

AGENDA

RĀRANGI TAKE

Huihuinga O Te Kāhui Māori O Taitokerau Te Ruarangi

**Thursday 11 December 2025, 9.00 – 2.30pm
Whangārei Terenga Paraoa Marae**

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

Meeting to be held at Whangārei Terenga Paraoa Marae and via audio visual link
on Thursday 11 December 2025, commencing at 9.00am with a mihi whakatau

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

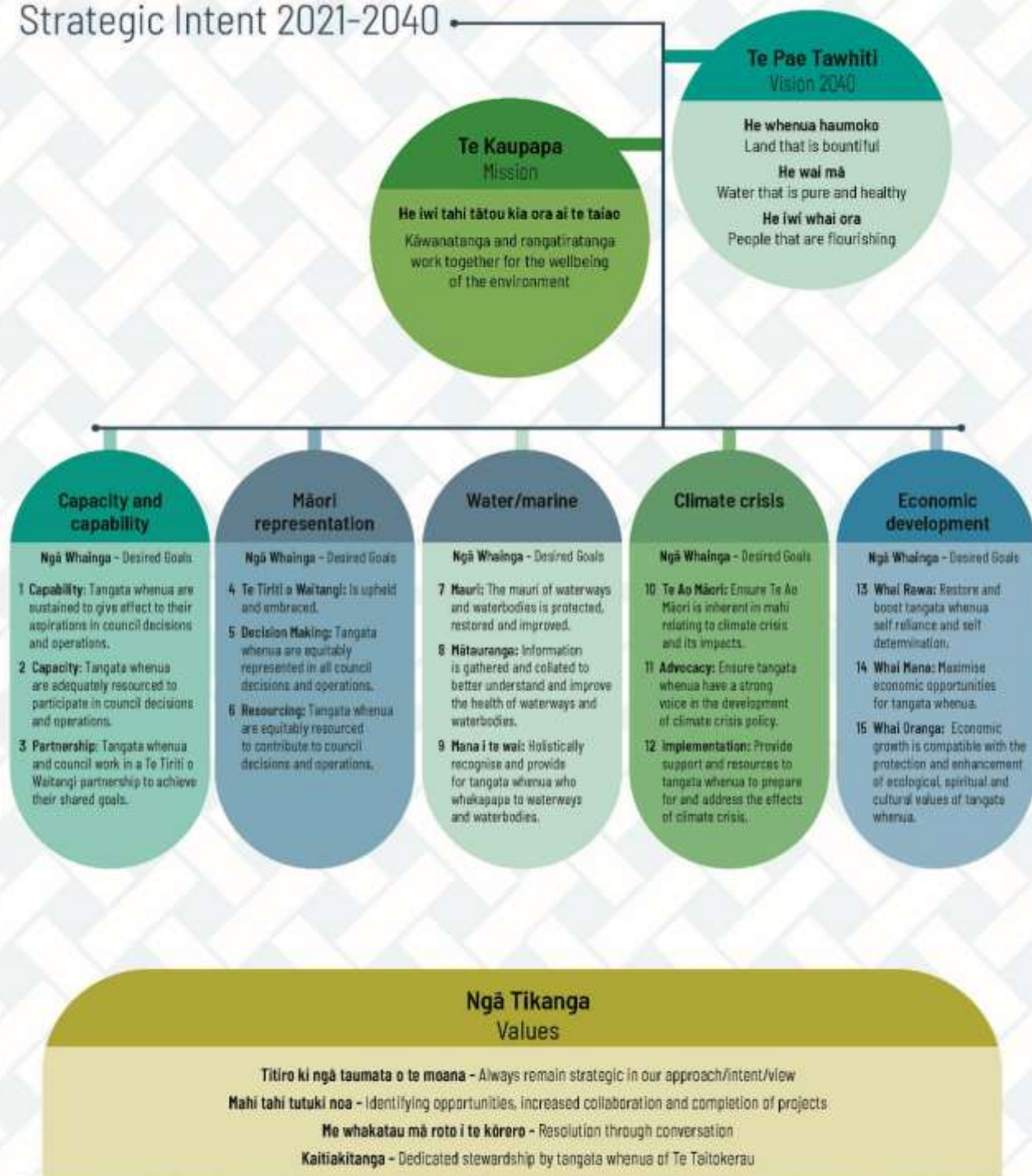
NGĀ MANA WHAKAHAERE (MEMBERSHIP OF TE RUARANGI)

Heamana Tokorua (Co-Chairs):

Arama Morunga, Councillor and (new iwi and hapū Co-Chair to be nominated)

Abe Witana, Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa
Alan Riwaka, Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Whātua
Amy Macdonald, Councillor
Aperahama Edwards, Ngātiwai Trust Board
Colin (Toss) Kitchen, Councillor
Delilah Te Aōrere Parore-Southon, Te Roroa
Geoff Crawford, Councillor
Georgina Curtis-Connelly, Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust
Geraldine Baker, Kahukuraariki Trust Board
Jack Craw, Councillor
Janelle Beazley, Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi
Joe Carr, Councillor
John Blackwell, Councillor
John Hunt, Councillor
Juliane Chetham, Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board
Kipa Munro, Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia
Lynette Wharerau, Te Whakaminenga O Te Hikutu Hapu-Whanau
Mahue Greaves, Ngāti Tara
Michelle Elboz, Ngāti Kuta
Mike Kake, Ngāti Hau
Mira Norris, Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust
Niki Conrad, Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri
Nyze Manuel, Te Rūnanga O Whāingaroa
Pita Tipene, Councillor (NRC Chair)
Rowan Tautari, Te Whakapiko Hapū
Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari Hapū Iwi Trust, Arvay Armstrong-Read

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



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

Commonly used terms and abbreviations	
AP	Annual Plan
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CPCA	Community Pest Control Areas
DOC	Department of Conservation
FNDC	Far North District Council
GIS	Geographic Information System
IHEMP	Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plan
ILGACE	Iwi and Local Government Chief Executives Forum
KDC	Kaipara District Council
LAWA	Land, Air, Water Aotearoa
LEA	Local Electoral Act 2001
LGA	Local Government Act 2002
LGNZ	Local Government New Zealand
LIDAR	Light detection and ranging
LTP	Long Term Plan
MBIE	Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment
MfE	Ministry for the Environment
MOT	Ministry of Transport
MPI	Ministry for Primary Industries
MTAG	Māori Technical Advisory Group (a sub-group of Te Ruarangi)
NES	National Environmental Standards
NINC	Northland Inc. Limited
NIWA	National Institute of Water and Atmosphere
Non-elected member (Te Ruarangi)	One of the up to twenty-one appointed iwi and hapū members from Te Taitokerau. Members are appointed in accordance with the Terms of Reference .
NPS	National Policy Statement
NPS-FM	National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management
RMA	Resource Management Act 1991
RP	Regional Plan
Te Ruarangi caucus	Comprises the non-elected iwi and hapū members of Te Ruarangi
TKoT	Te Kahu o Taonui (Iwi Chairs)
TOR	Terms of Reference
TPK	Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Maori Development)
TTMAC	Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (former name of Te Ruarangi)
TTNEAP	Tai Tokerau Northland Economic Action Plan
TWWAG	Tāngata Whenua Water Advisory Group
WDC	Whangarei District Council

KARAKIA / WHAKATAU

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TITLE: **Receipt of Action Sheet**

From: Sally Bowron, Strategic Partnerships and Engagement Group Admin/PA

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and
Group Manager/s: Engagement, on 05 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: Action Sheet [↓](#) 

Te Ruarangi actions as at 3 December 2025

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

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

Meeting date	Action(s)	Tāiki ē reference	Status	C&C	MR	W/M	CC	ED
14/11/2024	Resourcing Māori Technical Expertise That the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) assist in in proposing a process for establishing a supplier panel and bring their recommendations back to TTMAC.	Actions 24, 25. Priority 3	Completed. This action has evolved to focus on supporting technical expertise through procurement and staff are utilising Tāiki ē as a guide to appropriate remuneration based on our procurement policy.	✓				
13/02/2025	TTMAC Strategic Review That the TTMAC Review Working Party be reconvened to review membership options for clause 7 and bring the recommendations back to a TTMAC meeting.	N/A	In progress. See paper in this agenda: "Process for review of Te Ruarangi terms of reference".		✓			
13/03/2025	Te Taitokerau economic development forum The 20 Feb workshop action for staff to develop ideas for an Economic Development Summit, focused on Te Rerenga was endorsed at the 13 March formal meeting. Additionally, a subgroup comprising Co-Chair Pita Tipene, and members Mira Norris and Nyze Manuel, to convene to explore potential options for a Te Taitokerau economic development forum, and then work with staff to consider next steps.	Action 29. Priority 2	In progress. Initial discussion held with the iwi and hapū subgroup comprising Pita Tipene, Nyze Manuel and Mira Norris on 23 April 2025. At the 14 August Te Ruarangi meeting, an update was provided on this action and work will continue on developing the Wānanga Waiora kaupapa for this purpose.					✓
13/03/2025	Resource consent review report - 12-month action plan Provide Te Ruarangi with progress updates of the 12-month implementation plan to give effect to the report and recommendations, “Tāiki ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process”.	Action 9, Priority 1	In progress. A project manager has been assigned and is working towards the milestones. An update will be provided to MTAG's February 2026 meeting.	✓	✓	✓		
13/03/2025	Guidelines for appointment of Māori Commissioners That staff work with the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) to develop and draft proposed changes to the guidelines for Te Ruarangi approval before returning to the Audit and Risk Committee for their consideration.	Action 5, Priority 2	Completed. A review of the guidelines from a technical expert has been received by MTAG. The next step is to take the proposed amendments of the guidelines to Te Ruarangi, and then to council.	✓	✓	✓		
13/03/2025	Marine protected areas That staff bring a further update on implementation progress to a future meeting, provide a paper on fishing control legislative provisions following conclusion of the law reform process, and organise a workshop on marine protection at a future Te Ruarangi workshop.	Action 30, Priority 3	Completed. Two actions have been completed: 1. To provide a fisheries contact for Ngāti Rehia. 2. Contact Nyze Manuel re increasing fisheries forums awareness of rāhui tapu and marine protected areas.			✓		
8/05/2025	Wānanga Waiora Staff to work with the Māori Technical Advisory Group to identify next steps for the 2026 Wānanga Waiora.	Actions 7, 8, 27. Priority 1	In progress. A project plan is in the process of being developed for Wānanga Waiora 2026 and a draft plan will be presented to the February Te Ruarangi meeting.		✓	✓		
14/08/2025	Te Ruarangi representation at council workshops That Te Ruarangi’s endorsement of a formalised approach to non-elected member participation in council workshops be presented to an upcoming council meeting. That the formalised approach include the option of a standing invitation for a designated pool of iwi and hapū (non-elected) members to attend council workshops on matters of interest, such as resource management and local government reform. That staff consider options for wider iwi/hapū engagement where appropriate.	Actions 11, 13. Priority 1	In progress. See paper in theis agenda: "Simplifying Local Government Proposal".		✓	✓		
14/08/2025	Draft submission to the Local Government Act (Systems Improvement) Bill Incorporate Te Ruarangi feedback into the council submission where appropriate and aligned with its overall intent and timeframes. If significant differences arise, staff will support Te Ruarangi iwi/hapū caucus to prepare a separate submission. Staff to ensure highlighted issues (e.g., removal of four well beings, tikanga Māori provisions, Code of Conduct risks) are addressed in the submission.	Action 13, Priority 1	Completed. The submission, which incorporated Te Ruarangi feedback, was approved at the 26 Augsut 2025 council meeting for lodgement.		✓			

TITLE: **Record of Actions – 14 August 2025**

From: Sally Bowron, Strategic Partnerships and Engagement Group Admin/PA

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and
Group Manager/s: Engagement, on 05 December 2025

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Record of Actions of the last meeting (attached) held on 14 August 2025 for review by the meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed Record of Actions - 14 August 2025 [↓](#) 

Te Ruarangi
14 August 2025

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

Meeting held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei and via audio visual link
on Thursday 14 August 2025, commencing at 9.30am - 3.00pm

Tuhinga (Present):

Co-Chair, NRC Deputy Chair Tui Shortland
Co-Chair, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Hine, Pita Tipene
Councillor Amy Macdonald
Councillor Geoff Crawford
Councillor Jack Craw
Councillor Joe Carr
Councillor John Blackwell
Councillor Marty Robinson
Councillor Rick Stolwerk
Kahukuraariki Trust Board Geraldine Baker
Ngāti Hau, Mike Kake
Ngāti Kuta Michelle Elboz
Ngāti Tara, Mahue Greaves
Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board Julianne Chetham
Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust, Mira Norris
Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Niki Conrad
Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia, Kipa Munro
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Sheila Taylor
Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, Nyze Manuel
Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi, Janelle Beazley
Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Kororā, Ngāti Takapari, Arvay Armstrong
Te Whakapiko Hapū, Rowan Tautari

I Tae Mai (In Attendance):

Huihuinga i te katoa (Full Meeting)

Pou Manawhakahaere – Strategic Partnerships and Engagement
Kaiāwhina Kaupapa Māori Technical Advisors
PA/Team Admin, Strategic Partnerships and Engagement
Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services
Pou Whakaritenga – GM Regulatory Services

Huihuinga i te wahanga (Part Meeting)

Communications Specialist
Corporate Strategy Manager
Economic Policy Advisor
Economist
Frances Wedde, Special Counsel, Buddle Findlay
Kai Whiri Iwituna - Senior Catchment Advisor
Legal Counsel
Lindsay Faithful, Managing Director, McKay on behalf of the Northland
Corporate Group

Te Ruarangi
14 August 2025

Monitoring Manager
Paul Beverley, Partner, Buddle Findlay
People and Culture Manager
Senior Kaiārahi Tikanga Māori
Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia, Nora Rameka
Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement Manager

The iwi and hapū caucus commenced at 9:30am with a karakia led by Co-Chair Pita Tipene and mihi from Kipa Munro. The formal meeting commenced at 11:00 a.m., acknowledging that it was the final meeting of the triennium. Members reflected on the relationships established through the committee and the evolving culture of the Council.

Karakia / Whakataua

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer
Councillor Peter-Lucas Jones
Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust, Georgina Connelly
Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Abe Witana / George Riley
Ngātiwai Trust Board, Aperahama Edwards
Te Roroa Delilah Te Aōrere Parore-Southon
Te Whakaminenga o te Hikutu Hapū-Whanau Lynette Wharerau

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

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

Record of Actions – 8 May 2025 (Item 4.1)

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

Agreed action points: Nil.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

It was noted that the Waipiro Bay Marina application has been referred for processing as a Fast Track application; clarification needed on process and implications for iwi and hapū. Concerns raised about misrepresentation of council's technical advice.

Agreed action points:

- That the technical questions be referred to MTAG to help inform how council should respond and discussions with Patu Keha about entering a Mana Whakahono a Rohe be continued.

Te Ruarangi
14 August 2025

Northland Corporate Group (Item 4.3)

Lindsay Faithful, Managing Director of McKay, on behalf of Northland Corporate Group (NCG) presented on NCG's recent key initiatives, including commissioning New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) reports on the Northland Expressway and regional economic strengths. NCG is a consortium of major Northland businesses focused on regional economic growth.

The report commissioned by NCG was acknowledged as informative, however, members raised concerns about its narrow focus and limited inclusion of iwi perspectives in growth opportunities. There were strong calls for greater unity, transparency, and genuine engagement with iwi and hapū, alongside questions about how benefits will flow to local communities. Issues such as training, workforce development, and environmental sustainability were also emphasised, with scepticism expressed about trickle-down economics and the need for social licence.

The members kōrero also identified opportunities for practical collaboration such as regional forums which could help apply sustainability and equity lenses, and upcoming initiatives such as the economic development summit and Wananga Waiora which could provide platforms to strengthen relationships.

Agreed action points:

- Invite representatives of the Northland Corporate Group to the Economic Summit planned for 2026.

Economic Development - update (Item 4.4)

This paper provided an update about a Wananga Ōhanga Māori, a one-day workshop on Māori economic development and strategic partnerships, by June 2026. Northland Inc has indicated its support, offering in-kind contributions and networks. There were also suggestions for other connections with Te Kahu o Taonui and key economic leaders. It was recognised that council will need to advise the Joint Regional Economic Development Committee of the intent. Next steps identified were to prepare a detailed proposal, secure funding, and coordinate planning with Te Ruarangi and Northland Inc.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Te Tiriti Health Check (Item 4.5)

Paul Beverley and Frances Wedde from Buddle Findlay, the independent consultants engaged to conduct the Te Tiriti Health Check, attended to present the final draft of the **Te Tiriti Health Check 2025**. They sought any further feedback from Te Ruarangi before incorporating changes into the final version, which will be presented at the next full council meeting. Buddle Findlay reaffirmed the independence of the report and acknowledged the strong commitment to Te Tiriti principles demonstrated through council processes.

The discussion recognised the extensive work undertaken, particularly by the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) and including workshops with elected members, Te Ruarangi, the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), and key staff.

Key points raised included the need for clearer articulation of Te Tiriti obligations, embedding successful models across all departments, ensuring continuity, and responding proactively to legislative changes. There was also debate on whether a standing committee could provide greater structure, alongside questions about resourcing and measuring value added. Marae-based meetings were noted as both a strength, offering community engagement, and a challenge due to low attendance. Overall, the report was seen as an exemplar nationally, with recognition of leadership and partnership efforts.

Te Ruarangi
14 August 2025

Agreed action points:

- Incorporate Te Ruarangi feedback into the final report.
- Consider preparing a paper on options for Te Ruarangi as a standing committee post-election, or a mechanism that provided continuity of the working party.

Tāiki ē Year in Review - Draft Report (Item 4.6)

The draft Tāiki ē Annual Highlights was presented for feedback, outlining the process for finalisation and its role in providing a comprehensive review of the year's activities and outcomes. The report demonstrates council's commitment to monitoring and reporting on key performance indicators linked to tāngata whenua outcomes in the Strategic Intent, including capacity and capability, Māori representation, water and marine, climate crisis, and economic development. It also aligns with Stage 2 of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

Members acknowledged the quality of the draft and the accompanying videos, noting their value in showcasing achievements. There was strong support for elevating the profile of Tāiki ē beyond economic measures and agreement that the document should be finalised and released prior to the local government elections to maintain visibility. The discussion emphasised the importance of presenting a factual, impactful publication that celebrates success and reinforces the value of engagement with council.

Agreed action points:

- Incorporate Te Ruarangi feedback into the final version of the Tāiki ē Annual Highlights.
- Finalise and release the document prior to the local government elections, while maintaining pre-election neutrality.

Te Ruarangi representation at council workshops (Item 4.7)

This report sought Te Ruarangi endorsement of a formal approach to non-elected member attendance at council workshops. This aims to strengthen Te Tiriti-based partnership, improve efficiency, and ensure tangata whenua perspectives are represented in discussions on matters of interest, such as resource management and local government reforms. The proposal recommended establishing a pool of four non-elected members with a standing invitation to attend workshops unless explicitly restricted to elected members.

Members supported the proposal in principle, noting its alignment with Tāiki ē goals for participation and representation. It was agreed that the current ad hoc approach is inefficient and that a more structured process was needed. Questions, however, were raised about whether four representatives would work, with suggestions that availability and flexibility should guide attendance.

Agreed action points:

- That Te Ruarangi's endorsement of a formalised approach to non-elected member participation in council workshops be presented to an upcoming council meeting.
- That the formalised approach include the option of a standing invitation for a designated pool of iwi and hapū (non-elected) members to attend council workshops on matters of interest, such as resource management and local government reform.
- That staff consider options for wider iwi/hapū engagement where appropriate.

Te Ruarangi
14 August 2025

Draft submission to the Local Government Act (System Improvements) Bill (Item 4.8)

The paper sought Te Ruarangi input into council's draft submission on the Local Government Act (System Improvements) Bill prior to formal adoption and lodgement. A verbal overview of the council workshop held on 13 August was provided, and key aspects of the Bill with potential impacts on iwi/hapū/whānau in Te Taitokerau were highlighted for consideration.

Members acknowledged the significance of proposed changes, particularly the removal of the four well beings, standardised Code of Conduct, and provisions relating to tikanga Māori in governance. Concerns were raised about risks to Te Tiriti obligations, cultural responsiveness, and equitable access to information if public notices are no longer required in newspapers.

It was noted that the draft submission did not reference the removal of the four well beings, and members agreed this and other highlighted issues must be included. There was a strong preference for incorporating Te Ruarangi feedback into a single council submission to demonstrate kotahitanga, while retaining the option for a separate submission if views diverged and a distinct voice was required.

Agreed action points:

- Incorporate Te Ruarangi feedback into the council submission where appropriate and aligned with its overall intent and timeframes.
- If significant differences arise, staff will support Te Ruarangi iwi/hapū caucus to prepare a separate submission.
- Staff to ensure highlighted issues (e.g., removal of four well beings, tikanga Māori provisions, Code of Conduct risks) are addressed in the submission.

Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū caucus on National Directions Package (Item 4.9)

The purpose of this paper was to provide an information update confirming that submissions on the proposed changes to National Policy Statements (NPS) and National Environmental Standards (NES) have been lodged, following feedback from Te Ruarangi and iwi/hapū caucus.

Members acknowledged the effort involved in preparing the submissions and reiterated concerns about the emphasis on property rights within the reforms, noting this could lead to privatisation of common resources such as water. The importance of maintaining protections for shared resources and upholding Te Tiriti-based principles was emphasised.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 4.10)

Members agreed the report could be taken as read. Key discussion points included:

- Concerns raised about wastewater discharges at Whangārei Heads; WDC lacks consent and pump failures continue. NRC is monitoring and has an action plan, with updates to be shared.
- Strong reiteration that Māori do not accept sewage in waterways; urgency for solutions noted.
- Discussion on Māori wards and election awareness; need for clearer communication and transparency on council decisions.
- Equity in representation under Te Raki model questioned; members acknowledged confusion around special votes and importance of voter engagement.
- Suggestion to review governance structure and representation post-election; strategic review flagged.

