request was received in October, and within the 20 working days staff sought clarification of that request. No response to that request for clarification was received from the requestor. Staff have now partially refused the request, however that response was outside the statutory timeframe for a response. This breach has highlighted a need for further training of staff on LGOIMA processes and statutory timeframes.

### Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil

## TITLE: Business with the Public Excluded

---

### Whakarāpopototanga / Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the public be excluded from the proceedings of this meeting to consider the confidential matters detailed below for the reasons given.

---

### Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendations

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

Item No.	Item Issue	Reasons/Grounds
9.1	Confirmation of Confidential Minutes - 25 November 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	Progressing a Small-scale Property Redevelopment	The public conduct of the proceedings would be likely to result in disclosure of information, the withholding of which is necessary to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information s7(2)(b)(ii), the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities s7(2)(h) and the withholding of which is necessary to enable council to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations) s7(2)(i).

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

### 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.