Te Ruarangi
14 August 2025

Agreed action points: Nil.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

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

Unconfirmed

TITLE: Appointment of Iwi and Hapū Co-Chair

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, on 05 December 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

At the meeting on 25 November 2025, council confirmed its new governance structure, which included reaffirming the continuation of Te Ruarangi, its Co-Chair arrangement and its current terms of reference. Council resolved to retain the Co-Chair structure and appointed Councillor Morunga as the elected member to act as Co-Chair.

Council now seeks a nomination from the iwi and hapū members for the Co-Chair and alternate Co-Chair roles. These nominations will be recommended to the next full council meeting on 17 December 2025 for endorsement.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Appointment of Iwi and Hapū Co-Chair' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 27 November 2025, be received.
2. That Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū members nominate _____ to be appointed as Co-Chair and that _____ be nominated as alternate Co-Chair.
3. That both nominations be recommended to the 17 December 2025 council meeting for endorsement (as required by Clause 9 of the Te Ruarangi terms of reference).

Tuhinga/Background

Not applicable.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: Te Ruarangi nominations to other working groups, working parties and committees

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, on 05 December 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on council's confirmed governance structure for the 2025–2028 triennium, including the continuation of Te Ruarangi, and to seek nominations for iwi and hapū representatives to the Natural Resources Working Party, Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party, and Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.

Council's governance framework is critical for delivering on strategic priorities and provides the foundation for robust discussion and informed decision-making. At its meeting on 25 November 2025, council confirmed its new governance structure for the triennium, reaffirming the continuation of Te Ruarangi and providing for the appointment of Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū representatives to the following committee and working parties:

- Four iwi/hapū representatives to the Natural Resources Working Party
- Four iwi/hapū representatives to the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party
- One iwi/hapū representative to the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee

Councillor Craw was appointed Chair of the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party, with members being Councillors Crawford, Hunt, and Macdonald. However, appointments to the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC) and Natural Resources Working Party were tabled and are to be confirmed at the 17 December 2025 council meeting.

The respective Terms of Reference for each working party and JCCAC are attached.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions


1. That the report 'Te Ruarangi nominations to other working groups, working parties and committees' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 3 December 2025, be received.
2. That Te Ruarangi nominate and appoint the following four iwi and hapū representatives _____ to the Natural Resources Working Party.
3. That Te Ruarangi nominate and appoint the following four iwi and hapū representatives _____ to the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party.
4. That Te Ruarangi nominate and appoint the following iwi and hapū representative _____ to the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.

Tuhinga/Background

Not applicable.

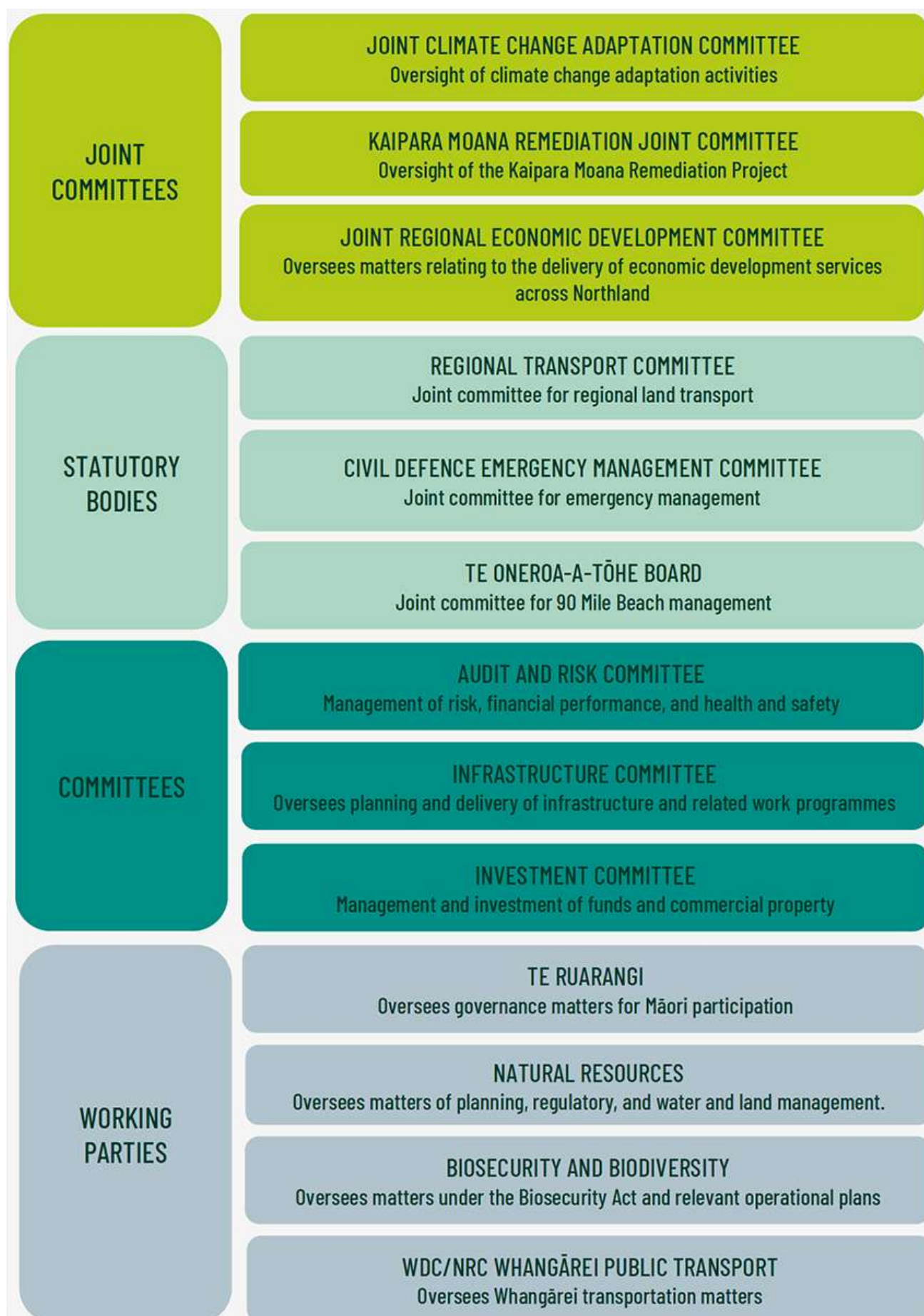
Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: 2025-2028 NRC committees and working parties (governance structure) [↓](#) 

Attachment 2: Natural Resources Working Party terms of reference [↓](#) 

Attachment 3: Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party terms of reference [↓](#) 

Attachment 4: Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee terms of reference [↓](#) 



Terms of Reference

Natural Resources Working Party

Membership

The Natural Resource Working Party shall be comprised of four (4) councillors and four (4) Te Ruarangi members as follows:

Chair:	Cr G Crawford
Members:	Cr J Blackwell, Cr A Macdonald, Cr A Morunga
Māori representation:	Four (4) members of Te Ruarangi TBA
Ex officio:	Chair P Tipene

Standing orders do not apply.

Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the working party shall be four (4). Ex-officio and TTMAC members count towards a quorum.

This working party will contribute directly to the following areas of focus:

- Healthy waters for the environment and our people
- Resilient, adaptable communities in a changing climate
- Protected and flourishing native life
- Meaningful partnerships with tangata whenua

Objectives

The objectives of the working party are to:

1. Provide oversight and assistance to the Chief Executive on council's natural resources' strategic activities ensuring accountabilities and responsibilities are fulfilled; and
2. Make recommendations to council on natural resources matters.

Responsibilities

The working party is directly responsible and accountable to the council for the exercise of its responsibilities.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the working party must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of the council rests with the CEO.

For reasons of efficiency and/or expediency, should the working party not be able to perform its functions, the council will assume its role and responsibilities.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The council authorises the working party, within the scope of its Terms of Reference, role and responsibilities, to:

1. General

- a) Subject to operating within approved budget allocation - obtain information it needs from the CEO and/or external party (subject to their legal obligation to protect information);
- b) Discuss any matters with the external auditor, or other external parties (subject to confidentiality considerations);
- c) Request the attendance of any employee, subject to the CEO's approval, at meetings of the working party or its working groups;
- d) In discussion with the CEO and subject to operating within approved budget allocation - obtain external legal or other professional advice, as considered necessary to meet its responsibilities, at the council's expense;
- e) Co-opt a person as a (non-voting) member of the working party to assist with special projects;
- f) Recommend to council that additional members be appointed to the working party should it consider wider representation would be of assistance in performing its functions;
- g) Undertake such other functions as may be delegated by council from time to time.

2. Planning

For council's planning activities:

- a) To monitor and review the implementation of the Regional Policy Statement, the Proposed Regional Plan for Northland and Resource Management Act regulations.
- b) To make recommendations to council on any appeals in accordance with council decisions on the proposed plan, plan change or variation.
- c) To recommend to council positions and perspectives on proposed legislation (including amendments) and national policy initiatives for incorporation into council submissions as appropriate.

3. Water and land Management

For council's water and land management activities:

- a) Monitor and review council's implementation of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020.
- b) Advise and make recommendations to council (and relevant working parties or working groups) on operational strategies related to freshwater or land management.
- c) Monitor and review progress towards council's objectives, the achievement of the performance targets and the delivery of work programmes in the relevant Long-

Term Plan, Annual Plan and operational strategies associated with council's natural resource management activities

- d) To monitor and review implementation of Nga Taumata o te Moana – our climate change strategy, as the actions relate to council's national resource functions.

4. Reporting

The Chairperson, supported by staff, will report on working party activities and associated recommendations to Council on a quarterly basis.

5. Meeting Frequency

The Natural Resources Working Party is to meet quarterly.

6. No Delegated Authority – Power to Act

The working party has no delegated authority or power to act.

ID: [DMHUB-33537858-1068](#)

Terms of Reference

Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party

Membership

The Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party shall be comprised of four (4) councillors and four (4) Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) members as follows:

Chair:	Councillor J Crow
Members:	Councillors G Crawford, J Hunt and A Macdonald
Māori representation:	Four members of Te Ruarangi
Ex officio:	Councillor Chair P Tipene

Standing orders do not apply.

Quorum

The quorum for meetings of the working party shall be four members. Ex-officio and non-elected members count towards a quorum.

Vision, mission and areas of focus (Long Term Plan 2024-2034)

Tiakina Te Taiao Tua te Here Tangata – Nurture the Environment, bring together the people

This working party will contribute directly to the following community outcomes:

- Protected and flourishing native life
- Meaningful partnerships with tangata whenua

Objectives

The objectives of the working party are to:

1. Provide oversight and assistance to the Chief Executive on council's biosecurity and biodiversity strategic activities ensuring accountabilities and responsibilities are fulfilled; and
2. Make recommendations to council on biosecurity and biodiversity matters.

Responsibilities

The working party is directly responsible and accountable to the council

In carrying out its responsibilities, the working party must at all times recognise that primary responsibility for management of the council rests with the Chief Executive.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The council authorises the working party, within the scope of its Terms of Reference, role and responsibilities, to:

1. General

1. Subject to operating within approved budget allocation - obtain information it needs from the CEO and/or external party (subject to their legal obligation to protect information);

2. Discuss any matters with the external auditor, or other external parties (subject) to confidentiality considerations);
3. Co-opt a person as a (non-voting) member of the working party to assist with special projects;
4. Recommend to council that additional members be appointed to the working party should it consider wider representation would be of assistance in performing its functions;

2. Biosecurity and Biodiversity Programme oversight

2.1 Policy and Strategy Implementation and development

Monitor and review at a programme level:

- The Regional Pest Management Plan (RPMP) and Marine Pathway Plan (MPP).
- A work programme to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity or any succeeding national direction.
- A work programme and strategic planning for giving effect to biodiversity and biosecurity management.

2.2 Advice and recommendations

Provide advice and make recommendations to council on strategic matters related to biodiversity and biosecurity functions

2.3 Performance and Programme oversight

Monitor and review progress toward council's objectives, performance targets, and delivery of work programmes as outlined in the Long-Term Plan, Annual Plan, and relevant operational strategies associated with council's biodiversity and biosecurity functions.

3. Reporting

The Chairperson, supported by staff, will report on working party activities and associated recommendations to Council on a quarterly basis.

4. Meeting Frequency

The Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party is to meet quarterly.

5. No Delegated Authority – Power to Act

The working party has no delegated authority or power to act.

Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC)

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Background

Climate change poses significant risks to the environment and people of Te Tai Tokerau - local government has responsibilities in reducing the impact of climate change (adaptation). It is essential that councils, communities and iwi / hapū work collaboratively to ensure an effective, efficient and equitable response to the impacts of climate change. Work on adaptation has already started between council staff with the formation of the joint staff working group Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau and the development of a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Tai Tokerau. The formation of a joint standing committee of the Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei district councils and Northland Regional Council elected council members and iwi / hapū is fundamental to ensuring these outcomes are achieved in a coordinated and collaborative way across Te Tai Tokerau.

Role and Responsibilities

- 1) Provide direction and oversight of the development and implementation of climate change adaptation activities by local government in Te Tai Tokerau
- 2) Receive advice and provide direction and support to Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau
- 3) Make recommendations to member councils to ensure a consistent regional approach is adopted to climate change adaptation activities
- 4) Act collectively as an advocate for climate change adaptation generally and within the individual bodies represented on the Committee
- 5) Ensure the bodies represented on the Committee are adequately informed of adaptation activity in Te Tai Tokerau and the rationale for these activities
- 6) Ensure the importance of and the rationale for climate change adaptation is communicated consistently within Te Tai Tokerau
- 7) Receive progress reports from Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau

Membership

The Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (the committee) is a standing committee made up of elected members from the Far North, Kaipara and Whangarei district councils, the Northland Regional Council and representatives from Northland hapū and iwi.

The committee shall have eight members as follows:

One elected member from:

Kaipara District Council
Far North District Council
Whangarei District Council
Northland Regional Council

Iwi / hapū members:

One representative from iwi / hapū appointed by each council from within their jurisdiction. Where possible, this appointment should follow recommendations from council Māori advisory groups or committees.

Each council shall also appoint one alternative elected member and one alternative iwi / hapū member who will have full speaking and voting rights when formally acting as the alternate.

Status

The Committee is a joint standing committee of council as provided for under Clause 30(1)(b) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002 and shall operate in accordance with the provisions of Clause 30A of that Act. The committee is an advisory body only and has no powers under the Local Government Act 2002 (or any other Act) other than those delegated by decision of all member councils. The joint standing committee shall operate under Northland Regional Council Standing Orders.

Committee Chair and deputy Chair:

The Chair and Deputy Chair is to be appointed by the members at the first meeting of the committee.

Quorum

At least 50% of members shall be present to form a quorum.

Meetings

The Committee shall meet a minimum of two times per annum.

Service of meetings:

The Northland Regional Council will provide secretarial and administrative support to the joint committee.

Draft agendas are to be prepared by Climate Adaptation Te Tai Tokerau and approved by the Chair of the Committee prior to the Committee meeting.

Remuneration

Remuneration and / or reimbursement for costs incurred by council members is the responsibility of each council.

Respective iwi / hapū representatives will be remunerated and reimbursed by the nominating council in accordance with either the non-elected members remuneration policy of that council or alternatively the Northland Regional Council Non-Elected Members Allowances Policy.

Joint Committee not discharged at triennial elections

Pursuant to Clause 30(7) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government Act 2002, the councils have resolved that this joint committee is not discharged at the triennial elections. However, on coming into office following an election, a council may choose to review its appointments on the committee.

Amendments

Any amendment to the Terms of Reference or other arrangements of the Committee shall be subject to approval by all member councils.

TITLE: 2026 Meeting Schedule

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

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and
Group Manager/s: Engagement, on 05 December 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this meeting is to confirm the schedule of Te Ruarangi meetings and workshops for February, March and April 2026 only. This is to allow adequate time for a review of the Terms of Reference to consider the frequency of the Te Ruarangi meetings. This will be part of a broader review and is covered in the Te Ruarangi paper “Review of Terms of Reference” report and recommendations.

Therefore, it is recommended that these meetings and workshops continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month for continuity of the council schedule and to ensure that it works for the iwi and hapū representatives, whilst avoiding any scheduling conflicts with Waitangi Day commemorations.

That the next meetings be scheduled for Thursday, 12 February 2026, and Thursday, 12 March 2026 and Thursday 9 April 2026 and that the meeting on Thursday 12 February be a formal meeting to focus on the progress and updates regarding Taiki ē and the Long Term Plan (LTP).

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘2026 Meeting Schedule’ by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 25 November 2025, be received.
2. That meetings and workshops continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month and avoid any scheduling conflicts with Waitangi Day commemorations.
3. That the next meetings be scheduled for Thursday, 12 February 2026, and Thursday, 12 March 2026 and Thursday 9 April, 2026 and that the meeting on Thursday 12 February be a formal meeting to focus on the progress and updates regarding Tāiki ē and the Long Term Plan (LTP).

Tuhinga/Background

The Terms of Reference (ToR) were revised and adopted by council at its formal meeting on 25 February 2025 in relation to meeting frequency and format as noted below:

Clause 14 of the Te Ruarangi terms of reference states:

“The working party will meet up to a maximum of 10 times a year. These will alternate between a formal meeting of the working party which will be held at the council’s office in Whangārei and workshops at marae focusing on local issues (i.e. up to five formal meeting and five marae-based workshops.)”

Te Ruarangi meetings are administered under the following format:

1. Meetings and workshops are held on the second Thursday of the month and will avoid scheduling conflicts with Waitangi Day commemorations.

2. Formal meetings are held in Council Chambers, with the iwi and hapū caucus from 9.30 – 11.00am to assist iwi and hapū members to provide feedback on agenda items for the full Te Ruarangi meeting, and the full meeting with councillors commencing at 11.00am – 2.00pm. Members can join via audio-visual link.
3. Workshops are held on marae hosted by Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū members and council provides appropriate support and resources to assist with these marae-based workshops.
4. The meeting schedule is reviewed every 12 months to ensure that Te Ruarangi is able to advance the Whāinga/Key Objectives and optimise the benefits associated with marae-based workshops, including attendance and availability of Te Ruarangi members as it relates to the proposed meeting schedule.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: Process for review of Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference

From: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and
Group Manager/s: Engagement, on 05 December 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

On 25 February 2025, council adopted the updated Te Ruarangi terms of reference (ToR) to continue the important work being done by council in partnership with iwi and hapū. The ToR now provides clear guidance and an effective operational framework for working together in partnership to achieve council objectives.

However, there were key matters that required more consideration, and it was agreed that these be addressed once the new council was established. Consequently, to progress this work, it is recommended that a collaborative group be formed, that consists of six members:

- The Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs
- Two representatives from the council's elected members, and
- Two representatives from the iwi/hapū caucus.

The purpose of this group is to review the ToR with a focus on the methodology of iwi and hapū membership and confirmation of the meeting schedule.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Process for review of Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and dated 25 November 2025, be received.
2. That, a collaborative working group be established to undertake the review of the Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference, with a focus on membership that reflects the aspirations and needs of iwi and hapū and the meeting schedule, the group comprising of six members:
 - The Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs
 - Two representatives from the council's elected members, and
 - Two representatives from the iwi/hapū caucus.
3. That Te Ruarangi nominate and endorse the following two iwi and/or hapū members and two elected members for the working group:
 - (i) _____
 - (ii) _____
 - (iii) _____
 - (iv) _____
4. That the Terms of Reference be revisited to update and align key aspects, specifically membership and the meeting schedule for Te Ruarangi.

Tuhinga/Background

Attached to this report is the revised Terms of Reference for Te Ruarangi adopted at the 25 February 2025 council meeting.


Key Amendments to the Terms of Reference:

- 1. Decision-Making Rights for Meeting Dates**
The revised ToR clarifies the rights and processes for setting and amending meeting dates. This ensures that all members have a clear understanding of how and when meeting dates can be adjusted.
- 2. Councillors Attendance**
Reinforcing our commitment to the Te Tiriti partnership, all councillors, including the Chair, will endeavour to prioritise their attendance at Te Ruarangi meetings.
- 3. Meeting Frequency Adjustments** The working party will meet formally up to five times a year at council and a further five times a year on marae, focusing on local issues that are important to the haukainga.
- 4. Meetings to workshop strategic priorities and annual reporting**
The ToR provides an opportunity for strategic workshops to focus on strategic Whāinga or goals and review annual reporting so that Te Ruarangi can plan for the year ahead.
- 5. Alignment with Tāiki ē, NRC, and TTMAC Strategic Intent**
The ToR has been updated to ensure alignment with *Tāiki ē*, the strategic intent of the Northland Regional Council (NRC), and TTMAC's long-term goals.
- 6. Operational Changes**
Minor changes have been made to the ToR to reflect the operational structural changes that have occurred within the council and TTMAC since the last review

Future Action: Membership Composition of Te Ruarangi

A discussion on the composition of membership for *Te Ruarangi* is still to be undertaken. It was agreed at the TTMAC meeting that further discussion is necessary to ensure the membership reflects the aspirations and needs of iwi and hapū. This discussion is scheduled to take place in 2025, allowing ample time for meaningful engagement and input from all relevant parties.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference [↓](#) 



Te Ruarangi¹

Ngā Kupu Pānga | Terms of Reference 2022-2025 Triennium

Date: November 2024

Author: Pou Manawhakahaere – Group Manager, Governance & Engagement

¹ *Te Ruarangi* is an expression of the vision where the principles of *Kawanatanga* (governance or authority) and *Rangatiratanga* (chieftainship or sovereignty) come together in a harmonious partnership for the benefit of the *taiao* (environment or natural world).

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Te Pae Tāwhiti – Vision 2021-2040

- He whenua haumoko – Land that is bountiful
- He wai mā – Water that is pure and healthy
- He iwi whai ora – People that are flourishing

1. Kupu whakataki | Background

This Terms of Reference recognises that this agreement is not intended to be a legally binding document, but rather a document that encourages and supports an enduring and long-term relationship between Northland Regional Council and the tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau.

It also recognises that although two distinct partners, each bringing their own perspective to the table, that the tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau and council may share common aspirations in regard to the environmental, social, cultural and economic future of our shared region.

This agreement also appreciates that it will be through goodwill and cooperation that trust will develop and therefore a relationship based on mutual respect.

2. Ngā roopū | The Parties

This agreement is between tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau and Northland Regional Council.

Both parties are committed to giving effect to their responsibilities to tangata whenua of Te Taitokerau under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and will be active Te Tiriti partners by developing and maintaining meaningful relationships with each other.

Tāngata Whenua of Te Taitokerau

Tāngata whenua of Te Taitokerau are extremely passionate about their heritage and give regard to Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of this country and recognises a partnership between Māori and the Crown, for Māori, further cementing the intent of He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nū Tīreni (1835 Declaration of Independence).

The statement of intent in regard to these for tāngata whenua are:

He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nū Tīreni (Declaration of Independence) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi provide the foundation doctrines of authority and partnership that are being sought by iwi and hapū in government, including local government.

Northland Regional Council

The Northland Regional Council (council) is the regional authority with responsibilities defined in the Local Government Act 2002, which provide for its obligations to Māori under Te Tiriti o Waitangi including:

- To take appropriate account of the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
- To maintain and improve opportunities for Māori to contribute to local government decision making processes.

3. Te Kaupapa | Mission Statement

He iwi tahi tātou kia ora ai te taiao. Kawanatanga and Rangatiratanga work together for the wellbeing of the environment.

Te Ruarangi:

- Provides a forum that emphasises and advocates te Ao Māori, the Māori world view
- A means by which the Māori perspective is valued, influences and challenges processes and policy
- A stable platform for whānau, hapū and iwi to connect and communicate with each other
- A safe forum for open and forthright discussion
- Provides strong leadership in consultation with tāngata whenua and Māori communities.

4. He Tirohanga Māori | Vision Statement 2040

The working party will reflect a (true) partnership that respects the mana and authority of tangata whenua of Te Taitokerau and council. This is determined by an enduring relationship committed to the protection and preservation of our taiao by:

- Representing the view of Māori in Te Taitokerau in council matters significant to tāngata whenua
- The application of Te Ao Māori or the Māori world view e.g. Mātauranga Māori, kaitiakitanga, mauri in council policies and processes
- Giving effect to the partnership and representation of Māori in Te Taitokerau in council decision making processes.
- Representing a partnership in working together to achieve and implement Tāiki ē Te Ruarangi Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan *(not excluding other areas of focus in the LTP that may not be in Tāiki ē)

5. Ngā Ture | Values

The following engagement principles will guide the committee in the pursuit of its purpose:

- Titiro ki ngā taumata o te moana tākiri ko te ata - Always remain strategic in our intent.
- Mahi tahi tūtuki noa – identifying opportunities, increased collaboration and completion of projects
- Me whakatau mā roto i te kōrero – Resolution through conversation
- Kaitiakitanga – Dedicated stewardship of tangata whenua of Te Taitokerau
- Ngākau pono – Being true to the purpose of the partnership

6. Ngā whainga | Objectives

To advance Māori engagement that supports environmental, social, cultural and economic priorities across the region:

- Monitor and advise on council's compliance to its obligations to Māori under the Local Government Act 2002 and the Resource Management Act 1991 (assurance and compliance function)
- Provide advice to council on topics referred to it by council
- Provide advice to council on topics of strategic importance and relevance to tāngata whenua
- To develop pathways (and processes) that will achieve lasting and meaningful relationships between tāngata whenua and council
- To ensure the views of tangata whenua are taken into account in the exercise of council functions
- To provide access to specialist Māori technical advice Te Ruarangi members can provide advice based only on information presented and does not replace council's obligation to consult with iwi and hapū. Council also acknowledges that iwi and hapū representative members' advice does not usurp the mana of iwi and hapū of Taitokerau to make decisions and representations to council on issues of importance to them.

7. Ngā mema | Membership

The working party will comprise up to 30 members in total consisting of:

Nine elected members (councillors) and twenty-one appointed iwi and hapū members from Taitokerau Māori (one representative per iwi and hapū).

To ensure regional representation from the twenty-one appointed iwi and hapū members from Taitokerau Māori, these positions will be filled based on the geographic representation outlined in Appendix 2. In order to maintain the ability to provide geographic representation in Te Ruarangi, should a position not be filled within a geographic area, that position will remain vacant and available to be filled in the future by iwi and/or hapū whose rohe overlaps that mapped geographic area.

Iwi representation will include one member from each of the following Iwi Authorities:

- Ngāti Kuri Trust Board
- Te Rūnanga Nui O Te Aupōuri
- Te Rūnanga O NgaiTakoto
- Te Rūnanga-a-Iwi O Ngāti Kahu
- Te Rūnanga O Te Rarawa
- Te Rūnanga O Whaingaroa
- Te Rūnanga A Iwi O Ngāpuhi
- Ngātiwai Trust Board
- Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Whātua
- Te Roroa
- Kahukuraariki Trust Board

Should one of the above iwi decide not to fill their position, they may choose to endorse a hapū and hapū representative to fill their position. Priority will be given to the following tāngata whenua groupings who have previously had a representative on the working party, in recognition of their early and ongoing commitment to this relationship and kaupapa listed below:

- Ngāti Hine
- Te Whakapiko Hapu
- Ngāti Manu
- Hokianga O Ngā Hapū²
- Ngāti Rēhia
- Te Uri o Hau
- Te Waiariki
- Ngāti Kororā
- Ngāti Takapari
- Ngāti Kuta, Patukeha
- Te Parawhau
- Ngati Tara
- Te Whakaminenga O Te Hikutu Hapū-Whānau³
- Patuharakeke

Should one of the above tāngata whenua groupings not take up a position on Te Ruarangi, and a position still be available within the geographic area of Te Taitokerau, then that position can be filled by another hapū within that geographic area.

Nominations received from hapū not currently represented on the working party will be presented to council for ratification following consultation with the working party co-chairs. Such nominations must be accompanied with documentation, to the satisfaction of the co-chairs, that the nominee has formally been mandated by hapū to represent them on the working party.

The following procedure will be followed once working party membership reaches 30 and a nomination is received from hapū not currently represented on the working party:

1. Priority will be provided for one member from each group as indicated above.
2. The working party will seek to achieve as wide and even representation as possible.
3. Once full representation is achieved from all priority groups listed above, then new membership is only available by attrition.

Iwi/hapū can nominate an alternate/proxy representative to act on behalf of an absent primary representative.

8. Ngā mema tangohia | Removal and replacement of members

Iwi and hapū will undertake their own selection and mandating process to identify their representative and proxy for the working party. When selecting its representative, iwi/hapū are

² Ngati Pakau, Mahurehure, Ngatikorokoro

³ Te Hikutu/Whanau Whero/Whanautara/Ngati Kairewa/Ngati Kerewhiti/Ngati Parenga/Ngati Tuapango

encouraged to consider gender equality, and the range of skills and experience required for the working party to adequately perform their role.

Changes to an iwi/hapū nominated representative needs to be formally notified to council however does not require council endorsement. For clarity, section 8 above relates to iwi and hapū who don't already have representation on the working party.

Membership of the group shall cease if a member:

- resigns, or
- fails to attend at least three consecutive meetings over the period of one year without tabling a request for leave of absence.

A member can be removed from the working party by council, following receipt of a recommendation passed by 75% of members of the working party present and voting, under exceptional circumstances where the behaviour of the member is considered detrimental to the effective operation of the working party.

If a member resigns or is removed from the working party, all efforts will be made to fill any vacancies as soon as possible.

9. Ngā Heamana | Co-Chairs

Provision has been made for this working party to have a Co-Chair arrangement. The following process will be undertaken to fill the position of Co-Chairs.

Council will appoint one elected member (and proxy) as their representative to act as Co-Chair. The non-elected members of the working party will appoint a Co-Chair (and proxy), from the non-elected members. Both recommendations are to be endorsed by council.

At least one Co-Chair must be present at the formal meetings and marae-based hui of the working party.

Besides chairing meetings, the Co-Chairs (or proxy) will be responsible for:

- attending agenda preview meetings and reviewing working party actions prior to circulation
- be available to vet prospective applications for membership onto the working party
- assist in mediation when required, in the first instance.

10. Te Wahanga | Term of appointment

The standard term of appointment will be three years – consistent with the term of local and territorial authorities – in this case, the 2019-2022 local body triennium. The term of appointment can be less than three years if a representative:

- resigns
- is replaced by the representatives nominating iwi/hapū
- misses three consecutive meetings, or
- the working party is disbanded.

A member can be appointed as many times as their nominating iwi / hapū re-endorse their selection.

11. Whakamahinga | Operation

Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Group Manager –Governance and Engagement are the senior managers responsible for the working party and shall attend all meetings. The CEO will ensure the working party is supported by council's Executive Leadership Team.

The CEO will be responsible for ensuring support for the maintenance and servicing of the working party (provision of venue, minute-taking, catering).

Support for the working party extends to council's-controlled organisation, Northland Inc through the CEO and staff.

12. Arataki tangata | Member induction

All new members joining the working party will receive an induction pack which will include the Terms of Reference, relevant policies and procedures and information outlining the council's function and processes.

13. Papā o te pānga | Conflict of interest

Members will be asked to complete a conflict of interest form at the beginning of each year they sit on the group. A conflict of interest log will be maintained by the officer responsible for liaising with the group and members are asked to declare a potential conflict of interest at each meeting.

14. Hokohitanga o ngā hui | Meetings

- a) The working party will meet formally up to 5 times a year at council and a further 5 times a year on marae, focusing on local issues that are important to the haukainga.
- b) Marae based meetings will not be exclusive to Te Ruarangi membership and the schedule of marae-based meetings will ensure a good geographic spread across the region.
- c) Whilst any working party member is welcome to attend the marae-based workshops, these workshops will not constitute a formal working party meeting and therefore no working party actions can be agreed. All working party members attending council approved marae-based workshops are eligible for meeting fee allowances and mileage.
- d) When the full working party meets at the offices of the regional council a meeting room will be made available before or after the meeting of the working party in order for the Māori members of the working party to meet.
- e) The working party meetings provide an opportunity for strategic workshops to focus on strategic Whāinga or goals and review annual reporting so that Te Ruarangi can plan for the year ahead.

- f) Any decision to changes to meeting dates or locations required outside of a formal Te Ruarangi meeting shall be made by the two Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs following consultation with the council Chairperson and CEO
- g) As a commitment to Te Tiriti partnership all councillors are members of TTMAC. Councillors, including the Chair, will endeavour to prioritise their attendance at working party meetings.

15. Kotahitanga | Quorum

The following quorum will apply:

- At least a third of the elected members (councillors), and
- At least a third of non-elected members.

This ratio will apply to those seats that are currently filled and not include vacant positions.

16. He utu | Payment

Payments for non-elected members of the working party (iwi and hapu representatives) for meeting attendance and mileage will be in accordance with the councils 'Appointed Members Allowance Policy' and in accordance with this Terms of Reference.

Payments include:

- Meeting allowance for meetings of the working party
- Mileage (one claim per vehicle)
- Attendance at Other working parties, as endorsed by council.

17. Whakaoti raruraru | Conflict resolution

Should conflict occur, the Council Chair and Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs and the working party will be responsible for working together to resolve the conflict in the first instance. If the conflict persists, the council will only intervene at the request of the majority of the working party members.

18. Ngā purongo | Reporting - accountability

The working party, through the Co-Chairs will provide a summary report to the council following each meeting.

Working party members are expected to report back to and liaise regularly with their respective nominating iwi / hapū communities – providing information to their constituents and seeking their feedback.

Officers of council will be responsible for promoting the working party and any initiatives developed (once considered and approved by council), to the wider public through a range of media including print and radio promotion, the council's website and social media.

19. Annual reporting

An annual report detailing the work Te Ruarangi has undertaken will be prepared for the annual meeting and will cover:

- Review of achievements towards the objectives contained within the terms of reference
- Reporting on work that demonstrates the Strategic Whāinga of Tāiki ē.

20. Arotakenga | Review

The Terms of Reference will subsequently be reviewed as required. All changes to the Terms of Reference will be subject to the approval of Northland Regional Council through a recommendation made by the working party.

20. Tuku mahi | Delegations

The working part has no delegated authority from council.

Northland Regional Council

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TITLE: Simplifying Local Government Proposal

From: Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist

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

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The government has released a discussion document outlining draft proposals (and options) for changes to the local government system: [Simplifying Local Government - Simplifying-Local-Government-a-draft-proposal-November-2025.pdf](#)

Northland Regional Councillors have been briefed on the proposal. Further council workshops are to be held in mid-December to develop high-level feedback points and councillors have confirmed support that representatives of the Te Ruarangi Māori caucus attend future workshops related to the local government reforms.

The purpose of the report is for Te Ruarangi to confirm four iwi and hapū representatives to attend future workshops related to the proposal.

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the proposal steps and timeline.

The government is seeking feedback by 20 February 2026. The legislation is expected to be introduced in mid-2026 and enacted in 2027.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Simplifying Local Government Proposal’ by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager; Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor and Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist and dated 1 December 2025, be received.
2. That Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū caucus nominate four representatives to attend future council workshops related to feedback to the government on Local Government Reform.
 - I. _____
 - II. _____
 - III. _____
 - IV. _____

Tuhinga/Background

The Government’s draft proposal *Simplifying Local Government* seeks to reform the structure of local government. As an interim step, it would form a new governance entity (the Combined Territories Board) to take over the governance of regional councils and then develop regional reorganisation plans.

The Government has given two reasons for its proposal:

- Its view that having two types of councils operating in the same area is unnecessarily complex, confusing and costly.
- That forthcoming resource management reform and other changes (like water services reform and climate adaptation) will change how councils operate in the future.

Key elements include:

- Regional councillors would be disbanded and a 'combined territories board' (CTB) of district mayors and / or Crown Commissioners set up, which would collectively govern the regional council and manage its functions (these functions would remain unchanged until the new resource management regime is enacted).
- The Board would develop future-focussed regional reorganisation plans (within two years) setting out how the councils in the region work together more effectively and efficiently - these would be approved by the Government with advice from the Local Government Commission.
- Prior to the establishment of the CTB, a government review of regional council roles and functions will provide clarity on which responsibilities remain local and which may be either centralised or discontinued. This review will be completed before CTBs are established
- Under the proposed model, regional constituencies (including Māori constituencies) would no longer exist, as regional councillors would be replaced by the mayors / Crown commissioners in the region appointed as members on the CTB.
- CTBs would comply with all existing provisions of the Local Government Act 2002.
- The discussion document sets out options for CTB decision-making and roles for Crown Commissioners (if any).

Impact on NRC

Under the proposal, NRC's regional councillors would cease to hold office.

The work of regional councils would continue until Regional Representation Plans were implemented. The ongoing functions that would continue in the meantime would include:

- all public consultation requirements under the Local Government Act 2002;
- functions under the Resource Management Act 1991 (until that Act is replaced);
- stakeholder groups, advisory panels, and joint committees; and
- Treaty settlement commitments, arrangements and obligations.

Māori representation

The discussion document sets out that current Māori representation elected through Māori Constituencies would be removed alongside other elected members.

All existing provisions of the Local Government Act 2002 would still need to be complied with, including:

- establishing and maintaining processes for Māori to contribute to decision-making; and
- ensuring opportunities for consultation with Māori.

It is worth noting that the reform legislation itself may not reflect this position.

The Combined Territories Board (CTB)

Roles and funding

The CBT for each region would have two functions:

- Governance of the regional councils, and

- Development of regional reorganisation plans.

Funding for the development of regional reorganisation plans would be provided by the regional councils.

Membership of CTBs

The Government has proposed the CTB be made up of the Mayor of each territorial authority in the region. The Government is seeking feedback on options for the Crown to have a stronger role on CTBs - for example, through including a Crown commissioner (with options as to the weight that commissioner holds in decision making). Another option proposed is not having a CTB and instead appointing Crown commissioners to perform both functions.

Voting power

Each member of the CTB would represent communities of different population sizes. The proposal recommends finding a balance between two approaches: weighting Mayors' voting power to reflect population (which would give significant weight to Whangārei in Te Taitokerau) and "one Mayor one vote" (which would give significant weight to smaller councils).

The proposal suggests starting with population weighting but having the Local Government Commission adjust votes based on an 'effective representation' test, to strike a balance between the two extremes.

Government Review of functions

The Government will also review regional council functions to see if any are no longer necessary or should be reallocated to another agency or delivery model (e.g., where national consistency is needed). This review would guide the Regional Reorganisation Plans.

Regional Reorganisation Plans

These plans are about designing the best way for councils in a region to work together to deliver effective and efficient services and functions. The approach is designed to enable a different set of arrangements for each region, to accommodate its particular needs.

CTBs would have up to two years after the legislation is passed to develop a regional reorganisation plan. In developing the plans, CTBs would have to:

- consider the likely impacts on cost, service quality, and local representation of different options;
- consult the public, iwi/hapu/Māori, and regional stakeholders; and
- work with post-settlement governance entities in relation to any relevant Treaty settlement arrangements.

Plans are to reflect the specific needs and preferences of a region. They would have to:

- map all current functions across councils in the region, assess how well councils are working together, and consider opportunities to do better. Where appropriate, CTBs might look at certain functions across more than one region (with another CTB) or sub regionally.
- set out options for future delivery, such as:
 - shared services arrangements
 - creating joint council-owned organisations to deliver specific services (e.g. solid waste)
 - combining to form one or more combined ('unitary') councils for the region (or parts of it)
 - designing new ways for the community to input into decisions
 - a financial and organisational transition plan.

Regional reorganisation plans would be provided to the Minister of Local Government (the Minister). The Minister would receive advice from the Local Government Commission on these plans. The proposal does not include public consultation as part of the ministerial review and approval process.

The Local Government Commission would assess each plan against the following criteria:

- Big-picture fit
- Affordability now and in the future
- Better services
- Clear leadership
- Local say
- Treaty arrangements
- Whether it can be done


The Local Government Commission would make a recommendation to the Minister on the quality of the plan, how it could be improved, and whether it strikes a suitable balance between the criteria.

The Minister could then either:

- approve the plan;
- provide feedback on the plan, and request changes;
- make changes to the plan directly; or
- appoint a Commissioner to draft a new plan.

Once the plan has been approved, the decision is final. Implementation would begin in line with the approved financial and organisational transition plan.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Key Process Steps and Timing [↓](#) 

Key Process Steps and Timing

Timings in italics are estimates based on current available information.

Phase	Timing	Milestone
Phase 1: enabling policy and legislation	Until 20 February 2026	Consultation on the draft proposal
	March 2026	Cabinet policy decisions
	March onwards	Development of legislation
	By mid 2026	Rapid review of regional functions to determine what, if any, functions should be ceased or taking over by central government
	Mid/late 2026 (affected by the central government elections)	Introduction of legislation
	<i>Estimated at Mid 2027</i>	Passing of legislation
Phase 2: interim arrangements	After legislation passes <i>(estimated at mid 2027)</i>	Elected (and appointed) members of regional councils are removed from office. Combined Territorial Boards are established with two main functions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop regional reorganisation plans • To act as the governing body of regional councils until regional reorganisation plans are implemented
	No later than two years after legislation passes <i>(estimated at mid 2029)</i>	The Combined Territorial Board submits its regional reorganisation plan
Phase 3: assessment and approval	After the regional reorganisation plan is received	The Local Government Commission assesses the plan against specified criteria and provides advice to the Minister
	After the Local Government Commission has assessed the plan	The Minister either: approves the plan or uses a number of options to improve it.
Phase 4: implementation and transition	After the plan is approved (probably late 2029 at the earliest)	The plan would be implemented resulting in a change of local governance arrangements for the region.

TITLE: Legislation and policy update

From: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 05 December 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

Central government is progressing a suite of significant legislative and policy reforms that will reshape local government structures, resource management, climate adaptation, infrastructure delivery, and financial frameworks over the next 2–4 years. Key changes include:

- **Local Government Reform:** Transition from regional councils to Combined Territories Boards (CTBs), altering governance and representation.
- **Resource Management System Overhaul:** Replacement of the Resource Management Act with two new Acts, introducing regional spatial planning and standardized rules.
- **Climate Adaptation Framework:** Mandatory adaptation planning and integration of climate risk into infrastructure decisions.
- **Fast-track Approvals Amendment Bill:** Accelerated consenting for nationally significant projects, reducing council influence.
- **Regulatory Standards Act:** New principles for responsible regulation and property rights protections.
- **Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards:** Nationally consistent discharge limits and monitoring requirements.
- **Rates Capping:** Proposed limits on annual rates increases, impacting financial planning and service delivery.
- **Marine and Coastal Area Act Amendments:** Stricter tests for Customary Marine Title claims.
- **Development Levies and Infrastructure Funding:** New levy system and financing tools to support housing and urban growth.

Attachment 1 provides a summary of the current changes, their purpose, status and implications.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Legislation and policy update' by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and dated 25 November 2025, be received.
-

Tuhinga/Background

The government has signalled an ambitious reform agenda aimed at improving efficiency, resilience, and affordability in local governance and environmental management. Legislative changes span multiple domains, including governance restructuring, resource management, climate adaptation, infrastructure delivery, and fiscal accountability.

The reforms are at varying stages of development—some already enacted, others in consultation or awaiting legislation—and will collectively have far-reaching implications for council operations, planning frameworks, and community engagement.

Attachment 1 provides an overview of the key reforms, their status, and anticipated impacts.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Legislative Changes [↓](#) 

Briefing Note: Central Government Legislative and Policy Changes

This briefing note provides an overview of major legislative and policy changes expected over the next few months that will significantly impact regional councils. It includes key details on purpose, status, main changes, and implications for councils.

1. Local Government Reform

- Purpose: Replace regional councils with Combined Territories Boards (CTBs) comprising city/district mayors and / or possibly Crown-appointed commissioners.
- Status: Consultation open until 20 Feb 2026; legislation expected later in 2026; full implementation by 2027.
- Main Changes: Governance shift from regional councillors to CTBs that perform governance roles; requirement for regional reorganisation plans to be developed by CTBs within 2 years (these plans would set out how local government would be structured within a region); Minister of Local Government to approve these plans.
- Implications: Regional councils lose governance role which would be performed by CTBs; CTBs would identify how best to structure and deliver local government functions that may result in major restructuring of environmental management, transport planning, and civil defence functions. Potentially reduced representation for regional council functions (from 9 regional councillors to 3 Mayors and/or Crown commissioners).

2. Resource Management System Changes

- Purpose: Replace the Resource Management Act with two new Acts – Planning Act and Natural Environment Act – to streamline consenting and reduce costs.
- Status: Cabinet decisions made; legislation (Bills) expected December 2025.
- Main Changes: Reduction from 100+ plans to 16 regional plans; stronger national direction and greater use of standardised 'rules'; faster consenting processes; environmental and human health limits; spatial plans to guide development within limits.
- Implications: Councils must develop long-term spatial plans that guide development and infrastructure provision; limits for human health and the environment to be developed and set in natural environment plans; greater emphasis on maintaining property rights and greater use of standardised rules (developed by government) and less discretion for local council rules.

3. Climate Adaptation Framework & Legislative Changes

- Purpose: Implement mandatory adaptation planning and risk management for climate resilience.

- Status: National Adaptation Framework released Oct 2025; amendment to Climate Change Response Act expected early 2026 (but not yet to be announced).
- Main Changes: Yet to be confirmed but potentially mandatory adaptation plans for priority areas; national flood / hazard mapping; \$1.2B infrastructure fund; developer levies.
- Implications: Councils must prepare adaptation plans and integrate climate risk into infrastructure planning.

4. Fast-track Approvals Amendment Bill changes

- Purpose: Accelerate infrastructure and development projects delivering regional/national benefits.
- Status: Introduced Nov 2025; currently, before select committee expected to pass early 2026.
- Main Changes proposed: Shorter timeframes (15–60 working days); reduced participation and appeal rights; expanded ministerial powers; consultation requirements with tangata whenua and councils reduced to written notification prior to lodgement of applications; removal of requirement for draft Report on Treaty Settlements and Other Obligations to be provided to Māori Development and Te Arawhiti ministers.
- Implications: Councils have more limited influence on fast-track projects but will need to align with accelerated processes (and undertake compliance and enforcement on applications granted); lack of early consultation may result in applications being declined or heavily conditioned due to unresolved issues that could have been addressed through earlier engagement; potential for breaches of Treaty obligations; likely to be more appeals on points of law.

5. Regulatory Standards Act 2025

- Purpose: Embed principles of responsible regulation and require consistency checks for new and existing laws.
- Status: Passed Nov 2025; effective 1 Jan 2026.
- Main Changes: Regulatory Standards Board established; agencies must prepare consistency statements; stewardship obligations to review existing legislation; no Treaty of Waitangi provisions; focus on equality before the law rather than substantive equality.
- Implications: New legislation must be tested against principles in the Act; greater scrutiny on the impact of primary and secondary legislation on property rights (and potentially a requirement for compensation where property rights are 'severely impaired'); likely reduced ability to enact legislation and pursue equitable policies for Māori, to fulfil the Crown's Treaty obligations in addition to Treaty settlements.

6. Wastewater Environmental Performance Standards (WEPS)

- Purpose: Introduce nationally consistent wastewater standards for publicly owned treatment plants and networks.
- Status: Regulations take effect 19 Dec 2025; overflow/bypass rules delayed until Dec 2028.
- Main Changes: Clear discharge limits/standards; sets controlled activity status for biosolids, overflow and bypass rules; standardised monitoring; risk-based framework.

- Implications: Limited discretion for councils to impose consent conditions or publicly notify applications for public wastewater discharges; Councils must align consenting processes and consent conditions with national standards; regional plan wastewater rules overridden; infrastructure upgrades required in some cases.

7. Proposed Rates Capping

- Purpose: Control council rates increases and ease cost-of-living pressures through a capped system
- Status: Announced 1 Dec 2025; Targeted consultation with stakeholders until February 2026; legislation in 2026; cap effective Jan 2027; full regulatory model by July 2029.
- Main Changes: Annual rates increases capped at 2–4% per annum. Applies to general, targeted, and uniform charges; excludes water charges. Councils need regulator approval to exceed cap in extreme cases. Mandatory financial reporting and integration into long-term plans from 2027.
- Implications: Councils face tighter financial planning and accountability. Ratepayers benefit from predictable, affordable rates. Councils will need to reprioritise budgets; potential impact on infrastructure investment and service delivery; likely to limit council ability to fund activities not considered core functions.

8. Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Amendment Act Changes

- Purpose: After the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court decisions (Re Edwards) were seen to lower the threshold for granting Customary Marine Title (CMT) the government proposed changes for the stated purpose of restoring the original intent of the Act.
- Status: Customary Marine Title Amendment Act 2025 in force since 23 Oct 2025.
- Main Changes: Stricter test for CMT (continuous, exclusive use since 1840); burden of proof placed on applicant; evidence of physical activity required, or evidence of use related to natural and physical resources; stricter definition of substantial interruption; retrospective effect voiding recent decisions; override of previous court interpretations; provisions prevail over the Purpose and Treaty provisions of the principal Act.
- Implications: Much harder to prove CMT; seven claims must be reheard, including the Whangārei Harbour and Whangārei Coast claims; significantly fewer successful claims expected; significant implications for Northland hapū and iwi, as many existing claims in the region may be invalidated or require substantial additional evidence to meet the new threshold; council may need to consider more broadly implementing existing policies, rules and initiatives (including non-statutory means) to further iwi/hapū customary authority and kaitiakitanga, or to support their economic development, in the marine and coastal area.

9. Development Levies & Infrastructure Funding Changes

- Purpose: Government is reforming how growth infrastructure is funded to enable more housing and urban development.
- Key Changes:

- Development Levies: Replace current development contributions. Levies apply across wider “levy areas” and cover water, transport, stormwater, reserves, and community infrastructure.
 - Regulatory Oversight: Commerce Commission will regulate levy fairness and transparency.
 - Infrastructure Funding & Financing (IFF) Amendments: Streamlines levy approval, broadens eligibility (including water entities and transport agencies), and improves certainty for developers.
- Main changes: City and District Councils will have clearer tools to recover costs from growth, reducing reliance on rates and debt. Regional councils are not levy setters but will influence planning and environmental compliance.
- Timeline: Consultation closes 20 Feb 2026; legislation expected mid-2026; phased implementation from 2027.

TITLE: **Tāiki ē Annual Highlights Report**

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

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and
Group Manager/s: Engagement, on 05 December 2025

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide the final Tāiki ē Annual Highlights report (the Report) for Te Ruarangi and seek their direction on how we could support further engagement with the broader community. To date the report has been shared on the council communication channels and distributed via the Te Ruarangi pānui distribution list.

The Report outlines progress by the Northland Regional Council (NRC) in partnership with Te Ruarangi (formerly the Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party – TTMAC) on their shared commitment to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The report is described as a “clear roadmap” towards fulfilling Te Tiriti obligations and ensures accountability for achieving the identified key priorities. The name “Tāiki ē” itself is a unifying statement and a call to action in karakia, signifying a shared commitment to move forward with important work. As such, we are proud to share the [inaugural Tāiki ē annual highlights report](#), which presents key milestones and outcomes from the past 12 months of implementation. Tāiki ē represents a critical step forward in our Te Tiriti partnership journey, guiding the council’s approach to honouring Te Tiriti and supporting kaupapa across five key outcome areas.

Te Ruarangi video series

During November 2025, council 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](#). We acknowledge and thank iwi and hapū representatives Julian Chetham (Patuharakeke), Pita Tipene (Ngāti Hine), Nora Rameka (Ngāti Rehia) and Nyze Manuel (Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa)

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Tāiki ē Annual Highlights Report’ by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 3 December 2025, be received.

Tuhinga/Background

Not applicable.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Tāiki ē Annual Highlights Report 2024/25 [📄](#) 



Tāiki ē: Te Tiriti Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan

Ngā tino kaupapa o te tau kua pahure

Highlights of the past year 2024/25



Karakia

Whakataka te hau ki te uru
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga
Kia mākinakina ki uta
Kia mātaratara ki tai
E hī ake ana te atakura
He tio, he huka, he hau hū
Tihei mauri ora!

*Cease the winds from the west
Cease the winds from the south
Let the breeze blow over the land
Let the breeze blow over the ocean
Let the red-tipped dawn come with a sharpened air.
A touch of frost, a promise of a glorious day.*





Mihi

Tuia ngā pae maunga o tēnā kokonga, o tēnā kokonga
o ngā Tai o Tokerau,

Huihuia ō tātou mate kia mihia, kia poroporoakitia.

Anei rā ngā whakamānawatanga o te wā ki a koutou e
pānui mai nei.

Tēnei te mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Mā whero, mā pango, ka oti ai te mahi!

*Bring together the mountain ranges from all corners of
Te Taitokerau.*

*Assemble those who have passed on, to be
acknowledged and farewelled.*

We are greatly honoured to have you join us.

Greetings to you all.

Through collaboration, the work shall be achieved.



Nā Pita Tipene (iwi representative) and Tui Shortland
(council representative)

Co-chairs of Te Ruarangi (formerly known as TTMAC Māori
and Council Working Party)
September 2025



Kaupapa Purpose

“He iwi tahi tātou kia ora ai te taiao – Kawanatanga and Rangatiratanga work together for the wellbeing of the environment.”

Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau / Northland Regional Council and Te Ruarangi are proud to present highlights of our mahi from the last year.

We invite you to explore the inspiring stories and significant work happening around the rohe as we continue to honour and give effect to our Te Tiriti commitments.

He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti

The unique context of hapū autonomy in Northland is intertwined with views on He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti. By He Whakaputanga, rangatira from Te Taitokerau declared their own independence and the independence of their country, and asserted their own sovereignty, independent of any other purported law-making power.

While He Whakaputanga is not referenced in Te Tiriti, the two documents together are an essential statement on the sovereignty of Māori in Northland. That position of sovereignty, as envisioned by the rangatira at the time He Whakaputanga was signed, is something that tangata whenua are still striving to achieve.¹

Tāiki ē Te Tiriti Strategic Intent 2021-2040

The Tāiki ē Strategic Intent acknowledges the relationship between He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Nu Tirenī and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which are together essential to understanding the position of tāngata whenua in Te Taitokerau. The deep tāngata whenua connection to the taiao is encapsulated in the vision, mission and values of the intent and council's commitment to building an enduring relationship that is a reflection of true partnership.

About Tāiki ē

He whenua haumoko, he wai mā, he iwi whai ora – Land that is bountiful, water that is pure and healthy, people that are flourishing. This is the vision for our future that guides Tāiki ē.

Tāiki ē is our Te Tiriti o Waitangi strategy and implementation plan. It is our roadmap towards fulfilling our Te Tiriti obligations, ensuring both council and Te Ruarangi are accountable in achieving these goals.

The vision and commitments within Tāiki ē influence all of council's mahi. From achieving better flood protection outcomes for communities to strengthening pest management and better water quality monitoring, Tāiki ē drives improved Te Tiriti partnerships across the work we do throughout the region.

In April 2024 an updated Tāiki ē was adopted by council to include more actions under the five focus areas – water, marine, climate crisis, and economic development. The stories we share here have been brought together under each of these focus areas.

The name ‘Tāiki ē’ itself is a unifying statement and a call to action, emphasising a shared commitment to collective work.

www.nrc.govt.nz/taiki-e

¹ Buddle Findlay, Tiriti Health Check 2022 & 2025

Te Ruarangi Māori representation

Te Ruarangi is a council working party which aims to reflect true partnership that respects the mana and authority of tāngata whenua and council. It is made up of twenty-one appointed iwi and hapū representatives plus all nine members of council.

Formerly known as TTMAC (Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party), Te Ruarangi is the group's new ingoa following a revision to the Terms of Reference for the rūpū. The ingoa represents 'an expression of the vision where the principles of Kāwanatanga and Rangatiratanga come together in a harmonious partnership for the benefit of te taiao.'

The rūpū meets 10 times per year, with formal meetings in council alternating with marae-based meetings around the rohe. Along with council-led kaupapa and priorities, the meetings are an opportunity to hear from and work with other organisations such as Northland Inc., DOC, Reconnecting Northland and other councils on regionally significant programmes and projects. Importantly, they are an opportunity for councillors and staff to experience first-hand marae-based hui and hear from the haukainga the issues and challenges they are facing to protect the taiao.



The April 2025 meeting of Te Ruarangi was held at Mōtatau Marae and hosted by Ngāti Hine.

“ Together, we are striving for positive outcomes for all people of Taitokerau and the environment through shared values and active partnership. ”



Ngā reo o Te Ruarangi Voices of Te Ruarangi

In June 2025 several Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū representatives shared their whakaaro on Tāiki ē, Te Ruarangi, and the partnership between Kāwanatanga and Rangatiratanga.

Watch the full videos at www.nrc.govt.nz/taiki-e



“Tāiki ē is a journey we asked for as Māori - for representation and to have a voice around the table. Our voice wasn't being heard. We have different issues on whenua. They might be similar, but from the perspective of Māori. We wanted to do things our way and be about our mātauranga Māori.

“It's the learning of our young people. We want them to have the capabilities, the capacity. We wanted them to learn their connections to the whenua, their dreams for themselves on Māori whenua.”

Nora Rameka, Ngāti Rehia

“I believe [Tāiki ē] brings massive value because we're at the decision-making table when it comes to our taiao.

“In the past you wouldn't see our whānau in this space because it was a system that was never designed for us to be in. Now that we sit in this space and we are working hand in hand, it works really, really well.

“The partnership itself — what we can learn is don't be afraid. You don't have to be afraid to look at Māori to participate.”

Nyze Manuel, Te Rūnanga O Whāingaroa





"Honesty is the key thing for us. If we sign up to something, we want to achieve that. A partnership can't be formed by yourself; it takes two or three parties to make a partnership. We wanted to nail the partnership relationship, and we did that.

"To us, it means our aspirations are achieved... that's the importance of the relationship. If you're working together well, you can't stray too far. Everything's tika."

Niki Conrad, Te Aupōuri

"The value that I think Tāiki ē brings – and Te Ruarangi bring to the region – firstly, because it provides that network of hapū practitioners, people at the coalface.

"Being able to understand what council's processes are, where their plan making and policy making is at, learn about those things early so we can prepare ourselves, go back to the whānau and talk about what's going on.

Juliane Chetham,
Patuharakeke Te Iwi Trust Board



"I think it's finally starting to uphold what was envisaged by our tūpuna when they put their tā moko on that parchment.

"While it's been lost over many a time, people have been struggling to see how it can actually work. But in this case, I think Te Ruarangi does work.

"And we've still got a long, long way to go, but hey – we've got a pretty good foundation now.

Pita Tipene, Ngāti Hine



Ngā whaingā Desired goals

Tāiki ē sets out a strategic intent 2021-2040 for council to achieve its Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments. The goals are realised through actions and resourcing that are embedded in council's Long Term Plan.

TE RAUKAHA ME TE ĀHEITANGA CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

- 01 **Capability** Tāngata whenua are supported to give effect to their aspirations in council decisions and operations.
- 02 **Capacity** Tāngata whenua are adequately resourced to participate in council decisions and operations.
- 03 **Partnership** Tāngata whenua and council work in a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership to achieve their shared goals.

TE KANOHI MĀORI MĀORI REPRESENTATION

- 04 **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** Is upheld and embraced.
- 05 **Decision making** Tāngata whenua are equitably represented in all council decisions and operations.
- 06 **Resourcing** Tāngata whenua are equitably resourced to contribute to council decisions and operations.

TE WAI / TE MOANA WATER / MARINE

- 07 **Mauri** The mauri of water is protected, restored and improved.
- 08 **Mātauranga** Information/knowledge is gathered and collated to better understand and improve the health of water.
- 09 **Mana o te Wai** Partner with tāngata whenua to give effect to Te Mana o te Wai.

TE TAIRARU ĀHUARANGI CLIMATE CRISIS

- 10 **Te Ao Māori** Te Ao Māori is inherent in mahi relating to climate crisis and its impacts.
- 11 **Advocacy** Tāngata whenua and council work together in the development of climate crisis policy.
- 12 **Implementation** Partner with tāngata whenua by providing support and resources to prepare for and address the effects of the climate crisis.

TE WHANAKETANGA OHAOHA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- 13 **Whai Rawa** Council advocates for and supports economic development for tāngata whenua.
- 14 **Whai Mana** Tāngata whenua self-reliance and self-determination is supported by council.
- 15 **Whai Oranga** Economic growth is compatible with the protection and enhancement of ecological, spiritual and cultural values of tāngata whenua.

Ngā tino kaupapa o te tau kua pahure Highlights of the last year

E tuari mātauranga, te whakanui i ngā ekenga angitu Sharing mātauranga, celebrating success

Wānanga Waiora

The second Wānanga Waiora was held at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds on March 26 2025, as part of a commitment to wānanga that highlight the experiences of kaitiaki across the region and the partnership with council to enable a better understanding of the Resource Management Act and its functions.

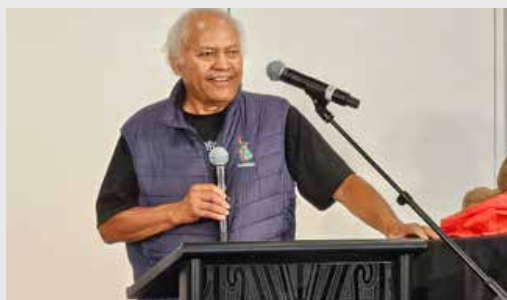
Hosted by Whangaroa Taiao Ltd with support from Northland Regional Council (NRC), the event provided a unique opportunity for Te Taitokerau kaitiaki and hapū to come together and share te mātauranga o te taiao (knowledge of the environment).

Wānanga Waiora is about kotahitanga and having a measurable tool for understanding the relationships between wai and 'waitiaki', as well as council's operational capability and positive outcomes with tāngata whenua.

Among those sharing their knowledge and experience on the day were special guest Hokianga and māmatakā tohunga Rereata Makiha; Ngāti Hine Manu Taupunga Roopu; Ngāti Rehia; Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa; Whangaroa Taiao Ltd CEO, Nyze Manuel and Taiao Advocate/Hearing Commissioner Dallas King; Oturu Marae; Ngāti Tara me Parapara Marae; Te Rūnanga o Te Aupōuri; Te Taumata Arowai; Te Uri o Hīkīhiki; Ngā Kaitiaki o Ngā Wai Māori; and Ngā Kaitiaki – ngā hapū me ngā hapori o Whangaroa.

This year's event highlighted how the relationship between council and the kaitiaki has grown. Enduring relationships ensure that these connections continue to achieve meaningful outcomes.

Overall, the kaupapa and the day were a great success with approximately 150 people in attendance.



E tuari mātauranga, te whakanui i ngā ekenga angitu Sharing mātauranga, celebrating success



Te Rūnanga Nui O Te Aupōuri's kaitiaki arm, Oranga Whenua Oranga Tangata Taiao, were the big winners at this year's Northland Regional Council Whakamānawa ā Taiao – Environmental Awards.

Te Aupōuri wins big at 2025 Whakamānawa ā Taiao – Environmental Awards

Te Rūnanga Nui O Te Aupōuri's kaitiaki arm, Oranga Whenua Oranga Tangata Taiao, were the big winners at this year's Northland Regional Council Whakamānawa ā Taiao – Environmental Awards.

The team took out not only the Kaitiakitanga award, but also the overall Te Tohu Matua- Supreme Award.

Held this year at Waitangi during Matariki, the spirit of collaboration and community leadership in the room was powerful and uplifting as rōpū from across the rohe came together to recognise and celebrate kaitiakitanga in action.

This year's awards saw many entries across different categories from iwi, hapū and kaitiaki groups, with marked increase in entries in the 'kaitiakitanga' category.

One of the powerful themes shared was of community groups increasingly strengthening their relationships and partnerships with iwi and hapū to drive better environmental outcomes for the whole community.

The Whakamānawa ā Taiao – Environmental Awards, held for the sixth time, recognise individuals, groups and organisations making a difference for te taiao.

Te raukaha me te āheitanga Capacity and capability



A previous scholarship recipient, Te Karira Ruakere-Norris (Te Parawhau, Ngāpuhi, Patuharakeke)

Tū i te ora Scholarships helping build Māori capacity and capability

The six recipients of this year's Tū i te ora Scholarships will receive financial support and paid work experience at council next summer.

The 2025 scholarship recipients are:

- **Aakash Chatterji**, from Whangārei (Te Uriroi, Te Parawhau, Te Mahurehure ki Whatitiri, Te Taoū. Ngāti Whātua, Ngā Puhi, and Varanasi India).
- **Nehana Griffiths**, from Whangārei and Dunedin (Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Rehua, Te Rarawa, Te Waiariki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāpuhi).
- **Riana Lane**, from Whangārei.
- **Isaac Morrow**, from Kerikeri (Te Aupōuri).
- **Raine Ross**, from Mōtatau (Ngāti Te Tarawa, Ngāti Hine).
- **William Trubshaw**, from Whangārei.

Each receives \$4000 to assist with study costs, plus paid full-time work experience with council from mid-November 2025 to mid-February 2026.

The scholarships have a specific aim to build Māori capacity within Te Taitokerau, with three of the six scholarships earmarked for Māori who whakapapa to Te Taitokerau.

Now in its sixth year, the scholarships recognise, encourage and support students to undertake study that relates to council's environmental and regulatory functions.

www.nrc.govt.nz/scholarship



Te raukaha me te āheitanga Capacity and capability

Joint advocacy to Central Government

This action was established to develop an efficient process for responding and advocating on behalf of the region with Te Ruarangi on key priority areas. The subsequent change of government has been followed by a raft of legislative changes, many of which have raised significant concerns about the undermining of Te Tiriti obligations by iwi and hapū of Te Taitokerau.

As Tāiki ē provides a clear framework for joint advocacy around impacts for tāngata whenua, iwi and hapū representatives have worked diligently with council to reflect a commitment to joint advocacy to central government. Over the past year council's submissions to government have included:

- fundamental concerns with the attempt to re-define the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- strong opposition to changes requiring councils to hold a binding poll on the future of Māori constituency seats;
- strong opposition the limited ability for tāngata whenua affected by fast-track applications to participate in the decision-making process; and
- concern that the Regulatory Standards Bill does not recognise Te Tiriti o Waitangi nor uphold its principles.

Read council's submissions:
www.nrc.govt.nz/NRCsubmissions

Supporting environmental planning and monitoring

The development of Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plans (IHEMPs) in Te Taitokerau was boosted in 2025 through the latest contestable funding round. A total of \$30,000 of funding was allocated for environmental management plan development and updates by iwi, hapū, and other eligible tāngata whenua entities.

IHEMPs provide an important opportunity to influence resource management processes. These planning documents will help hapū/iwi become more involved in resource management processes by building their capacity and at the same time capturing their current environmental knowledge, passion and practice.

In the last three years three IHEMPs have been funded and submitted – by Ngāti Hine Tirairaka, Ahipara Takiwā and Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa – supporting council to have a clear understanding of the environmental aspirations and implementation plans of iwi from across the region.

Meanwhile, the Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund saw a further \$130,000 allocated to support tāngata whenua to undertake their own environmental monitoring within Te Taitokerau. This has boosted opportunities for iwi and hapū to share their mātauranga with council enabling a more collaborative approach to protect indigenous species, flora and fauna, and monitor the benefits of restorative ecological programmes in the region.

www.nrc.govt.nz/funding





Te kanoahi māori Māori representation



Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements with Ngāti Hine, Te Parawhau

Ngāti Hine and NRC signed the first-ever iwi-council Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe resource management agreement in Taitokerau at a large gathering at Otiria Marae in December 2024. This was recognised as a milestone of the ongoing relationship with Ngāti Hine; however, it was acknowledged that there were many hapū that aspire to have a Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe agreements with NRC.

While several Northland hapū-NRC agreements have already been signed, this most recent agreement is a first for a recognised iwi of Te Taitokerau.

Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreements were introduced into the RMA in 2017 by the Crown to improve working relationships among tāngata whenua and councils, and to provide more opportunities for tāngata whenua involvement in RMA decision-making processes.

In April 2024 Te Parawhau ki Tai on behalf of Te Parawhau hapū joined an existing Mana Whakahono multi-hapū agreement that had previously been signed in December 2020 with Te Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board and Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia.

Kimihia mōhiotanga anō: www.nrc.govt.nz/mwar

NRC has the highest number of Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe agreements in the country and have been working with Papa Pounamu (NZPI) to provide support and direction for other councils to implement these agreements.



Te kanohi māori Māori representation

Te Tiriti health check and report

One of council's key performance measures is to complete and implement a two-yearly Te Tiriti 'health check' – an independent assessment of how council meaningfully upholds and implements its Te Tiriti obligations and in partnership with iwi and hapū.

The first comprehensive Te Tiriti health check was undertaken in 2022 by Buddle Findlay and Whaia Legal, identifying that while significant progress had been made, there remained "a long way to go to achieve genuine partnership in a way that reflects and respects Te Tiriti, He Whakaputanga, and the mana and rangatiratanga of iwi and hapū."

During 24/25 a second comprehensive Te Tiriti health check was commissioned, with findings formally received by council in September 2025.

Conducted by Buddle Findlay, the review assessed council's performance against Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, progress on 2022 recommendations, implementation of Tāiki ē, and engagement with tāngata whenua and mana whenua. It also evaluated mechanisms supporting Māori participation, such as Te Ruarangi (formerly TTMAC), and provided further recommendations.

Key recommendations include:

- Continue to engage iwi on legislative and policy changes.
- Track and report Tāiki ē progress right across council; and review resourcing.
- Strengthen Te Ruarangi's partnership role and governance.
- Continue cultural competency training for staff and councillors.
- Create a council-wide policy for partnership-oriented engagement.
- Formalise leadership relationships with iwi leaders' groups.
- Clarify and support iwi/hapū resourcing.
- Continue to implement the action plan to improve participation in resource consent processes.

NRC's partnership with iwi and hapū is in a strong place compared with many other regions, with genuine leadership-level commitment. The relationship has developed significantly since 2014, with a huge amount of work from both partners to support the relationships and effective implementation of Tāiki ē to drive meaningful change.

Te kanohi māori Māori representation

Strengthening tāngata whenua voices

Te Ruarangi, formerly known as Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party is continuing to build enduring relationships between Māori and council. Although council acknowledges this does not represent all iwi and hapū in the region, Te Ruarangi has been pivotal in bringing tangata whenua voices to support and guide a shared understanding of the decisions being made in council.

Alongside Te Ruarangi there are iwi/hapū representatives that make up 50% of council's 'Natural Resources' and 'Biosecurity and Biodiversity' working parties, helping to provide insights and foster equitable and balanced decision-making. Independent tāngata whenua advisors with voting rights also sit on each of council's 'Infrastructure', 'Audit and Risk', and 'Investment' committees, further empowering Māori voices in council decision-making.

The Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) is a subgroup of Te Ruarangi (formerly Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party, or TTMAC). Its primary role is to provide technical advice and guidance to the non-elected iwi and hapū representatives of Te Ruarangi. These mechanisms for tangata whenua voices to be heard at the governance level play important roles in developing strong relationships and fostering better understanding between council and iwi/hapū leaders.





Te kanohi māori Māori representation



Members of the working group for sika deer eradication in Russell Forest, at the 2024 project launch at Te Rāwhiti Marae.

Biosecurity partnerships

Across Te Taitokerau there are many biosecurity partnerships involving or led by hapū and kaitiaki, helping to get rid of pests and restore health to the ngahere and the rich biodiversity within.

Predator Free Pēwhairangi Whānui is one of these partnerships, spanning across three peninsulas in the Bay of Islands. This collaborative project works with community groups, hapū, and various agencies, with the goal of making these peninsulas predator free.

Another is the programme to eradicate wild deer from Russell Forest, in partnership with iwi and hapū, other agencies and landowners – a big job that council can't do alone.

For both of these examples, and the many other biosecurity partnerships council is involved in together with iwi, hapū and kaitiaki, success lies in leveraging the strength of unity and Te Tiriti-based relationships to achieve a shared vision.



Te wai / te moana Water/marine



NRC staff member Nicola Hartwell (front left) with Te Uri Hikihiki – Ngā Wai Tiaki o Tangaroa

Te Hā o Tangaroa Rāhui Tapu (Rākaumangamanga and Mimiwhangata Rāhui Tapu)

Implementing the region's newly established marine protected areas in partnership with local hapū is a great example of Tāiki ē working in practice.

The two rāhui tapu marine protected areas at Mimiwhangata and Rākaumangamanga (Cape Brett) were established in 2023 following concerns of local hapū Te Uri o Hikihiki and Ngāti Kuta about the impact of overfishing on local marine ecosystems.

Since then, council has been working with local hapū Te Uri O Hikihiki ki Whangaruru, Te Whānau Whero ki Whananaki, Ngāti Kuta, and Patu Keha to implement the new no-fishing rules.

Working together has been key to successful implementation of protection measures for these sensitive ecological and culturally significant areas.

Successful implementation is a direct result of the close collaborative partnership between the council and local hapū, including Te Uri O Hikihiki ki Whangaruru, Te Whānau Whero ki Whananaki, Ngāti Kuta, and Patu Keha. This collective effort signifies a commitment by council to support hapū and kaitiaki to work together for future generations.



Te wai / te moana Water/marine



NRC staff and hapū kaimahi deploying a benthic mat in Omakiwi Cove as part of a trial for suppressing Caulerpa in the intertidal areas.

Caulerpa response continues

A collaborative response to the highly invasive exotic caulerpa seaweed has seen the ongoing and tireless efforts of Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha hapū, who have worked closely with council and MPI since the invasive species was originally discovered in Northland.

Surveillance and community education have been critical throughout 24/25, to monitor for new locations and in urging boaties, fishers, and divers to check their equipment to avoid unintentional spread. Hapū have led much of this work, with support from council and MPI.

Funding was also secured from MPI to initiate trials of suction dredging to remove the seaweed, with a larger prototype currently in development.

The fight against caulerpa is an enormous challenge, but the partnership built between council and hapū throughout this response means we can face this – and future challenges – with strength and unity.



Te wai / te moana Water/marine



Collaborative efforts on water quality monitoring

Meaningful action continues on the ground to improve water quality monitoring across Te Taitokerau, driven by strong partnerships with tāngata whenua.

One example is a collaboration with Ngāti Kuri, who are leading water quality monitoring at six recreational bathing sites across three estuaries and three corresponding beach sites within their rohe.

This initiative aims to develop predictive water quality models for Safeswim (safeswim.org.nz), helping communities make informed decisions about when and where it's safe to swim.

Ngāti Kuri Kaimahi I Te Rohe (Wai) are at the heart of this mahi, carrying out field data collection. Council is supporting the kaupapa by funding laboratory analysis and model development.

Other examples include:

- Staff working closely with Kaitiaki ki Whangaroa, to integrate iwi/hapū monitoring data into council's environmental data portal.

- Through a partnership with Lake Ōmāpere Trust, council provided grant funding to support the purchase of a boat for kaitiaki to complete monitoring and surveys on Lake Ōmāpere.
- Kaitiaki from Ngati Rehia, Patuharakeke and Te Uri O Hau worked alongside council staff to complete 10-yearly estuary monitoring in the Kaipara, Ruakākā and Kerikeri harbours.
- Monitoring advice, funding options and water testing kits were provided to hapū and kaitiaki rūpū across Te Taitokerau via NRC's Environmental Monitoring Officer (Māori Relationships), who also attended over 25 hui during the 2024/25 financial year.

These partnerships reflect the power of working together – where council and tāngata whenua align their strengths to create locally-grounded approaches to water quality monitoring.

Te tairaru āhuarangi Climate crisis



Climate Resilient Communities Fund

Workshops and maara kai that integrate mātauranga Māori, sustainable, low-carbon and para kore practices, and intergenerational knowledge sharing to grow and feed local whānau are just some of the projects that have received funding through council's Climate Resilience Communities Fund.

The fund supports Te Taitokerau communities to build resilience in the face of our changing climate. Aimed at projects that connect communities, build capacity, and initiate action, the fund focuses on five impact areas: Food resilience (Te Kai), Water resilience (Te Wai), Energy resilience (Te Ngao),

Nature-based resilience (Te Taiao), and Planning for Resilience (Ngā mahi whakamahere).

Launched in 2024, the fund immediately connected with the community, with high interest from tāngata whenua. Twenty-two projects received a share in \$600,000 of funding, with the majority going to tāngata whenua groups.

A second funding round, which closed on 3 June 2025, has continued to attract lots of interest, with 75 applications. The fund, which opens annually, will invest \$9.2 million over 10 years, to support and enhance community resilience in Te Taitokerau.



Te tairaru āhuarangi Climate crisis



Partnership at heart of major flood protection project

“This is what genuine partnership looks like,” a hapū member said at the opening of the \$7M Otiria-Moerewa Spillway in August 2024. This award-nominated project is a powerful example of how co-design between Northland Regional Council and Ngāti Hine hapū – Ngāti Kōpaki and Ngāti Te Ara – can lead to transformative outcomes.

Originally met with some reservation, the project evolved over time through deepening relationships, wānanga, co-design and shared decision-making. The result is a community-led, culturally-aligned flood mitigation scheme that blends Mātauranga Māori with modern engineering.

The spillway has reduced flood severity by 75% through “re-wilding” waterways, restored natural flows, and has upheld Te Mana o te Wai – the intrinsic value of water. It has also empowered local hapū and whānau, setting a new precedent for ethical land use and indigenous-led infrastructure.

This initiative is more than flood protection – it’s a living example of what enduring Te Tiriti partnerships can achieve.



Te tairaru āhuarangi Climate crisis



Top – before the flood protection works; bottom – a new stop bank that's helping to protect Matangirau.

Flood-resilient marae

A small, flood-prone Northland community withstood a major rainfall event for the first time in April, thanks to new flood protection works led by council.

Around 300mm of rain fell on the Matangirau catchment during Ex-Tropical Cyclone Tam, the most rain recorded in the area in a decade and almost twice the rainfall recorded across Northland.

Flood protection measures were installed last year at Matangirau as part of the region-wide \$5.735 million Flood-Resilient Māori Communities and Marae project.

The project (funded by the Local Government Flood Resilience Co-Investment Fund and NRC) aims to reduce flood risks for six flood-affected Māori communities (Kawakawa, Otiria-Moerewa, Kaeo, Matangirau, Whirinaki and Punuruku) and 35 marae across Te Tai Tokerau.

Te tairaru āhuarangi Climate crisis



Hapori heroes – the initial group whose work on the Whanau Ora Framework and Te Taitokerau Resilience Plan carved the way for Hapori Resilience Action Plan.

Strengthening hapori Māori resilience

In response to community calls for readiness following Cyclone Gabrielle, the Hapori Resilience Action Plan – supported by funding from the Ministry for Social Development – delivered 250 survival bags and 500 whānau booklets across Te Taitokerau.

Designed with kaupapa Māori values and local knowledge, these resources empowered “end of the road” communities with practical tools and values, and ensured they resonated with the communities they served.

Across the rohe, whānau shared insights and experiences that revealed a shift in preparedness and mindset since Cyclone Gabrielle – including stocking emergency supplies, checking on kaumātua, and growing local kai.

This mahi directly aligns with the plan’s pillars: everyday resilience, resilience in emergencies, and climate adaptation. More than just resources, the initiative fostered connection, visibility, and proactive planning, supporting ongoing work of strengthening resilience at both the household and community levels across Te Taitokerau. The Hapori Māori resilience plan was endorsed by Te Ruarangi to support council’s broader strategy Ngā Taumata o te Moana and encompasses the voices of hapori Māori leaders and kaitiaki networks.



Te whanaketanga ohaoha Economic development

Taitokerau economic wellbeing pathway released

The economic wellbeing pathway for Te Taitokerau, 'Te Rerenga', was released in late 2024. Led by Northland Inc – Northland's economic development agency which is jointly-owned by all four Northland local authorities – the strategy was developed with guidance from Te Kahu o Taonui, business and industry, and many others, including Te Ruarangi.

Co-designed through a collaborative process, Te Rerenga sets a vision for a sustainable, innovative, and prosperous economy focusing on the wellbeing of people, the economy, and the environment. Te Rerenga acknowledges the historical and cultural significance of He Whakaputanga and Te Tiriti o Waitangi and stands as a model for future economic development strategies that prioritise holistic wellbeing alongside traditional economic measures.

Recognising its consistency with the desired goals and values of Tāiki ē, it was endorsed by Te Ruarangi.

Te Rerenga will help guide council's economic development activities, including those undertaken by Northland Inc. For example, it was key input in drafting the light-touch regional deal proposal – Igniting Northland's Potential – submitted by the four councils to central government in February 2025.

The conversation around Te Rerenga also marks the beginning of a deeper dive as Te Ruarangi seeks to 'make the waka go faster' in economic terms, recognising that further discussion and potentially dedicated budget is needed to continue progressing actions under the 'economic development' whaingā of Tāiki ē.

Find out more: www.northlandnz.com/tererenga





Te whanaketanga ohaoha Economic development



Empowering jobseekers, restoring te taiao

Te Ohonga o Mahuri is a newly launched five-year restoration project spanning 1200 hectares of whenua Māori near Kaikohe.

Led by Te Korowai Arahi Trust, the kaupapa employs former jobseekers to restore te taiao through pest control, weed management and biodiversity monitoring and is supported by council, Ministry for Social Development and SkyCity Trust.

Working under the guidance of Trust kaimahi, ten former jobseekers are in full-time employment - helping to restore te taiao (the environment) while gaining skills such as chainsaw operation, track and

infrastructure construction and maintenance, pest control, and tikanga Māori.

Council is supporting this kaupapa with funding, pest control and biodiversity monitoring expertise, training, and mapping.

It builds on the success of the recent multi-agency Punakitere Tumaha project, which offered ten local jobseekers the opportunity to enter a six-month river restoration contract to clear pest plants from the banks around the confluence of the Otaua River, Punakitere River and Tāheke River.

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Our vision for the future is only as good as the actions we set in place to achieve it.

Tāiki ē contains 31 actions, and this section covers how council is tracking against each of these actions, recognising that many actions span a longer time period than the one-year focus of this annual report.

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
1 Establish Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check and Review Framework by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. carrying out an independent review of council's obligations and performance against Te Tiriti o Waitangi performance standards utilising the Te Arawhiti Framework in a Taitokerau context; b. identifying and implementing priority areas for improvement based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check; c. reporting to and seeking views and input of Te Ruarangi and councillors as part of the review; d. reviewing the implementation of the recommendations annually; and e. undertaking a full Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check every two years. 	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Good progress made on identified areas of improvement from 2022 report and relationships largely positive, but still lots of work to be done. Two-yearly Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check formally received by council in September 2025, with recommendations for ongoing improvement.
2 Continue developing a Tāiki ē (NRC Te Tiriti o Waitangi Strategy and Implementation Plan) that includes, as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. what it means for NRC to uphold its Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations (e.g., what will success look like) and how NRC will live them through decision-making and operations; b. NRC's overarching positions are clearly articulated on important matters such as transfer of powers under the resource management legislation, payment for kaitiaki, recognition of mātauranga Māori and tāngata whenua participation in decision making; and c. incorporate the findings and recommendations of Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check. 	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Revised Tāiki ē adopted April 2024, with additional actions relating to Water/Marine, Climate Crisis and Economic Development whaingā and encompassing Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check recommendations. Revised Te Ruarangi terms of reference adopted February 2025, regarding meeting frequency and attendance, and a new name, Te Ruarangi.

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
<p>3 Support and increase the uptake of the development of Iwi and Hapū Environmental Management Plan (IHEMP) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. allocating existing staff time towards assisting iwi and hapū with b and c below; b. developing a bespoke communication plan for increasing awareness and visibility of existing or future funding and support for IHEMPs, including targeting communications to iwi, hapū and whānau networks (including reaching out to specific iwi and hapū who may need extra support); and c. increasing the amount of funding and staff capacity in the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan to respond to the potential increase in shared work programmes. 	ON TRACK	<p>Targeted communications and dedicated staff time ensured a successful funding round. There was an increase in applications received from the previous year and the \$30,000 funding pool for 2025/26 has been fully allocated.</p> <p>Additional staff capacity in place to support increase in shared work programmes.</p> <p>www.nrc.govt.nz/tp2024</p>
<p>4 Support and increase the uptake of Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe agreements and commitments made within them by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. allocating existing staff time towards assisting iwi and hapū with b, c and d below; b. making it clear that NRC is open to receiving invitations and having discussions regarding entering into a Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe process with iwi and hapū; c. developing a bespoke communication plan for increasing awareness and visibility of existing or future funding and support for Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe, including targeting communications to iwi, hapū and whānau networks (including reaching out to specific iwi and hapū who may need extra support); and d. increasing the amount of funding and staff capacity in the 2024–2034 Long Term Plan to respond to the potential increase in shared work programmes. 	ON TRACK	<p>In April 2024 Te Parawhau ki Tai on behalf of Te Parawhau hapū signed a Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe agreement with council.</p> <p>In December 2024 Ngāti Hine became the first iwi in Northland to sign a Mana Whakahono-ā-rohe agreement with council.</p> <p>A total of four hapū and iwi have signed agreements in Te Taitokerau.</p> <p>Formal requests have been received by other hapū and these are being considered.</p>
<p>5 Support and increase the number of Māori Resource Management Act Hearing Commissioners by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. developing and implementing a consistent process and policy for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the identification of suitable candidates by tāngata whenua to become certified resource management hearing commissioners; ii. establishing when Māori commissioners will be utilised in council RMA resource consent and plan change decisions and operations; iii. how iwi and hapū will be consulted on the appointment of hearings commissioners within their rohe; and b. provide a dedicated funding stream to support the formal certification of Māori commissioners; c. identifying external funding sources (e.g. central government or territorial authorities) to maximise opportunities for tāngata whenua; and d. identifying cohorts of whānau, hapū and iwi to complete the training to encourage a supportive learning experience. 	ON TRACK	<p>There are now 13 newly-accredited RMA commissioners from November 2024 cohort as a result of providing a dedicated funding stream to support formal certification of Māori commissioners.</p> <p>A guideline has been drafted for the identification and appointment of suitable Māori hearings commissioners seeking expert advice from qualified and experienced hapū commissioners.</p>

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
<p>6 Ensure the delivery of targeted educational noho (training programmes) on resource management processes by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> developing and implementing a programme in particular areas of interest with TTMAC (e.g. Ngā Whaingā o TTMAC Strategic Intent); and allocating existing or new staff time towards delivering the programme and providing targeted assistance to whānau, hapū and iwi through council's RMA processes. 	ON TRACK	<p>Led through Te Ruarangi representatives, the second Wānanga Waioira held in March 2025 provided a forum for kaitiaki to share mātauranga (knowledge).</p> <p>Additional council kaimahi are providing assistance to whānau, hapū and iwi to navigate council's RMA and consent processes.</p>
<p>7 Taking into account the existing tools and models available, develop and fund a culturally appropriate council environmental monitoring programme that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> addresses iwi and hapū interests and concerns in the monitoring of the environment; includes the incorporation of mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori and recognition of the role of tāngata whenua as kaitiaki; recognises and provides for any cultural monitoring tools endorsed by iwi and hapū; is consistently implemented as a component of NRC environmental monitoring and reporting practices and processes; and is reviewed and updated every three years for its effectiveness and efficiency. 	ON TRACK	<p>Priority 1 action</p> <p>Work on an independent review of current monitoring approaches initiated to address iwi and hapū concerns.</p> <p>Examples include working with Ngāti Kuri to support monitoring programmes, and engaging Ngā Kaitiaki Ngā Waimāori to undertake fish passage monitoring.</p> <p>Kaitiaki network identified and established through Wānanga Waioira.</p>
<p>8 Taking into account the existing tools and models available, develop and fund a culturally appropriate programme that enables and supports tāngata whenua to undertake their own freshwater monitoring aspirations that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> addresses iwi and hapū interests and concerns in the monitoring of the environment; includes the incorporation of mātauranga Māori, tikanga Māori and recognition of the role of tāngata whenua as kaitiaki; recognises and provides for any cultural monitoring tools endorsed by iwi and hapū; is consistently recognised and incorporated where appropriate as a component of NRC environmental monitoring and reporting practices and processes; and is reviewed and updated every three years for its effectiveness and efficiency. 	ON TRACK	<p>Priority 1 action</p> <p>Tāngata Whenua and Catchment Fund - \$500,000 per year to support freshwater initiatives led by community groups, catchment group entities or tāngata whenua entities.</p> <p>Tāngata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund - \$130k per year to support hapū/iwi led monitoring programmes.</p> <p>Increase in council kaimahi to support hapū and iwi initiatives.</p> <p>Work underway to better support kaitiaki network. Support for kaitiaki and hapū sharing at Wānanga Waioira.</p>

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
<p>9 Review, update and embed how NRC delivers its regulatory services to ensure regulatory activities (e.g. resource consents and compliance monitoring) are undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner and seek to include iwi and hapū to the greatest extent possible, including by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. developing an efficient and consistent framework for notifying and involving iwi and hapū with resource consent applications; b. providing suitable opportunities for iwi and hapū to provide feedback within statutory timeframes; c. taking into account the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The legislative constraints of the RMA; ii. Where legislative conflicts arise, advocate for change to central government in accordance with Action 12 of this Implementation Plan. d. committing funding to consistently resource iwi and hapū for undertaking this work. 	ON TRACK	<p>Priority 1 action</p> <p>A review of council's resource consents processes was completed and a 12-month Action Plan was received in March 2025.</p> <p>Work to continue with council's Māori Technical Advisory Group to implement the action plan over the next 12 months.</p> <p>Internal GIS system for identifying interested iwi and hapū groups nearing completion.</p> <p>Ongoing collaboration with FNDC consultants on external public facing GIS viewer to identify consent applications for both councils to facilitate better and more accurate engagement.</p>
<p>10 Advocate to, and where appropriate, actively support, local and regional education providers, businesses and institutions to address existing skills shortages by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. engaging with tāngata whenua involved in existing projects to identify skills shortages in priority areas for NRC and TTMAC to focus on (e.g., planning, environmental monitoring); b. identifying programmes and opportunities that deliver education programmes in priority areas for NRC and TTMAC; and c. identifying opportunities to develop work programmes that fill skills shortages in priority areas for NRC and TTMAC. 	ON TRACK	<p>Making Good Decisions RMA 101 course completed by 30 whānau, iwi and hapū.</p> <p>Webinar support provided for the NZ Planning Institute for Mana Whakahono ā Rohe.</p>
<p>11 Ensure tāngata whenua are consistently resourced to participate in governance, decision-making and operational activities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. reviewing different funding models used elsewhere in Aotearoa that could be applied, adapted and enhanced in Te Taitokerau; b. taking into account the findings of (a), develop and implement an agreed methodology and policy regarding consistent resourcing of tāngata whenua. 	ON TRACK	<p>Priority 1 action</p> <p>Council's governance working parties include 50/50 representation of tāngata whenua.</p> <p>Council's committees include independent tāngata whenua members with voting rights.</p> <p>Council's procurement policy factors in equitable fees for technical expertise and operations.</p> <p>Te Ruarangi and Māori Technical Advisory Group include hapū and iwi representation from across Te Taitokerau.</p> <p>Work underway to establish a youth voice mechanism to express voices of young people at governance level.</p>

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
12 Support iwi and hapū in their endeavours to obtain further funding and support through external sources (e.g. central government or territorial authorities). Specific actions could include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> allocating existing staff time and resources towards assisting iwi and hapū in applying for funding; and / or creating a new role and employing someone dedicated to assisting iwi and hapū in applying for funding. 	ON TRACK	Council kaimahi resourcing in place to assist iwi and hapū to apply for funding.
13 Undertake joint advocacy to central government on agreed priorities and interests, including on new legislation and initiatives such as the Future of Local Government Reforms, by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> establishing the agreed priorities areas with TTMAC (e.g. water/ marine, climate crisis and economic development); developing and implementing an agreed process with TTMAC to effectively and efficiently respond and advocate on behalf of Te Taitokerau on the agreed priority areas identified in (a). 	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Updated Taiki Ē adopted April 2024 to include Water/Marine, Climate Crisis and Economic Development whaingā. Advocacy for the interests of our Te Tiriti partners across council submissions including the future of Māori seats, Fast Track processes, Te Tiriti principles, regulatory standards and MACA changes. Commenced development of a clear process to ensure alignment with hapū and iwi priorities.
14 Collaborate with, and advocate to other territorial authorities (such as Auckland Council and Whangārei, Kaipara and Far North district councils) where there are cross-boundary overlaps and duplication for iwi and hapū to improve and streamline engagement processes and resourcing where possible. Note: For example, Kaipara Moana Remediation	ON TRACK	External funding sources identified, in collaboration with FNDC. Climate Resilience Wānanga held in May 2025 by Te Taitokerau councils. Relationships established with senior kaimahi Māori across regional and territorial authorities to collaborate and advocate for the work being done in this area. NRC, FNDC and iwi technical representatives continue to collaborate to support Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Board and the implementation of the beach management plan. Strategic priorities established for the ILGACE partnership.
15 Identify opportunities within legislation for tāngata whenua members of TTMAC to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> join or participate in other council governance structures; and where appropriate, have formal voting rights on sub-committees. 	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Independent tāngata whenua advisors appointed to council's Audit Risk & Finance committee. Te Ruarangi members represented in council's Long Term Plan deliberations.

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
16 Deliver specific projects within agreed priority areas of interest (e.g. water/marine, climate crisis, economic development) to tāngata whenua and NRC by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> undertaking a stocktake of existing projects and work programmes being progressed with the agreed priority areas of interest; establishing and implementing a joint TTMAC and NRC work programme that identifies new opportunities for joint projects; and seeking resourcing through the 2024 – 2034 Long Term Planning cycle. 	ON TRACK	Working on a series of collaborative projects with iwi and hapū, including initiatives such as rāhui moana, caulerpa management, marae preparedness, and flood mitigation.
17 Develop and embed a cultural awareness and competency framework for councillors, staff and relevant consultants and contractors that includes, at a minimum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> creating an induction process that explains the cultural context of Te Taitokerau, recognising that each hapū have their own tikanga; presents the importance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / and He Whakaputanga / The Declaration of Independence to NRC in all activities; and provides an understanding of and empathy for tikanga Māori (e.g., mauri, kaitiakitanga and mātauranga). 	ON TRACK	<p>Managers wānanga was held in May 2025 at Ngaiotonga marae focussing on Te Tiriti o Waitangi frameworks.</p> <p>Councillors' wānanga was held at Kawiti Marae to focus on Te Tiriti competencies with experts presenting on the benefits and opportunities of the Māori economy.</p> <p>All staff undertake an induction that includes basic te reo Māori and tikanga to support their roles.</p> <p>Development of a Māori Employment Framework underway to ensure responsive and inclusive employment processes.</p>
18 Invest in building tāngata whenua capacity and capability, by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> reviewing council's existing scholarship/internship programme to ensure that it supports the following outcomes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> tāngata whenua undertaking their role as kaitiaki; or Increasing tāngata whenua participation in jobs that are directly relevant to council's activities; or Includes governance training, such as associateships. maintaining and increasing where appropriate in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan, scholarship/internship programmes for tāngata whenua who whakapapa to Te Taitokerau iwi/hapū. 	ACHIEVED	<p>Successful implementation of this priority has resulted in scholarship recipients moving into paid employment in their fields.</p> <p>There were 58 applicants for the Tū i te Ora 2025 scholarship. The scholarship also includes the opportunity to gain work experience in different parts of the organisation.</p>
19 Develop an engagement policy and framework that formalises engagement procedures with iwi and hapū on Annual Plan, Long Term Plans, Regional Planning, and Regional Policy Statements.	ON TRACK	<p>Work towards formalising the successful involvement of iwi and hapū in the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan and 2025/26 Annual Plan has begun.</p> <p>Recommendations from the Stage 2 Te Tiriti Health Check to inform the development.</p>

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
20 Develop and maintain a digital tāngata whenua contacts database that spatially identifies indicative iwi and hapū rohe boundaries that can be utilised to guide engagement processes (e.g. resource consents), that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> takes into account overlapping iwi and hapū boundaries; recognises the sensitivity and accuracy of information; and uses the best available information (e.g., within IHEMPS); and mātauranga). 	ON TRACK	Ongoing as part of the resource consents review action plan – see Action 9.
21 Investigate and identify opportunities for the transfer or delegation of decision-making powers or operations (e.g., pursuant to section 33 of the Resource Management Act 1991) in areas of interest/concern to iwi and hapū, by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> identifying actions needed by NRC to implement the transfer or delegation and how these will be implemented; and providing assistance (e.g. staff assistance or funding support to engage an independent facilitator) to the iwi or hapū that are seeking the transfer or delegation. 	ON TRACK	Development of council position regarding transfer of powers is being impacted by central government overhaul of RMA currently underway.
22 Ensure the successful ongoing implementation of Māori constituencies by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> promoting and raising awareness of Māori seats and encouraging Māori to stand for local government; and engaging with iwi and hapū to undertake a review of Māori constituencies within the first triennium following implementation to measure success and the representativeness of the constituencies. 	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Council made a submission to central government opposing changes to the Local Electoral Act which would require a referendum on Māori constituencies. Council required to run a poll on the future of Māori constituency seats alongside the 2025 triennial council elections.
23 Providing ongoing support to ensure an equitable and culturally safe working environment for councillors.	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action First formal council meeting held September 2024 at Mokau marae. Two marae-based workshops held and hosted by Te Ruarangi at Motatau Marae (Ngāti Hine) and Tākou Bay (Ngāti Rehia). Translation of te reo Māori for council by qualified translator. Use of karakia and reo practiced at every council meeting. Councillors' wānanga was held at Kawiti Marae to focus on Te Tiriti competencies.
24 Review council procurement policies and processes to ensure fair and equal opportunities for tāngata whenua consultants and contractors to obtain council contracts.	ON TRACK	NRC has registered with Amotai (a supplier diversity intermediary) to connect to more Māori and/or Pasifika owned businesses who service Te Taitokerau. A review is in progress of the Māori Expertise Procurement Policy.

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
25 Identify opportunities in council activities for tāngata whenua consultants and contractors to apply for council contracts.	ON TRACK	See also Action 24. Progressive procurement to be explored and benefits for tāngata whenua and council under the economic whaingā.
26 During each review of the Annual Plan or Long Term Plan, consider and implement appropriate financial and other support for specific actions outlined in this Implementation Plan.	ACHIEVED	Priority 1 action Long Term Plan 2024-34 process complete and significant effort and resource allocated to the implementation of Tāiki ē. Additional kaimahi and budgets are now starting to positively influence the pace and scale of council's ability to implement the actions contained within Tāiki ē.
27 Continue to support the active involvement of tāngata whenua in the Freshwater Planning Instrument for Te Taitokerau under the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. acknowledging the special relationship tāngata whenua have with wai, and te mana me te mauri o te wai; b. ensuring that NRC exercise its role and functions to give effect to this special relationship; and c. giving effect to the recommendations in Ngā Roimata o Ngā Atua Report. 	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Incorporation of Ngā Roimata o Ngā Atua Report into the draft Freshwater Plan. Ongoing advice and technical expertise of Tāngata Whenua Water Advisory Group to address challenges faced as a result of central government changes to the National Freshwater Policy Statement on Freshwater and the Freshwater Farm Plans.
28 Support tāngata whenua to address the effects of the climate crisis and strengthen the resilience of their communities to natural hazard events by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. identifying opportunities for tāngata whenua led approaches to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. mitigating the adverse effects of the climate crisis; ii. immediately respond to adverse weather events and natural hazards within their rohe; and iii. recover from adverse weather events and natural hazards within their rohe; and b. implementing priority actions in Ngā Taumata o Te Moana Implementation Plan (www.nrc.govt.nz/CC-implementation-plan) and Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy (www.ttcn.nz/resources/ttcas/); c. supporting advocacy associated with the Taitokerau Resilience Action Plan (www.nrc.govt.nz/ResilienceActionPlan); and d. providing resources and mandate for local Māori leaders to support community safety and wellbeing before, during and after natural hazard events. 	ON TRACK	Priority 1 action Kaupapa Māori resilience plan is being implemented to support rural and isolated communities through staff relationships with communities and provision of resources such as Whanau and Whenua Activation Plans. Response and recovery programme includes work to fund and support 35 flood resilient marae (plus CDEM group plan marae preparation). Funding through the Climate Resilient Communities Fund to support hapū planning in response to climate adaptation strategies.

Ngā putanga o te mahere mahi Action plan outcomes

Action	Status	Commentary
<p>29 Ensure strong tāngata whenua self-reliance and self-determination through sustainable economic development by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. supporting tāngata whenua to develop and implement their own economic development plans; and b. co-designing regional plans for economic development in Te Taitokerau (e.g. Te Taitokerau Economic Action Plan, and Te Rerenga) and ensuring that these include clear, measurable and achievable actions. 	ON TRACK	A Te Ruarangi workshop held to explore future principles and opportunities to partner with tāngata whenua to guide and support council in responding to iwi and hapū economic wellbeing. Iwi and hapū representatives reiterated the Te Rerenga Strategy encapsulates iwi and hapū aspirations. Further discussions with Northland Inc and potentially additional budget may be required to fully implement this action. Discussions underway regarding a Māori economic development wānanga (similar to Wānanga Waiora).
<p>30 Support tāngata whenua aspirations associated with marine environmental protection and economic development opportunities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identifying opportunities for tāngata whenua-led approaches (e.g. customary practices such as rāhui) within Taitokerau to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Identify and implement marine protected areas; ii. Undertake restoration and enhancement programmes within the coastal marine areas; iii. Review and implement marine biosecurity policies and measures; and iv. Progressing with culturally and ecologically appropriate economic development opportunities within the coastal marine area (e.g. aquaculture activities). 	ON TRACK	Several reports have been presented to Te Ruarangi and interest has been received from iwi and hapū representatives to progress this action. Current budget and staff capacity is focused on implementation of the new marine protected areas. The outcome of the current RM reform package needs to be known before progressing this action further.
<p>31 Develop, monitor and report on a key performance indicator framework to assess NRC delivery of outcomes for tāngata whenua against Ngā Whaingā within the Strategic Intent.</p>	ON TRACK	Annual report developed to monitor and report on key performance indicators within Taiki ē.



About the unaunahi design which appears throughout this document

Te unanunahi I whakapiripiri ki te Ikanui ā Maui

The scales that cling to the Great Fish of Maui

Te Unaunahi is a whakairo (carving) design originated from the descendants of Manaia and shared widely throughout Tai Tokerau.

This Tai Tokerau whakarei (surface pattern) represents fish scales, and also symbolises safety and protection. The extended name of the unaunahi design (above) refers to the deeper mātauranga carried in the symbol. The unaunahi is represented by four scales that each represent an aspect of the physical world.

Te Unaunahi Tuatahi refers to the minerals and substances which make up the earth and sky.

Te Unaunahi Tuarua refers to the flora which cloak the earth.

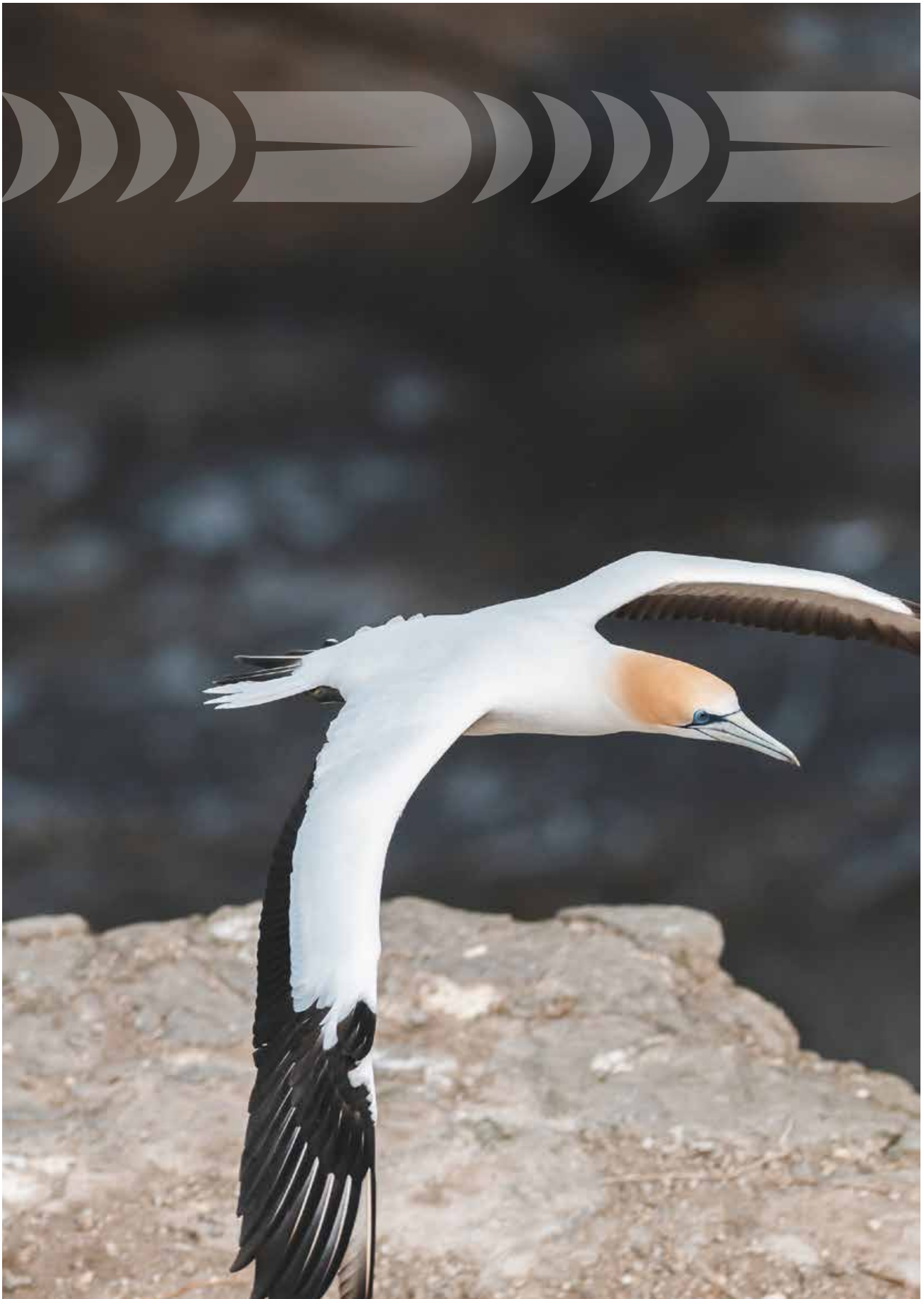
Te Unaunahi Tuatoru refers to the animal world.


Te Unaunahi Tuawha refers to the human elements.

The fifth line of the unaunahi pattern represents the aho tapu connecting the physical world and humanity to a higher spiritual energy. Te aho tapu as it appears in the unaunahi is an element that threads through each aspect of the physical world, but is visually connected to the scale representing humanity. Humanity is depicted by the fourth scale to remind us we are teina to all of the physical world. The aho tapu is connected to humanity to remind us of our responsibility to protect our environments.

This pūrākau is shared with the approval of Tohunga Whakairo Te Warihi Hetaraka.







Karakia Whakamutunga

Unuhia, unuhia
Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui
Kia wātea, kia māmā
Te ngākau, te tinana, te wairua i te ara tangata
Koia rā e Rongo,
Whakairia ake ki runga
Kia tina! TINA!
Hui e! TĀIKI E!

*Release us from the formalities of this gathering
Let our hearts, body and spirits be clear,
be free to carry on with our day
Let our meeting be suspended
Draw together! Affirm!*



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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 05
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 5 December 2025, be received.

4.101.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents highlights from council activity over the previous month.

NRC's Community Outcomes are key elements of its strategic direction. Though many council activities contribute to more than one Community Outcome, items are presented under the primary Community Outcome to which they contribute.

2.0 HIGHLIGHTS

Rāhui Tapu/ Marine Protected Area

Staff have been actively preparing for the summer season by promoting Rāhui Tapu rules through widespread communication, including outreach to locals, visitors, marinas, Customs NZ, and other stakeholders. Efforts include posters at community sites, targeted editorial articles, social media campaigns, and participation in the Whangārei Maritime Festival, with additional signage planned for Maunganui Bay and Oke Bay to reinforce on-water messaging. Baseline ecological monitoring, including kōura/crayfish surveys led collaboratively by hapū, the University of Auckland, and NRC, was completed in September, with findings pending. Compliance surveillance has begun in both Rāhui Tapu areas, focusing on peak boating times, supported by increased staff capacity; despite windy Labour Weekend conditions, patrols issued four notices for prohibited fishing. The public is encouraged to report violations via the online Rāhui Tapu Prohibited Activity Notification Form. [Rāhui Tapu Prohibited Activity Notification Form](#).



Kōura/crayfish being measured during survey - courtesy of University of Auckland

Freshwater Pests - Significant Milestone

Rudd is a pest fish in Te Taitokerau – they degrade water quality and prey on native aquatic life. As a result of an active eradication campaign and monitoring for survivors in lake Rototuna on the Pōuto peninsula is on the verge of being declared Rudd-free. From 4–7 November, the team will undertake a final netting operation in collaboration with Te Uri o Hau, alongside eDNA sampling to confirm the species' absence. This milestone marks the culmination of five years of dedicated mahi by the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Northland Regional Council (NRC), in partnership with Te Uri o Hau.



Final netting operation in collaboration with Te Uri o Hau, alongside eDNA sampling to confirm the species' absence.

Tāiki ē – Te Tiriti Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan: Annual Highlights

We are also proud to share the [inaugural Tāiki ē annual highlights report](#), which presents key milestones and outcomes from the past 12 months of implementation. Tāiki ē represents a critical step forward in our Te Tiriti partnership journey, guiding the council's approach to honouring Te Tiriti and supporting kaupapa across five key outcome areas:

- Capacity and Capability
- Māori Representation
- Water and Marine
- Climate Crisis
- Economic Development

This report reflects both the progress made and the enduring nature of our partnership journey with Māori across the rohe. [View the report](#)

Local Elections Campaign

The Community Engagement Team and Te Tiriti Partnerships teams worked together on a campaign to boost participation in the local elections, focusing on encouraging voters to learn about candidates and cast their vote alongside information about the Māori constituency poll. Tactics included social media reels, candidate videos, radio interviews, bus backs, print collateral, and digital advertising.

The campaign delivered strong results including:

- 2.9 million impressions and 73,000 clicks across digital platforms
- 2.3 million impressions via online ads; 500,000+ via retail digital screens
- 52,000+ website sessions directly attributed to the campaign

Final voter turnout reached 49.1%, up from 43.2% in 2022 - exceeding the campaign's goal of a 5% increase.

Municipal Wastewater Compliance

The council has maintained a strong focus on municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance, with steady progress being made across the region. While several plants remain under Abatement Notices (AN) and are addressing moderate and significant non-compliances — such as elevated nutrient levels, suspended solids, and self-monitoring gaps — recent upgrades and remedial works are delivering measurable improvements. For example, last month was the first time that no

significant non-compliances were recorded in the previous three-month period since March 2025. These actions demonstrate commitment to improving consent compliance and environmental outcomes.

3.0 HEALTHY WATERS, LAND AND AIR

Current Legal Proceedings

Department	Description	Status
Consent decision appeal	New groundwater take at Tautoro (south of Kaikohe) for irrigation of a proposed avocado orchard	One appeal was received from Te Riingi Marae. Environment Court assisted mediation was held on 21 October 2025. A mediation agreement was signed which has a number of tasks for parties to complete by agreed deadlines. Parties are to provide a memorandum to the Court on progress to resolve the appeal and whether a hearing is required by 28 November 2025.

Consents Update

During September and October 2025, a total of 163 Decisions were issued. These decisions comprised:

September 2025 (53)		October 2025 (110)	
• Moorings	5	• Moorings	1
• Coastal Permits	2	• Coastal Permits	13
• Air Discharge Permits	1	• Coastal Discharge Permits	5
• Land Discharge Permits	6	• Land Discharge Permits	20
• Water Discharge Permits	4	• Land Use Consents	48
• Land Use Consents	24	• Water Takes	8
• Water Takes	2	• Bore Consents	15
• Bore Consents	9		

Forty-one applications were received in September 2025, and 49 applications were received in October 2025.

Of the 133 applications in progress at the end of October 2025:

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

Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

- No commissioners were appointed in September and October 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 October 2025 is (by number):







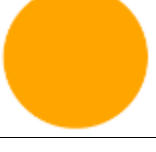
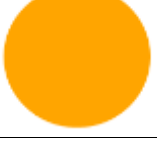
- Progress on Applications Previously Notified 4
- Appeals/Objections 1

Compliance Monitoring

The results of compliance monitoring for the period 1 September to 31 October 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	50	50	0	0	0
Bore Consent	1	0	1	0	0
Coastal Discharge	31	23	2	6	0
Coastal Permit	18	15	3	0	0
FDE - Discharge permit	135	93	0	33	9
FDE - Permitted activity	63	49	0	11	3
Land Discharge	185	147	15	21	2
Land Use Consent	113	107	2	4	0
NES-F	89	87	2	0	0
Water Discharge	121	79	11	31	0
Water Permit	60	57	3	0	0
Water Take	229	149	63	17	0
Total	1095	856	102	123	14
Percentage		78.2%	9.3%	11.2%	1.3%
Year to date	2267	1740	241	255	31
Percentage		76.8%	10.6%	11.2%	1.4%

Municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance/enforcement

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
Kaiwaka Expires 2049			<u>Under AN</u> (issued August 2025) Moderate non-compliance for wetland overflowing and short circuiting. Remedial works underway.
Ahipara Expires 2033			<u>Under ANs</u> (reissued in September 2022). Last non-compliance was recorded in August 2025.
Hikurangi Expired June 2025 (replacement consent application being processed)			<u>Under AN</u> TSS, BOD5 and E. coli results continue to be above RC limits for median and 90 th percentile. Results are showing improvement following recent upgrades.
Paihia Expires 2034			<u>Under AN</u> Moderate non-compliances due to ammoniacal nitrogen exceeding RC limits for 90 th percentile. Some results missing.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
Whatuwhiwhi 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.
Taipā Expires 2029			Moderate non-compliances for FC exceeding 85 th percentile and TN exceeding RC limits. Working group trialling options to improve treatment and working towards a land-based discharge.
Opononi & Ōmāpere 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.
Rāwene Expired 2023 (replacement consent being processed)			TSS exceeding 90 th percentile consent limits. Remedial work scheduled.
Kohukohu 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.
Kaitiāia 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.
Hihi Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)			Ammoniacal nitrogen and E. coli exceeding RC limits. Some self-monitoring results missing.
Russell 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.
Kaikohe Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed but also listed Fast-track proposal)			<u>Under AN</u> Discharge volumes and other self-monitoring results missing.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
Kawakawa Expires 2036			None currently.
Ruakākā Expires 2046			
Ngunguru Expires 2035			None currently. Historic result still affecting 95 th percentile for E. coli.
Tutukaka Expires 2054			Moderate non-compliance for historic elevated E. coli (from February 2025).
Rangiputa Expires 2032			None currently.
Te Kōpuru Expires 2044			Dry weather flows have exceeded discharge limit on several occasions.
Maungaturoto Expires 2032			<u>Under AN; IN issued September 2024</u> No issues currently.
Kāeo Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)			Some self-monitoring results missing.
Whangārei City Expires 2045			<u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant. Additional odour controls being implemented. Moderate non-compliance from August 2025. Fully compliant for September and October. Reticulation issues relating to the Whangarei Heads line and pump stations is being managed. Investigations for long term remediation are underway. Further information is available on WDC website.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
Kerikeri Expires 2036			Some test results missing.
Mangawhai 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.
Ōākura Expires 2025			None currently.
Waipū Expires 2030			None currently.
Dargaville Expires 2043			<u>Under ANs</u> None currently.
Portland Expires 2054			None currently.
Glinks Gully Expires 2034			None currently.
Waiotira Expires 2030			None currently.
Compliance Status			
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 is scheduled for monitoring (199 permitted activities and 500 consented farms). Comparisons of this season's results with last year (at the same time) are given in the tables below.

Consented farms

Full Compliance	Moderate Non-Compliance	Significant Non-Compliance
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This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
146	284	59	99	16	37
66%	68%	27%	23%	7%	9%

Non-consented farms

Full Compliance		Moderate Non-Compliance		Significant Non-Compliance	
This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
63	111	17	21	5	11
74%	77%	20%	15%	6%	8%

Court Cases Update

Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
Enforcement Order and Prosecution 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. Pretrial hearing will occur in December regarding two matters; name suppression and eligibility for jury trial.
Enforcement Orders District Court Farm dairy effluent and silage discharges relating to five farms	Enforcement Orders issued for five farms on 5 May 2025. Joint memorandum filed in August 2025 to vary some dates in the orders by agreement.
Interim Enforcement Orders 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 23 January 2026 . 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.
Interim Injunction (Civil Matter) Māori Land Court 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.

Aotearoa Circle - Natural Infrastructure Plan

KMR has been selected for inclusion as one of only five case studies in the Aotearoa Circle's forthcoming national Natural Infrastructure Plan. The Aotearoa Circle is a public-private partnership organisation which aims to drive enduring prosperity for New Zealand through the restoration and protection of our natural resources.

The Natural Infrastructure Plan aims to present the case for investment into natural infrastructure that can bring both economic and environmental benefits. It is already receiving significant attention during the development phase, and is anticipated to have a high degree of interest upon

publication. Key elements of the Plan are likely to be included in the Government's forthcoming Infrastructure Plan and National Resilience Framework which will recognise and articulate the multiple benefits of natural infrastructures.

In particular, the Plan will examine nature-based solutions that are either fully 'green', 'blue green' or 'grey green' infrastructure, and set out what investment in natural / nature-based infrastructure might look like, to deliver both economic and environmental benefits. Working with Beca, the case study will be completed by the end of November, with publication of the Plan due in March 2026.

KMR Performance (Life to Date)

As at 31 October 2025, a little over 3¾ years into operational delivery, KMR has delivered the following results on the ground:

Nature & Resilience

- Over 2.79 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant this winter
- 1,604 hectares planted or contracted, or regenerating into native forest
- Over 1,088 km of fencing completed or contracted – more than the distance from Cape Rēinga to Wellington!
- Over 150,000 hectares managed under KMR plans.

Jobs & Skills

- 424,000 hours of new work – a year's work for over 272 people
- Over \$28.8 million invested in restoration projects
- 51 local businesses and nurseries accredited to supply KMR
- 247 people trained and mentored, many from local iwi/hapū, to advise on project design and delivery.

Participation

- 1,385 landowners/groups have expressed interest in KMR
- 917 plans completed with landowners/groups
- 108 more plans in development
- 126 projects led by hapū, marae, community groups, catchment groups and other collectives.

Natural Resources Science

A summary and full report of the investigation into water allocation for the fully allocated Ōtaika catchment area were published on our website this month. The assessment involved estimating hydrological metrics for the catchment, current water allocation and comparing that with actual water use for the catchment. Overall, current water allocation level is high in the catchment, although a significant proportion of this comprises consented yet unused water, a pattern which is consistent with other regions. The assessment spanned eight years from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2023. The reports can be read [here](#).

NRC is taking part in a 12-month, MfE-funded National River Water Quality Monitoring Project, coordinated by Te Uru Kahika. This cross-council initiative involves testing extended suites of river water quality indicators—such as dissolved metals and emerging contaminants—at selected SOE sites across 16 regions. The goal is to complement existing monitoring data, fill knowledge gaps, and enhance understanding of river health and its links to other water bodies like groundwater, lakes, and estuaries. Sampling and lab analysis will run from November 2025 to October 2026.

Hydrology

The latest hydrology report for October 2025 can be found on the council data portal:

<https://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/environmental-data/>

Communications supporting land management, coastcare and science kaupapa

- **Land management:** The Community Engagement team published [Hills to Harbour](#), our land management e-newsletter sent to 634 subscribers. This edition achieved a 36.3% open rate and featured updates on gold clam, nutrient pathways at Lake Ngatu, solar funding and infringement notice changes.
- **Coastcare:** The Community Engagement team distributed the latest [CoastCare e-newsletter](#) to 401 subscribers, achieving a 35.1% open rate. This edition focused on the State of the Environment Coastal Report and included a summer workshop survey.
- **Science:** The Community Engagement team supported the Science team with communications and web content for the Lake Ngātu nutrient load modelling project, helping to share both internal and external messaging. We also contributed to awareness efforts around mudfish conservation.

4.0 PROTECTED AND FLOURISHING NATIVE LIFE

Wild Deer

The Sika Deer eradication project has been a crucial piece of work for the biosecurity team. More than 63 sika have been removed from the forest and intensive DNA tracking indicate 2 sika are thought to remain with eradication on track for 2026. As part of the ongoing relationships staff have with local hapū the Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement team were invited to support the process of creating a new Māori name for the project. The steering group is made up of local kaitiaki representing Te Kapotai, Ngātiwai, Ngāti Kuta and Patukeha. The next steps are to collate the ideas shared at the hui, revisit this soon to finalise a new Māori name, a vision and a set of values that will underpin the overarching kaupapa.



NRC staff, DOC staff and the Sika Deer Project steering group hui.

DOC Conservation Dog Full Certification



NRC Predator Free Whangarei Field officer along with “Shaka” and DOC programme assessors.

After more than two years of training, Predator Free Whangārei (PFW) has introduced Northland Regional Council’s first in-house biosecurity dog, Shaka—a Vizsla/GSP cross certified through the Department of Conservation Dog Programme. Shaka, a possum scat detection dog, fulfills a three-year goal to adopt this specialized method after a shortage of certified contractors nationwide. Supported by the Dog Advisory Group, Shaka and the handler’s journey has strengthened PFW’s toolkit for eradicating possums in Whangārei Heads and beyond. Scat detection offers a lasting and reliable way to identify survivors or new incursions, complementing AI traps, cameras, and traditional methods. This achievement reflects significant effort and collaboration, adding a powerful resource to the fight against invasive species.

INCURSIONS

Gold Clam Prevention - Taharoa Domain Biosecurity Checkpoint

The summer season is now underway, with the checkpoint operational over Labour Weekend. Planning is in progress to upgrade the site with additional water storage, a more permanent staff base, and improved facilities to support ongoing operations. Over the coming months, new roving ambassadors who will be active across the region, attending community sporting events and EnviroSchools days to promote biosecurity awareness. We are also waiting for technical advice to refine surveillance protocols and strengthen hygiene recommendations, ensuring our practices remain effective and up to date. In recent news a new population of gold clam has been reported from a New Plymouth man-made Lake – Rotomanu. MPI officials are investigating, and we are awaiting further information concerning this new population which is located well beyond the two current infestation zones of the Waikato. This new population heightens the need for proactive measures at all lakes and waterways this summer to prevent an incursion into Te Tai Tokerau.

Yellow legged hornet

Yellow legged hornet is an aggressive new to New Zealand pest that has been recently found in and around Glenfield and Birkdale areas in Auckland’s North Shore. Biosecurity New Zealand are leading the response and have a trapping network established with the aim of eradicating all females. This hornet hunts honeybees and other insects and has severely damaged honeybee population in Europe and elsewhere. Staff are urging northlanders to report any yellow legged hornets and more information about the response and impacts of the hornet can be found at

<https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news/media-releases/biosecurity-new-zealand-expands-hornet-search> and the NRC website <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/environment/weed-and-pest-control/pest-control-hub/insect/yellow-legged-hornet/>

Wallabies

NRC has received the first wallaby report of the season near the outskirts of Pukenui Forest. The team has followed up, and the report is being managed using passive surveillance (community reporting and signage). Based on further discussions with the reporter, known hare populations in the area, and previous similar reports from this location, it’s likely the sighting was a hare rather than a wallaby. It’s encouraging to see the community actively reporting potential sightings, which plays a valuable role in early detection and response

Community engagement highlights

- **Kiwi awareness video** - The Community Engagement team produced a video highlighting dog risks to kiwi following a fatal incident. The video generated strong engagement on social media. Watch the video here: <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1415830186187167>

- **Tiakina Kerikeri** – We supported the Tiakina Kerikeri team to produce signage, flyers and promotional materials for market visits and the Kerikeri Garden Safari. We continue to support the team with marketing and communications requests, ensuring NRC's leadership of the project is reflected throughout.
- **Invasive freshwater clam** – Google ads targeting key regions over Labour weekend promoted 'Check, Clean, Dry' messaging and encouraged people to report any sightings of invasive freshwater clam. Ads reached 318,267 views and drove 573 webpage visits.
- **Exotic Caulerpa** – Google and MetService ads raised awareness of CAN changes and disposal methods. Ads reached 122,270 views and drove 286 webpage visits.
- **Madagascar ragwort** – New website section launched with images and video; ongoing support includes signage and awareness materials.
- **Wild deer free Northland** – Supported development and promotion of a community survey to inform future communications.
- **Marine protected areas** - Community Engagement staff supported promotion and education efforts, particularly targeting marinas and NZ Customs to engage international boaties. This included developed communications materials and collateral, engaging with facilities on the ground, and following up on related activities.
- **Project Pest Control:** Due to high demand, the education team ran two assessment workshops were held at Lonsdale Park near Kaeo, supported by Biosecurity and CanTrain NZ. Over 70 students from eight schools successfully completed both practical and theory assessments.
- **Earth Day:** The Education Team led an event at Hurupaki School and its wetland with hands-on activities covering native and pest fish, wetland birds, plant and animal pests, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and a predator-prey game.
- **Bittern muster** - An electronic pānui was developed by the community engagement team to promote and encourage participation in a Bittern Muster. Matuku-hurepo (Australasian Bittern) Muster - Subscribers: 303, Open-rate: 39.3%

4.105.0 SAFE AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT NETWORKS

Maritime

The team responded to 15 maritime incidents during September and October, the majority involving abandoned/ derelict vessels or oil spills. One incident involved salvaging a yacht from Tom Bowling Bay.

Maritime had an active period with oil spill response training in September, where two officers completed the Senior Responder course and two Regional On-Scene Commanders joined a shoreline cleanup exercise. Ahead of summer, the Harbourmaster attended the Bay of Islands cruise ship stakeholder meeting and simulator sessions, as the season began with two ship visits in October; however, only 48 ships are scheduled compared to 80 last year due to regulatory uncertainty, biofouling risks, and rising costs making New Zealand less competitive. Additionally, the Deputy Harbourmaster participated in the National Safer Boating Forum strategy session, and staff secured Maritime NZ funding to continue the "Nobody's stronger than Tangaroa" campaign, which promotes boating safety and harm prevention in Te Tai Tokerau, focusing on remote communities and providing essential safety equipment.

The team assisted Kaipara District Council install Aids to Navigation (AtoN) at Kai Iwi Lakes to improve on-water safety for their summer visitors. AtoN maintenance work was also carried out at Whangarei, Matapouri and the Bay of Islands.



AtoN work at Kai Iwi Lakes

Transport

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) 2026–2036

The draft Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) 2026–2036 is being finalised in collaboration with the communications team. On completion, it will be presented to the Regional Transport Committee (RTC) for comment and feedback. Full public consultation is scheduled for 18 February to 20 March 2026. Final approval and adoption of the RPTP is anticipated in June 2026.

Public Transport

Car Free Day

Car Free Day is an annual international event held on **22 September** that encourages people to give up their cars for a day in favour of walking, cycling, or public transport. It aims to reduce pollution, traffic congestion, and carbon emissions, promoting healthier and more sustainable communities. To celebrate Car Free Day, all BusLink and CityLink services offered free travel. The NRC in partnership with the Whangarei District Council hosted an event at the Rose Street Bus Terminus distributing branded CityLink resources and promoting shared paths. Cyclists and bus passengers were acknowledged and rewarded for choosing alternative transport options.

Rose Street Closure

The Rose Street Bus Terminus was unexpectedly closed from 6:30am to 2:00pm on 22 October. NRC staff in conjunction with Ritchie's and the Whangarei District Council roading section coordinated the relocation of all CityLink services to Vine Street. The public were notified, and the NRC Comms team fully briefed. Due to the quick actions of all concerned there was minimal disruption to services and passengers.

New BusLink website

The Community Engagement team supported the Transport team by populating the new BusLink website with content and collaborating with the design team to bring the site to completion. We also provided media and communications support following the unexplained death near Rose Street on 22 October, and for the roads media release issued on 21 October.

Total Mobility Scheme (TM)

Total mobility Trips and client travel for September 2025:

- Whangarei – 1,684 clients undertaking 4,588 trips
- Far North – 449 clients undertaking 364 trips

Total mobility Trips and client travel for October 2025:

- Whangarei – 1,696 clients undertaking 4,655 trips
- Far North – 473 clients undertaking 378 trips

A regional meeting was held in Whangarei with all Total Mobility assessing agencies and transport operators. The hui provided an opportunity to discuss current challenges and allowed NRC to update the group on national initiatives including the pending Ministry of Transport (MoT) review, which staff are still awaiting further details on.

Age Concern Kaitiaia officially joined the TM scheme on Monday, 29th September 2025. They are now responsible for conducting all assessments across the Mid North and Far North region. Having a local agency carry out these assessments brings valuable on-the-ground knowledge and expertise, helping better reach the most vulnerable residents who rely on this service in this region.

Seniors & Disability Expo – Kaitiaia, Wednesday 1 October

Hosted by Age Concern Kaitiaia and supported by Tiaho Trust, the event brought together local support services for seniors and people with disabilities. NRC staff attended and shared updates on Total Mobility (Driving Miss Daisy) and the Far North Link service (CBEC), in collaboration with Civil Defence.



4.106.0 A SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMY

Regional economic development

- Joint Regional Economic Development Committee (JREDC) – last meeting of the JREDC for triennium held 26 September; letter of expectations sent on behalf of shareholder councils to Northland Inc for their Statement of Intent 2026/27; letter sent to Whangarei District Council acknowledging their decision to be shareholder of Northland Inc and Investment and Growth Reserve (IGR) funding commitment for 2026/27 and encouraging a full commitment as part of LTP 2024-2034 decision making process; organising induction process for new triennium JREDC.
- Benefits paper – commence work with district councils and Northland Inc staff on a briefing paper setting out the benefits of working together on regional economic development including joint shareholding of Northland Inc and IGR funding.
- Meet with Sapere staff who are preparing a report on the role of regional councils in economic development for LGNZ.

Economic development funding

- Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust – briefing note for Chair and CEO attending the opening of Te Waihekeora Reservoir, discussions with Trust regarding financial reporting and actions to support private sector uptake of shares in the Kaipara Water Company.

- Kauri Museum – email to Trust communicating council response to their request for assistance.
- Kingfish – initial meeting with NIWA to discuss plan to expand production facility. Current facility expected to be operating at its 600 tonne/pa capacity by mid-2026. Issues to consider in terms of expansion include ownership structure and protection of IP.

Economic Information

- Northland Economic Quarterly e-newsletter – latest issue distributed on 9 October examining trends in prices and incomes, tourism spending, child poverty and potential investments in the Marsden Point/Bream Bay area: <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/online-services/enewsletters/>.
- Data to support review of Regional Public Transport Plan and induction information for new council.

4.107.0 MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH TĀNGATA WHENUA

Incoming councillors' pōwhiri and inaugural council meeting

Councillors were formally welcomed through pōwhiri at Te Puna o te Mātauranga marae on 29 October 2025. This continuing tradition provides a meaningful foundation for each triennium, affirming the importance of tikanga and partnership with tangata whenua.



Councillors' pōwhiri at Te Puna o te Mātauranga marae on 29 October 2025.

Ngā Reo o Te Ruarangi – Voices of Te Ruarangi video series – Stories of partnership in action

This new series captures the voices and valuable whakaaro from several of our Te Ruarangi hapū and iwi representatives, such as our new Te Raki councillor and Chair, Pita Tipene. These short videos reflect on the partnership journey for Kāwanatanga and Rangatiratanga working together to restore te taiao and uplift our communities. Each story embodies our shared vision: that strong, enduring partnerships can lead to tangible outcomes for present and future generations. View the video series: www.nrc.govt.nz/taiki-e

Ngā karere o Te Raki e-pānui

The Community Engagement Team developed [Ngā karere o Te Raki](#) - an e-pānui on behalf of Te Ruarangi, reaching 543 subscribers. It featured articles on the Te Tapui Marae hui, climate action and local elections, achieving a 42.8% open rate.

Enviroschools Encounters – He Tirohanga Māori (A Māori lens)

The Education and Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagements teams collaborated to deliver He Tirohanga Māori, a series of marae-based environmental education encounters. In October, 177 ākonga, kaiako, and whānau from 13 schools attended events at Te Houhanga a Rongo Marae (Dargaville) and Pehiāweri Marae (Whangārei), with a third planned for Waimanoni Marae in November. Grounded in the Enviroschools kaupapa, the encounters explored tuna kaitiakitanga, mahi toi (Māori arts), Māori games, and Rongoā Māori (Natural Māori medicines) through hands-on learning and community-led facilitation. Pictures of students, teachers and whanau enjoying He Tirohanga Māori at Te Houhanga a Rongo Marae (Dargaville)



Te Waiaraki, Ngāti Kororā, Ngāti Takapakari – Cultural Induction

A number of NRC managers and staff were invited to participate in a cultural induction led out by collective Hapū Te Waiariki, Ngāti Kororā and Ngāti Takapakari. The hui took place at Paratene Te Manu Marae, Ngunguru. The day consisted of a presentation from mana whenua highlighting their whakapapa trust, governance and operation structure and high priorities for the group. The second part of day allowed time for NRC staff to work within their respected teams across the organisation and to do a presentation that explains the different workstreams and functions for each group. The opportunity to hear from fellow staff members and the scope each team covered was really insightful for ourselves and manawhenua. Overall this was a successful engagement in continuation of building strong relationships.



Staff presenting on NRC workstreams and functions at the hui held at Paratene Te Manu Marae, Ngunguru.

Water Quality Field Operations

The Water Quality Field Operations team recently hosted a Freshwater Wānanga in Mangōnui with kaitiaki from several Far North hapū and iwi, alongside DOC and Wai Connections staff. It covered

SHMAK water quality parameters, eDNA sampling, and whanaungatanga. This was the first of three targeted wānanga, with the next planned for Whangārei and Kaikohe.

4.108.0 CARBON NEUTRAL, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Climate Change & Natural hazards

Adaptation Futures Conference

Staff attended an international conference in Ōtautahi Christchurch and were reassured that NRC's Climate and Natural Hazards programme aligns with global best practice. A key highlight was Dr Maria Barnes' presentation on kai resilience initiatives in the Hokianga, supported through NRC's Climate Resilient Communities funding.






Natural Hazards on Land Information Management Reports

On 17 October, an amendment to the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act (LGOIMA) made it mandatory for Regional Councils to share all known natural hazard information with district councils. This information must then be included in Land Information Memorandum (LIM) reports.

In September and October, natural hazard staff focused on ensuring NRC's compliance with new legislative requirements by collating all hazard data and coordinating with district councils to include this information in LIM reports. These reports now provide property buyers with clearer details on hazards such as river flooding, coastal erosion, and coastal flooding, along with climate change impacts incorporated into NRC's modelling. A hui on 30 October reviewed the first 10 working days of implementation, noting initial challenges were resolved, and ongoing monitoring will assess any additional workload from LIM-related queries. The Community Engagement Team supported the rollout with consistent communications across councils.

Release of National Flood Map – the stats and the shortfalls

Earth Sciences New Zealand has released the first national flood hazard model for Aotearoa along with a [Public Flood hazard Viewer](#) which reveals some interesting stats for Te Taitokerau:

Exposed to flooding	Current climate	+1°C warming	+2°C warming	+3°C warming
 Population	24,500	25,800	27,100	28,700
 Buildings (value)	\$8.7 billion	\$9.2 billion	\$9.9 billion	\$10.5 billion
 Roads	1,800 kms	1,890 kms	1,980 kms	2,070 kms
 Electricity sites (national grid, e.g. substations)	33%	33%	33%	33%
 Stormwater pipelines	604 kms	622 kms	639 kms	655 kms

The table shows modelled exposure to flooding due to 1% AEP rainfall across the Northland Region

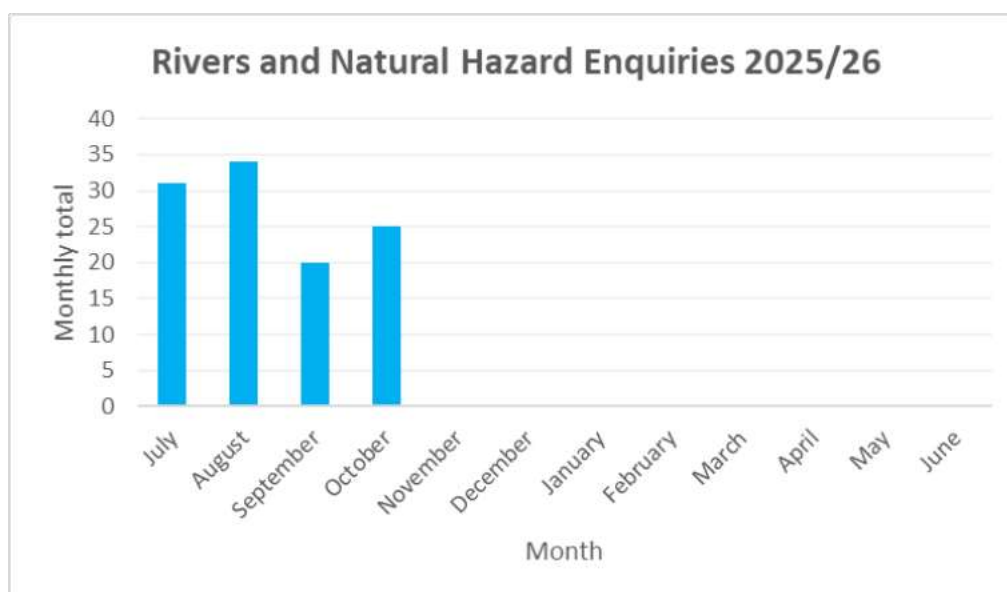
The flood hazard viewer provides data on inland pluvial and fluvial flood extents, incorporating tide levels at river mouths and key stop-bank defences, but excludes coastal storm-surge and sea-level rise assessments, which are still in development. While this nationwide data is critical for prioritising climate adaptation investments, it lacks analysis of community vulnerability and adaptive capacity—factors such as social cohesion, infrastructure resilience, cascading failure risks, and functional redundancy. These dimensions are essential for evidence-based planning, as communities with similar hazard exposure can face vastly different risk profiles depending on their ability to respond and recover.

Whangarei Urban Flood strategy

Work is progressing on the flood strategy; the consultants have completed an asset data survey to include in the updates to the hydraulic model that were identified as being required. The Technical Advisory Group meet in late October to discuss the criteria to evaluate proposed solutions, using the principles provided by the councillors of both NRC and WDC.

Natural Hazard Enquiries

In September, the Rivers and Natural Hazards Team received 20 enquiries, most of which related to flood depth information. In October, the team received 25 queries, including our first LIM-related query following the changes to natural hazard information on LIMs.



Local Government Climate Scenarios

This project set out to explore how climate change may affect councils' ability to deliver services by 2035, 2050, and 2100 under a range of unknown but plausible futures. The scenarios cover both physical climate risks, as well as transition risks around us moving to a low-emissions society and economy. This mahi was supported by the Local Government Funding Agency, which sought to better understand the sector-wide risks faced by the councils they fund. A working group of representatives from eight councils across Aotearoa collaborated to develop these scenarios.

The next step for Northland Regional Council is to adapt these scenarios to our local context—examining how climate change could impact our ability to deliver core services.

<https://www.lgfa.co.nz/sustainability/sustainability-lgfa/local-government-sector-scenarios>

Climate action week promotion

Community Engagement staff supported promotional efforts for Climate Action Week (20–24 October), both internally and externally. External activity focused on social media, highlighting NRC's climate action initiatives and sharing four videos on nature-based resilience, air quality monitoring, and waste reduction. Internal efforts encouraged staff to reduce work-related emissions and embrace climate-conscious practices in their roles.

Climate Fresk First Session as Newly Trained Facilitators

On Tuesday 23 September, our Climate Action and Natural Hazards teams, alongside Far North District Council, facilitated our first Climate Fresk workshop as newly trained facilitators. The session brought together staff from FNDC and NRC that have association with the climate programme. Participants engaged in unpacking the IPCC science behind climate change with staff noting that the workshop helped them see their work in a broader systems context and sparked ideas for cross-sector collaboration.

Rivers – Community Resilience - Kaeo Stage 2 Flood Infrastructure Project

The tender evaluation for Kaeo Stage 2 is complete, with five competitive bids. Following tender evaluation, staff will award the contract in the following weeks after necessary internal sign offs with cultural induction, archaeological induction and pre-start meeting to be held shortly after.

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.

Kawakawa Deflection Bank

Further benching work on the right hand bank opposite the deflection bank will commence on the 17th November, construction will take approximately 3 weeks (weather dependant).
A culvert extension will be added to the existing culvert and infilled 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

The construction tender will go live on GETS in the next week for two weeks. With the tender evaluation and award following, staff expect this work schedule to be completed with two months (weather dependant).

Civil Defence Emergency Management – Community Resilience

Operational Overview

In October, the Northland CDEM Group strengthened strategic engagement with stakeholders and communities, initiating formal collaboration with Fire and Emergency New Zealand in preparation for co-location within the future multi-agency coordination centre due in 2027. The Group contributed to elected member induction briefings and participated in regional and national forums to align with emergency management reforms. Operational planning began for decommissioning the legacy tsunami siren network, while updated evacuation signage rollout continues to enhance public safety. Community resilience initiatives, including Marae Preparedness workshops, CRG hui, and inter-agency collaboration, remain a key focus to build regional readiness and response capability.

Severe Weather Event Southland

On 24 October 2025, states of emergency were declared across the Southland region and the Clutha District in response to severe weather impacts. In support of the national response, 6 Northland local CDEM personnel were deployed to Southland, providing critical operational support and relief to the local emergency management teams operating under sustained pressure.
The deployment lasted 6 days and offered valuable operational experience for Northland staff, while their contribution was acknowledged and appreciated by the Southland CDEM Group.

Capability Development

To support ongoing capability and capacity building, team members have participated in a range of professional development programmes, including the National Lifelines Forum, C10 Controller Training, and the NEMA Emergency Management Orientation. These initiatives are aligned with national and regional priorities and place a strong emphasis on leadership development and operational excellence.

Section 17A Review

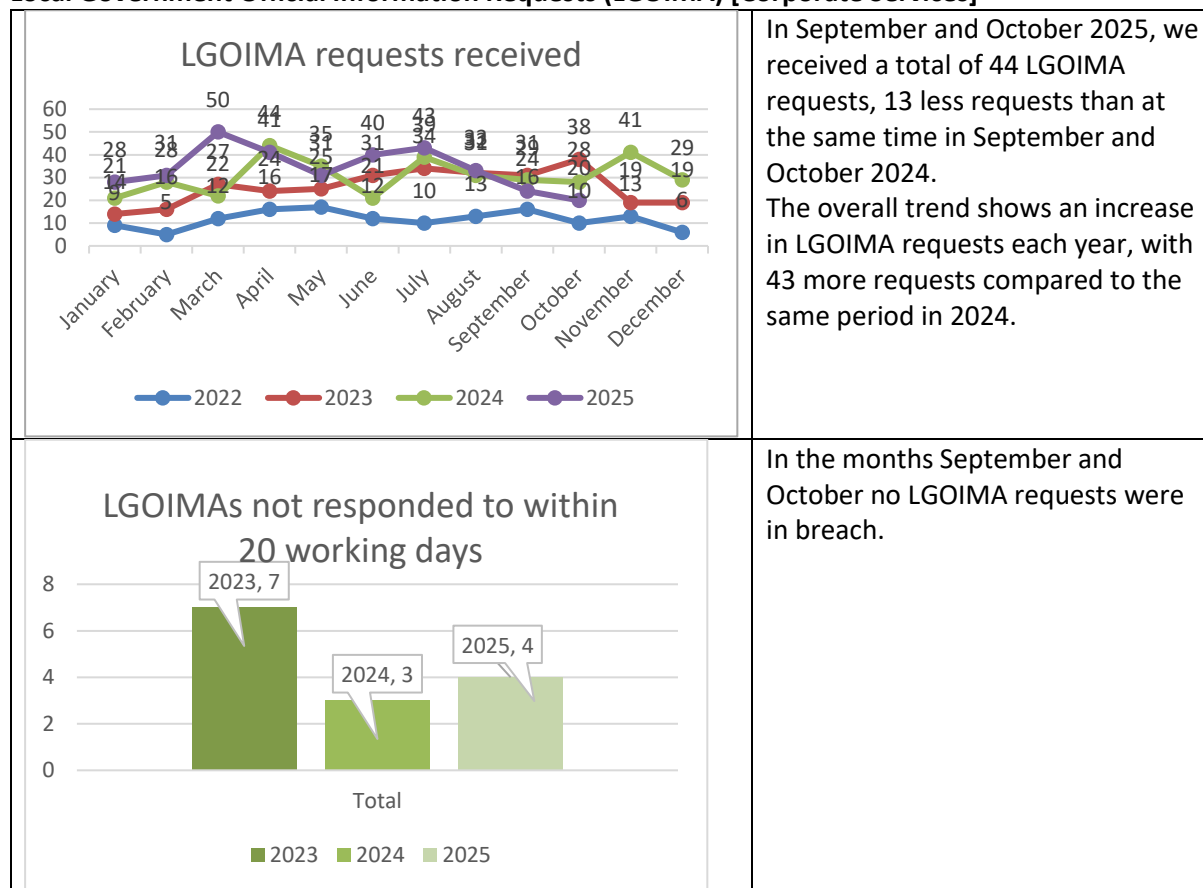
Finding of as recent Section 17A Capability Assessment Review have been shared with the Coordinating Executive Group (CEG). Key recommendations from the review will be presented at the upcoming CDEM Group Joint Committee meeting for consideration and strategic direction.

4.109.0 EFFICIENT, PROGRESSIVE AND TRANSPARENT COUNCIL SYSTEMS

Fraud, Corruption and Dishonesty Statement [Corporate Services]

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

Local Government Official Information Requests (LGOIMA) [Corporate Services]



Digital engagement

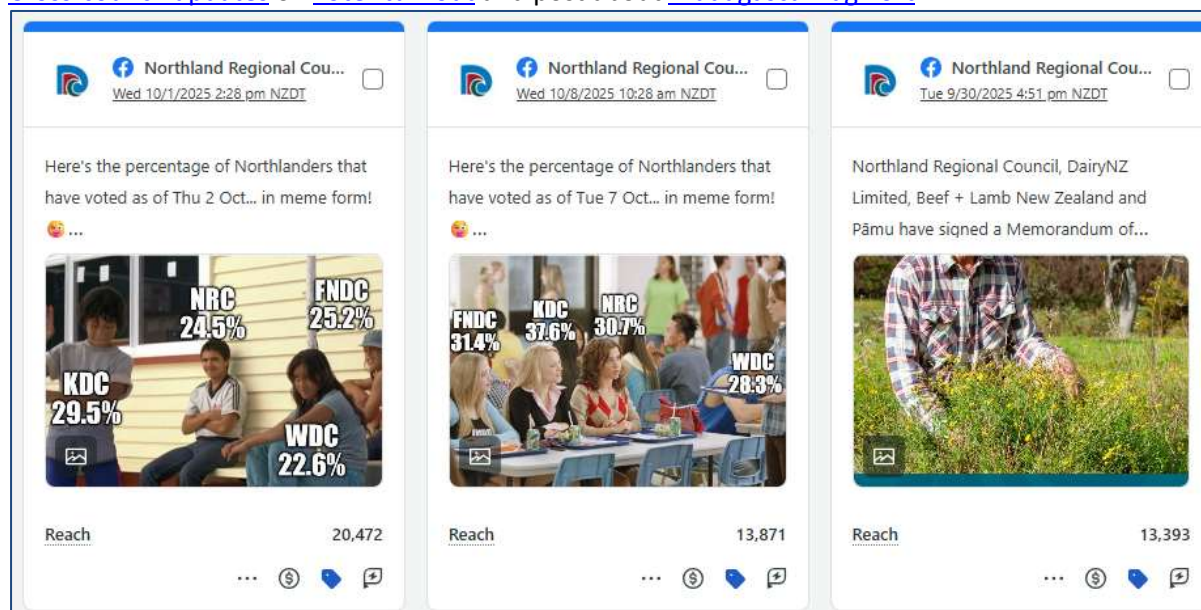
Overall performance across social media platforms:

Profile	Audience	Net audience growth	Published posts	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate (per impression)	Video views
Reporting period 1 – 30 October	23,160 ↑0.8%	177 ↓14.5%	60 ↓29.4%	254,580 ↑3.9%	16,813 ↑19.0%	6.6% ↑14.7%	60,757% ↓26.7%
Compare to 1 – 31 September	22,984	207	85	244,965	14,133	5.7%	82,836
Facebook	15,728	27	23	177,903	14,685	8.3%	23,955
LinkedIn	3,997	91	8	15,520	747	4.8%	0

Profile	Audience	Net audience growth	Published posts	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate (per impression)	Video views
Instagram	606	1	6	N/A	78	N/A	4,081
YouTube	2,829	58	23	61,157	1,303	2.1%	32,721

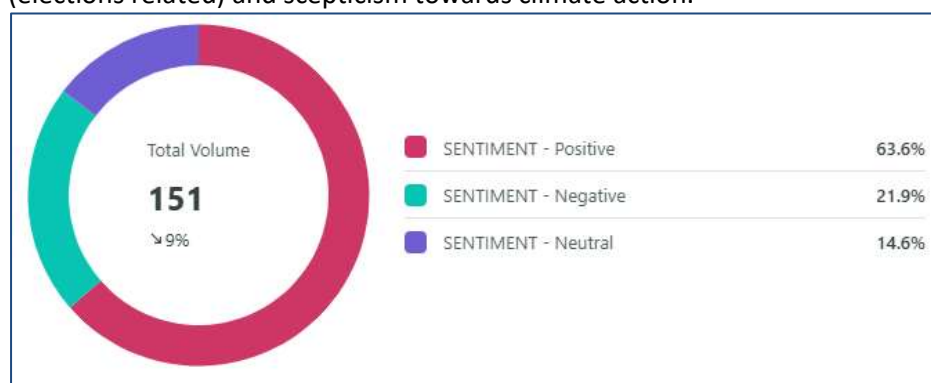
Top three posts reaching the most people (Sept – Oct):

[Cross-council updates](#) on [voter turnout](#) and post about [Madagascar ragwort](#).



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

Sentiment: Positive sentiment related to strong support and appreciation of council projects and support for tikanga Māori. Negative sentiment centred around council spending, representation (elections related) and scepticism towards climate action.



Top website pages

Page	Views
Election results	14,497
News - \$187M govt investment in Northland road corridor welcomed	11,718
Pest Control Hub	5,651
Environmental Data Hub	3,061
Elections 2025	1,961

Key Performance Indicators	Jun-25	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25
WEB					
# Visits to the NRC website	34,494	79,477	40,440	58,790	84,925
E-payments made	14	56	44	40	25
# subscribed web alerts (cumulative)	1,722	1,730	1,741	1,749	1,757
# subscribed to eNewsletters (cumulative)	5,588	5,571	5,577	5,568	5,576
CDEM SOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)					
# CDEM Facebook followers	38,823	39,665	39,647	39,775	40,025
# CDEM Overall Facebook Reach (30D)	78,620	497,513	54,889	195,981	181,273

E-newsletters

The autumn edition of our primary e-newsletter, [Our Northland](#) was sent to 2,477 subscribers. It featured updates local elections, deer and flood resilience and achieved a 28.5% open rate. [Taumata Taiohi – Platform of the youth](#) is a termly education e-pānui reaching 309 subscribers. The latest issue featured youth involved in the Waiarohia Stream restoration project, climate action and Kaipara Moana, and achieved a 36.8% open rate. Other e-newsletters issued in this period are covered under the related community outcome.

Environmental Leaders Fund

Twenty-two Northland schools and early childhood centres have received a share of the \$42,000 of Environmental Leaders Funding for 2025. The fund aims to support schools and early childhood centres (ECC) with projects that increase their students' knowledge and passion for the environment. This year's projects range from a food forest to water conversation efforts. More information about the winners is available here: <https://www.nrc.govt.nz/news/2025/october/environmental-leaders-fund-grants-allocated/>

Facilitating Enviroschools communities

Throughout September and October, Enviroschools Facilitators visited or held specific online interactions with nearly 140 enviroschools. Learning and action topic examples included wetland restoration, native nurseries, pest plants, water quality testing, waste management and dune care.

Media liaison

Fifteen Northland Regional Council media releases were created and distributed throughout Te Taitokerau and beyond during September and October:

- [Hull checks to resume soon](#)
- [Environmental Leaders Fund grants allocated](#)
- [\\$187M govt investment in Northland road corridor welcomed](#)
- [\\$1.5M Awanui-Lower Whangatane Spillway funding welcomed](#)
- [Official Northland Regional Council election results released](#)
- [Kaeo dig day ahead of river realignment](#)
- [Four new councillors for Northland Regional Council](#)
- [Oxygen weed officially eradicated from Lake Ngatu](#)
- [Report highlights strong progress for communities, environment](#)
- [Consents for three experimental 'ocean gardens' granted](#)
- [Madagascar ragwort MOU signed](#)
- [Missing voting papers? Request Special Vote](#)
- [\\$600k Climate Resilient Communities Fund allocated](#)

- [Voting papers on way](#)
- [Northland tsunami siren testing set for start of daylight saving](#)

Five media brief items were also shared: *Don't forget to vote*; *Kerikeri garden safari*; *World car-free day*; *Tsunami siren testing*; and *Great matuku muster*.

NRC featured in *Huaki* in October with a story on Kaipara ākonga connecting with mātauranga Māori and te taiao; and in September with a story encouraging people to vote in the elections. Media coverage generated 178 mentions of NRC during September and October, with most assessed as mixed or neutral (source: Truescope).

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil