

AGENDA

RĀRANGI TAKE

Huihuinga O Te Kāhui Māori O

Taitokerau

Te Ruarangi

Thursday 19 February 2026 at 11.00am

Rārangi Take O Te Kāhui Māori O Taitokerau (Te Ruarangi Agenda)

Meeting to be held in the Council Chamber
36 Water Street, Whangārei and via audio visual link
On Thursday 19 February 2026, commencing at 11.00am - 2.00pm

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

NGĀ MANA WHAKAHAERE (MEMBERSHIP OF TE RUARANGI)

Heamana Tokorua (Co-Chairs):

Arama Morunga, Councillor and Nyze Manuel, Te Rūnanga O Whaingaroa

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

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 = whanau, 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

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TITLE: **Record of Actions – 10 December 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 13 February 2026

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Record of Actions of the last meeting (attached) held on 10 December 2025 for review by the meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed Record of Actions - 10 December 2025 [↓](#) 

Te Ruarangi
11 December 2025

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

Meeting held at Whangārei Terenga Paraoa Marae
on Thursday 11 December 2025, commencing at 9.00am

Tuhinga (Present):

Councillor Amy Macdonald
Councillor Arama Morunga (Te Ruarangi Co-Chair)
Councillor Colin Kitchen
Councillor Geoff Crawford
Councillor Jack Craw
Councillor Joe Carr
Councillor John Blackwell
Councillor John Hunt
Councillor Pita Tipene (NRC Chair)
Kahukuraariki Trust Board, Geraldine Baker
Ngāti Hau, Mike Kake
Ngāti Hine, Jaycee Tipene-Thomas
Ngāti Tara, Mahue Greaves
Ngātiwai Trust Board, Simon Mitchell
Patuharakeke Iwi Trust Board Juliane Chetham
Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust, Mira Norris
Te Roroa, Delilah Te Aōrere Parore-Southon
Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Niki Conrad
Te Rūnanga O Ngāti Rehia, Kipa Munro
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua, Ihapera Paniora
Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Abe Witana
Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, Nyze Manuel, (Te Ruarangi Co-Chair)
Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi, Janelle Beazley
Te Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari, Arvay Armstrong-Read
Te Whakapiko Hapū, Rowan Tautari

I Tae Mai (In Attendance):

Huihuinga i te katoa (Full Meeting)

Digital Experience Support
PA/Team Admin, Strategic Partnerships and Engagement
Pou Manawhakahaere – Strategic Partnerships and Engagement
Pou Tiaki Taiao – GM Environmental Services
Tāhūhū Rangapū – Chief Executive Officer
Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement Manager
Te Tiriti Partnerships and Engagement Team
Sheila Taylor, Te Huia Consulting

Huihuinga i te wahanga (Part Meeting)

Communications Specialist
Deputy GM, Corporate Services
Governance and Corporate Policy Manager
Monitoring Manager

Te Ruarangi
11 December 2025

People and Culture Manager
Pou Tiaki Hapori – GM Community Resilience
Pou Whakaritenga – GM Regulatory Services

The inaugural meeting commenced with a pōwhiri at 9:00am, acknowledging the mana of all Te Ruarangi members and affirming the partnership between council, iwi, and hapū. As part of whakawhanaungatanga, the new incoming councillors were introduced, along with Jaycee Tipene-Thomas as the new representative for Ngāti Hine. Apologies were noted from Hon Kelvin Davis, the new representative for Ngāti Manu. The formal meeting began at 11.30am after initial respective caucus sessions for iwi/hapū and councillors.

Karakia / Whakataua

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Ngāti Kuta, Michelle Elboz
Ngāti Manu, Hon Kelvin Davis
Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust, Georgina Connelly
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.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.1)

The Action Sheet was presented by the Chief Executive Officer on behalf of the Co-Chair, who was newly appointed and not present at the previous meeting. The Action Sheet was received.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Record of Actions – 14 August 2025 (Item 4.2)

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

Agreed action points: Nil.

Appointment of Iwi and Hapū Co-Chair (Item 4.3)

Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū members nominated Nyze Manuel, Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa, who accepted the nomination, for appointment as the iwi and hapū Co-Chair. Consideration of the alternate iwi and hapū Co-Chair was deferred to the 11 February Te Ruarangi meeting.

Agreed action points:

- That the appointment of Nyze Manuel (Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa) as Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū Co-Chair be recommended to the 17 December 2025 council meeting for endorsement (as required by Clause 9 of the Te Ruarangi terms of reference).
- That nomination of the alternate iwi and hapū Co-Chair be deferred to the 11 February Te Ruarangi meeting.

Te Ruarangi
11 December 2025

Secretarial Note: At the 17 December 2025 council meeting, Nyze Manuel was appointed Te Ruarangi Co-Chair.

Te Ruarangi nominations to other working groups, working parties and committees (Item 4.4)

This paper sought nominations (under the governance structure confirmed by council on 25 November 2025) for the appointment of Te Ruarangi iwi and hapū representatives to the Natural Resources Working Party, Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party, and the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.

Agreed action points:

- That the appointment of the following iwi and hapū members to other committees and working parties be recommended to the 17 December 2025 council meeting for endorsement:
 - a. That Juliane Chetham (Patuharakeke Te iwi Trust Board) be appointed as the Te Ruarangi representative to the Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee.
 - b. That Janelle Beazley (Te Rūnanga Ā Iwi o Ngāpuhi), Abe Witana (Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa), Ihapera Paniora (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua) and Mahue Greaves (Ngāti Tara) be appointed as the Te Ruarangi representatives to the Natural Resources Working Party.
 - c. That Jaycee Tipene-Thomas (Ngāti Hine), Kipa Munro (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rehia), Mira Norris (Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust), Niki Conrad (Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri) be appointed as the Te Ruarangi representatives to the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party.

Secretarial Note: These appointments were confirmed at the 17 December 2025 council meeting.

2026 Meeting Schedule (Item 4.5)

This paper sought confirmation of Te Ruarangi meeting and workshop dates for February, March, and April 2026. Scheduling of meetings for the remainder of 2026 will occur following completion of the Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference review, which includes consideration of meeting frequency. It was also proposed that the first marae-based hui be deferred to after the May meeting due to hapū commitments and preparations for Waitangi in early 2026.

Agreed action points:

- That meetings and workshops continue to be held on the second Thursday of each month and avoid any scheduling conflicts with Waitangi Day commemorations.
- That the next meetings be scheduled for Thursdays 12 February, 12 March and 9 April 2026.
- That the meeting on Thursday 12 February be a formal meeting.
- That the holding of marae-based hui be deferred until after the May Te Ruarangi meeting.

Process for review of Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference (Item 4.6)

This paper sought the establishment of a collaborative group to review Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference (ToR) with a focus on iwi and hapū membership and meeting frequency. The 2025 ToR review deferred consideration of these matters, leaving them for the incoming council.

Te Ruarangi
11 December 2025

Agreed action points:

- That the following members form the Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference Review Working Group and review the ToR, focusing on ensuring membership reflects the aspirations and needs of iwi and hapū, and on confirming the meeting schedule:
 - Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs, Cr Arama Morunga and Nyze Manuel, and
 - Iwi/hapū representatives: Ihapera Paniora (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua) and Kipa Munro (Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rehia), and
 - Council representatives: Chair Pita Tipene and Cr Amy Macdonald.

Secretarial Note: These appointments were confirmed at the 17 December 2025 council meeting.

Simplifying Local Government Proposal (Item 4.7)

This paper sought confirmation of four iwi and hapū representatives from Te Ruarangi to participate in upcoming council workshops on the proposed local government reform. The workshops are to help shape council's high-level feedback to government, which is to be submitted by 20 February 2026. Key discussion points included:

- Clarification on whether council will also consult individually with iwi and hapū in addition to the workshop process.
- Staff advised that joint advocacy through Te Ruarangi is intended to streamline engagement, noting also the limited timeframes and the need to submit feedback before the next full council meeting in February.
- Members discussed capacity constraints for some iwi and hapū to participate, and the ability for those with Mana Whakahono ā Rohe to engage.
- It was confirmed that kōrero shared at Te Ruarangi would continue to be fed back by representatives to their hapū and iwi.
- An amendment was supported to include the same nominees participating in council workshops on RM reform as well as local government reform.
- The submission timeline and process for RM reforms won't be known until it goes to Select Committee.

Agreed action points:

- That Geraldine Baker (Kahukuraariki Trust Board), Mira Norris (Te Parawhau Hapū Authority Charitable Trust), Abe Witana (Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa) and Rowan Tautari (Te Whakapiko Hapū) be appointed to attend future council workshops related to feedback to the government on local government reform and resource management reform.

Secretarial Note: These appointments were confirmed at the 17 December 2025 council meeting.

Legislation and policy update (Item 4.8)

This paper was taken as read. It provided an overview of significant legislative and policy reforms being progressed by central government over the next 2–4 years. Key areas of change outlined included local government restructuring, the resource management system overhaul, climate adaptation requirements, fast-track approvals, regulatory standards, wastewater performance standards, proposed rates capping, amendments to the Marine and Coastal Area Act, and new development levy and infrastructure funding mechanisms.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Te Ruarangi
11 December 2025

Tāiki ē Annual Highlights Report (Item 4.9)

The Tāiki ē Annual Highlights Report was received and noted. The report provided an overview of progress made by NRC in partnership with Te Ruarangi toward their shared Te Tiriti o Waitangi commitments, which, along with the accompanying video series, had been publicly shared through council channels and the Te Ruarangi pānui list.

NRC Chair, Pita Tipene, outlined the origins of the then Te Taitokerau Māori Advisory Committee, acknowledging early members including Hon Dover Samuels KSO, Nora Rameka, Cr Joe Carr, Cr Monty Knight, and former NRC Chief Executives Bill Shepherd and Malcolm Nicolson.

The significance of councillors attending the Te Ruarangi pōwhiri was also noted, reflecting the partnership aspirations being advanced.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 4.10)

Tis paper was taken as read. Key discussion points included:

- Highlighting of key biosecurity work, including the successful pest-fish eradication at Lake Rototuna, a one-off “capital gain” operation dependent on hapū partnership, ongoing sika deer eradication in Russell Forest and continued efforts to manage the spread of gold clam.
- Staff support regarding wash-station implementation and securing an allocation for Kaipara from the Māori Climate Platform Fund was also acknowledged.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 12.30pm with karakia by Mike Kake.

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 13 February 2026

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 28 January 2026

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
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	Completed. Process for review approved at the 11 December 2025 Te Ruarangi meeting. Action retitled Te Ruarangi Strategic Review (formerly TTMAC). Review members appointed: Kipa Munro, Ihapera Paniora, Co Chairs Cr Arama Morunga and Nyze Manuel, Cr Amy Macdonald, and Chair Pita Tipene.		✓			
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. See proposed scope and programme for Wānanga Waiora, including economic development kaupapa, in this 12 Feb 2026 agenda.					✓
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.	✓	✓	✓		
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 draft scope and proposed programme for Wānanga Waiora 2026 is included in this 12 Feb 2026 agenda.		✓	✓		
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 this 12 Feb 2026 agenda regarding local government and resource management reforms.		✓	✓		
11/12/2025	Te Ruarangi Strategic Review Review process approved at the 11 December 2025 Te Ruarangi meeting. Action retitled Te Ruarangi Strategic Review (formerly TTMAC). Review members appointed: Kipa Munro, Ihapera Paniora, Co Chairs Cr Arama Morunga and Nyze Manuel, Cr Amy	N/A	In progress. Meetings to be held in February and March to progress the kaupapa.		✓			

TITLE: **Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions**

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, on 13 February 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide a regular progress update on the 31 actions within *Tāiki ē – NRC Te Tiriti Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan*. This update supports council’s commitment to transparency and accountability by outlining progress against key priorities and identifying what is being achieved across the programme.

A brief presentation on Action 28 will be provided in regards to the marae response during the recent flood events.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions’ by Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 13 February 2026, be received.
-

Tuhinga/Background

Tāiki ē sets out 31 actions with associated timeframes. Each action has been prioritised according to its expected contribution to delivering Te Kaupapa – the Mission.

Priority 1 – Actions with the potential to deliver significant impact and therefore requiring primary focus and resourcing. These actions are either:

- **Underway** – implementation has commenced and further work is required; or
- **Commenced within 12 months** – action initiation occurred within 12 months of the Plan’s adoption (by 26 July 2023), with a committed completion date.

Priority 2 – Actions expected to generate a moderate level of impact, to be progressed once Priority 1 actions are firmly underway. They are to be completed within three years of the Plan’s adoption, by 30 June 2025.

Priority 3 – Actions with comparatively lower impact, to be advanced after Priority 1 and 2 actions have commenced. To be completed in 3–10+ years as longer-term initiatives extending beyond year three.

Each action (1–31) identifies whether budget has been allocated or is required. This information will support NRC in determining funding needs through the Annual Plan or Long-Term Plan processes. Where actions remain unbudgeted and funding is not secured, further discussion with Te Ruarangi will be required to confirm next steps.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Tāiki ē Priorities Report [↓](#) 

KEY					
On track / Proceeding smoothly: All tasks and milestones are being completed on time and within scope. No significant issues or delays.					
Needs attention: Progress has been made but there are some issues that are being addressed to avoid delays. E.g. minor delays due to resource constraints, some tasks are taking longer than expected.					
Critical Issues: Significant problems are hindering progress and action is needed to get back on track. E.g. major technical issues, budget overruns impacting the timeline.					
Pending start / Upcoming tasks: tasks that are scheduled to start in the future and have not yet begun.					
Actions	Work item	Priority	Progress	Notes	Budget
Action 01	Te Tiriti Health Check	Priority 1	On track	Bi annual report completed. Action plan in progress.	\$100,000 allocated as part of overall budget for implementation.
Action 02	Continue developing Tāiki ē	Priority 1	On track	Taiki e review will be completed as part of the Long Term Plan. Ensure we complete actions and ensure we identify any new actions that are a priority for resource allocation.	
Action 03	Allocation of funding for IHEMPs	Priority 2	On track	Applications received and allocated for the 2025/26 year. Contracts being prepared.	\$30,000
Action 04	Manawhakahono a Rohe agreements	Priority 1	On track	Four Mana Whakahono a Rohe signed: Ngāti Rehia, Patuharakeke, Te Parawhau, and iwi o Ngāti Hine. NgatiKuta & Patukeha have initiated an intent for an MWaRohe.	\$30,000 per annum
Action 05	Māori RMA Hearing Commissioners	Priority 2	On track	RMA Commissioner Training held in 2025 in partnership with FNDC - funding co-jointly and promoting with iwi and hapu.	\$25,000 per annum RMA noho
Action 06	Targeted educational noho on Resource Management processes	Priority 2	On track	Led through Te Ruarangi representatives, the annual Wānanga Waiora provides a forum for kaitiaki to share mātauranga (knowledge). Planning has begun for 2026 with the wananga being extended to include economic development, Hapori Maori Resilience Action Plan over 2 days.	\$25,000 per annum RMA noho
Action 07	Develop a culturally appropriate environmental monitoring programme	Priority 1	On track	Work on an independent review of current monitoring approaches has been initiated to address iwi and hapū concerns. Work examples include working with Ngāti Kuri to support monitoring programmes, and engaging Ngā Kaitiaki Ngā Waimāori to undertake fish passage monitoring. A Kaitiaki network has been identified and established through Wānanga Waiora.	Budgeted: \$250,000 22/23 ongoing (specific purpose and allocation yet to be confirmed)
Action 08	Hapū freshwater monitoring	Priority 1	On track	Fund of Tangata Whenua Environmental Monitoring for iwi and hapu has been promoted for 2025/2026 with date closing Feb 28, 2026. https://www.nrc.govt.nz/your-council/tangatawhenua/putea-me-nga-rauemi-funding-training-and-resources	\$120,000 per annum
Action 09	Regulatory services delivery	Priority 1	On track	Project Manager Cathy Orevich- Regulatory Services has reported progress to date and working with MTAG. Presentation for Te Ruarangi at April meeting.	\$30,000 committed to fund the review.
Action 10	Support education providers	Priority 3	On track	Making Good Decisions RMA 101 course completed by 30 whanau, iwi and hapū. Webinar support provided for the NZ Planning Institute for Mana Whakahono a Rohe.	Within existing resources.
Action 11	Tangata whenua resourced to participate in governance decision making	Priority 1	On track	Independent tangata whenua advisors. 50/50 representation on governance working parties. Iwi and hapū representatives resourced to participate in LTP council workshops and joint submissions.	Within existing resources.
Action 12	External funding for iwi/hapū	Priority 2	On track	Staff are assisting iwi and hapū to apply for funding - Access 2 Experts (Beca), Community Resilience (MSD), Te Puni Kōkiri, Foundation North (Ngā Puāwai o Te Oneroa a Tohe).	Within existing resources
Action 13	Joint advocacy	Priority 1	On track	A process is being developed in response to successive legislative reforms and initiatives, ensuring we align closely with iwi and hapū priorities. E.g. Treaty Principles Bill, Fast Track Approvals Act 2024, Regulatory Standards Bill, Waipiro Bay Marina Development.	Within existing resources.
Action 14	Streamline councils' collaboration	Priority 3	On track	External funding sources have been identified by working in collaboration with the Far North District Council. Climate Resilience Wānanga held in May 2025 with Te Taitokerau councils with senior Māori Relationships officers. NRC and FNDC continue to collaborate to support Te Oneroa a Tohe Board and the implementation of the 90 Mile Beach Management Plan. Strategic priorities have been established for the ILGACE partnership.	Within existing resources.
Action 15	Tangata whenua governance opportunities	Priority 1	On track	Have identified through Te Ruarangi representatives to attend important council workshops including Annual Plan and LTP discussions	Within existing resources.
Action 16	Deliver specific projects within agreed priority areas of interest	Priority 2	On track	We are working in series of collaborative projects with iwi and hapū, including initiatives such as rāhui moana, Caulerpa management, marae preparedness, and flood mitigation. These projects are reported through their respective operational teams	Within existing resources.
Action 17	Cultural competency framework	Priority 2	On track	Managers wānanga was held in May 2025 at Ngaio tonga marae in our commitment to building cultural competency of Te Tiriti o Waitangi frameworks with ongoing training and wananga being delivered as part of the training programme for staff. 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. All staff undertake an induction that includes basic te reo Māori and tikanga to support their roles.	Within existing resources
Action 18	Scholarship/Intern programme	Priority 2	On track	Interns on board and contribute to work across summer campaigns incl. gold clam response.	Budgeted: 8 scholarships at \$4,000 per annum (4 specifically for Māori)
Action 19	Iwi/hapū engagement policy re LTP, RPS, etc	Priority 2	On track	Significant policy and legislative reforms being workshopped with council and iwi/hapu partners.	
Action 20	Iwi/hapū contacts database	Priority 2	On track	Ongoing a part of Resource Consents Review 12 month plan on Tangata Whenua contact database including GIS and IRIS updates presented March 2025.	Budgeted \$20,000

KEY					
On track / Proceeding smoothly: All tasks and milestones are being completed on time and within scope. No significant issues or delays.					
Needs attention: Progress has been made but there are some issues that are being addressed to avoid delays. E.g. minor delays due to resource constraints, some tasks are taking longer than expected.					
Critical Issues: Significant problems are hindering progress and action is needed to get back on track. E.g. major technical issues, budget overruns impacting the timeline.					
Pending start / Upcoming tasks: tasks that are scheduled to start in the future and have not yet begun.					
Actions	Work item	Priority	Progress	Notes	Budget
Action 21	Transfer of powers	Priority 2	On track	Council position re Transfer of Powers being developed	
Action 22	Māori constituencies	Priority 1	Needs attention	Recent elections Maori seats in NRC poll outcome was that there will no longer be Maori seats for the next triennium.	Budgeted: \$20,000 allocated in governance budget for 22(a)
Action 23	Equitable/safe environment for councillors	Priority 1	On track	Funding of Te Reo Māori interpreter services commencing 25/26 financial year to enable full participation. 89% attended new council attended powhiri with support from Ngatiwai and staff. Currently working on Waitangi Programme & commemorations.	Within existing resources
Action 24	Procurement	Priority 3	Needs attention	Progressive procurement to be explored and benefits for tangata whenua and council under the economic whainga.	Within existing resources
Action 25	Council contracts for iwi and hapū	Priority 3	On track	See also Action 24. Progressive procurement to be explored and benefits for tangata whenua and council under the economic whainga.	Within existing resources.
Action 26	Long Term Plan / Annual Plan	Priority 1	On track	Annual Plan did not go out for consultaion - 0% rate increase.	
Action 27	Freshwater Plan	Priority 1	On track	See Action 7	Within existing resources.
Action 28	Community resilience to climate crisis	Priority 1	On track	Focus on implementation of hapori Māori resilience plan	Budgeted and underway within existing resources. Working in partnership with the climate adaptation team to implement.
Action 29	Sustainable economic development	Priority 2	Needs attention	Scope for the Wananga Waiora to include more indepth programme regarding economic development discussions has been proposed for a two day wananga in April 2026.	Meetings have been held with Northland Inc. Currently there is existing budget in Taiki e to implement this initiative. See paper in the agenda Wananga Waiora 2026.
Action 30	Marine protection and development	Priority 3	Needs attention	Still a priority but currently on hold until we understand the impact of the LG & RMA reforms on the legislative framework for marine protection and our work related to Rahui Moana.	Budgeted: \$50,000 Further budget required to fully implement the action.
Action 31	KPI framework for Ngā Whaingā	Priority 2	Needs attention	KPI framework includes the Tiriti Health Check Recommendations. We are doing a Strategic Review with Te Ruarangi leaders.	Within existing resources

TITLE: **Local Government and Resource Management Reforms**

From: Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor

Authorised by Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 13 February 2026
Group Manager/s:

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The Government has released its *Simplifying Local Government* discussion document proposing major reforms to local government governance. The reforms include disestablishing elected regional councillors (including Māori constituencies) and replacing them with a Combined Territories Board (CTB) made up of district mayors and/or Crown Commissioners. The CTB would assume regional council governance until broader resource management reforms are completed.

Feedback is sought by Friday 20 February 2026, with legislation expected mid-2026 and enactment in 2027.

In parallel, the government has introduced the *Natural Environment Bill* and *Planning Bill* to replace the Resource Management Act. Key features include reduced regional discretion, strengthened ministerial powers, narrower application of Treaty principles, streamlined processes through a new “funnel system”, joint regional spatial planning, and a single integrated digital plan.

Submissions on the Bills close Friday 13 February 2026, with legislation intended to pass in mid-2026.

Geraldine Baker, Abe Witana, Mira Norris and Rowan Tautari, as nominated representatives of Te Ruarangi, have been invited to the council workshops to develop the council submissions.

This report includes a summary of the proposed reforms, a summary of NRC’s draft submissions, key implications for hapū and iwi and recommended next steps.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Local Government and Resource Management Reforms’ by Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager, Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor, Stephanie Versteeg, Kaitohutohu Matua / Principal Advisor and Alison Newell, Policy Specialist dated 21 January 2026, be received.
 2. That staff support the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) to report back at the next Te Ruarangi hui with recommendations on options to:
 - a. Ensure involvement of iwi and hapū as the councils work together to deliver both local government and resource management reform.
 - b. Advance council’s commitment to undertake joint advocacy to central government on new legislation and other initiatives that are of mutual interest to council and iwi and hapū.
-

Background/Tuhinga

Local Government Reform

The Government has released its **Simplifying Local Government** discussion document, outlining significant proposed reforms to local government governance structures. Central to the proposals is the disestablishment of elected regional councillors and the creation of a Combined Territories

Board (CTB) made up of district mayors and/or Crown Commissioners. The CTB would assume governance of regional councils until wider resource management reforms are implemented.

The proposals would mean a significant shift in governance arrangements for regional councils with major implications for the region, including the capacity of the Mayors / CTB to fulfill challenging additional governance roles, reduced democratic representation and accountability, added complexity, and the absence of any reference as to how Te Tiriti partners could or would participate.

The government is seeking feedback by Friday 20 February 2026. Legislative changes are expected to be introduced in mid-2026 and enacted in 2027 (after national elections on 7 November 2026).

Resource Management Reform

The Government also introduced the **Natural Environment Bill** and **Planning Bill** (the Bills) to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA) as the third part to its Resource Management reforms.

The Government intends the Bills to become law in mid-2026. Submissions close on Friday 13 February 2026.

The Bills operate together as a single replacement for the RMA. The Planning Bill (PB) establishes land-use and development planning, while the Natural Environment Bill (NEB) sets environmental limits and effects management. Both share the same Treaty framing, Māori interests goal, and iwi-council partnership tools. Māori outcomes will depend on how these mechanisms function within a tightly tiered system where early decisions on national goals and direction flow down through all later stages.

The Bills create a “funnel” hierarchy:

- System goals (including the Māori interests goal) sit at the top.
- These are translated into binding National Policy Direction (NPD) and national standards.
- Below them sit regional spatial plans, and at the same tier, land-use plans (under the PB) and natural environment plans (under the NEB).
- At the bottom are consents and permits, which must implement higher-level documents.

Lower levels cannot revisit or rebalance top-level decisions.

Each Bill includes a Treaty clause, but these operate as signposts, not universal obligations. Treaty responsibilities are “provided for” through specific mechanisms: the Māori interests goal, iwi consultation on national instruments, iwi participation in planning processes, Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWAR), and provisions for identified Māori land.

National direction is the primary mechanism in the new system. NPD and national standards determine how goals must be achieved and may specify that their approach is the *only* way to achieve them. Standards then convert NPD into mandatory rules and methods that councils must include in plans. Māori participation is secured through iwi-authority consultation *only* and formal submission opportunities, but final decision-making rests with Ministers.

Under the PB, councils must follow iwi participation legislation and MWAR agreements, consult tangata whenua early, share drafts, and consider Iwi management plans and advice. The NEB imports these same requirements for natural environment plans. MWAR becomes a key practical tool for iwi and hapū to set expectations around timelines, mātauranga, resourcing, monitoring, and dispute resolution—within the constraints of national direction. The Bills, however, only provide for existing MWAR, or MWAR that are initiated prior to the Acts’ commencement, and do not allow for development of future MWAR. The notification provisions favour those iwi who have settled.

Both Bills retain two additional RMA-style partnership tools: transfers of functions and Joint Management Agreements (JMAs). However, these can only be developed with a “public authority”

which is narrowly defined and does not include iwi authorities, hapū or Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGEs).

Transitional provisions require the Crown to seek agreement with PSGEs (and relevant hapū entities) to ensure that Treaty settlement redress or arrangements continue with the same or equivalent effect. During negotiations, decision-makers must uphold existing redress or arrangements. The NEB, however, ends the Crown's duty to seek agreements two years after commencement of the Act, unless the period is extended.

Resource allocation sits within the NEB. Regional councils allocate natural resources via plan rules and permits, within nationally set limits. Where resources are scarce, the Bill enables market-based allocation tools. Māori involvement is primarily upstream: iwi authorities are consulted on national instruments that trigger scarcity tools, and councils must consult iwi authorities when developing local allocation rules. Market based allocation mechanisms are proposed for both the right to apply for a permit (e.g. to apply for an activity in the CMA) and for access to natural resources (e.g. to take water). These mechanisms include tendering and auctions. The implications of these market-based mechanisms on Treaty Settlements is unclear, but will clearly disadvantage those iwi and hapū yet to settle Treaty claims.

Summary of NRC's draft submissions

Simplifying Local Government – Local Government Reform Proposal

NRC's draft submission supports the local government reform and the opportunity to design region-specific ("bespoke") arrangements, and highlights commitment NRC and the three district councils have made improving local government arrangements in Northland. It raises concerns about the proposal to replace elected regional councillors with a CTB made up of district mayors and/or Crown Commissioners.

The submission notes that the model is unworkable due to mayoral capacity limits, reduced democratic representation, and the complexity of regional council functions. NRC recommends retaining elected regional councillors during the transition, supported, if necessary, by a Crown-appointed Commissioner, to maintain capability, continuity, and accountability.

The submission highlights critical omissions around Te Tiriti o Waitangi, with no requirement for Māori representation or Treaty considerations in the draft proposals. The submission states that the reforms risk weakening Māori participation and compromising Treaty obligations. NRC recommends that CTBs be required to include formal Māori representation mechanisms, and that all regional reorganisation plans explicitly provide for Māori rights and interests.

NRC's submission also urges for safeguards around regional assets, seeking that CTBs should not be able to sell or reallocate regional property or investments during the transition.

The submission also recommends expanding the Government's rapid review of regional functions to include district and central government roles, sharing reorganisation planning costs across all councils in the region, and strengthening assessment criteria to cover consultation quality, equitable representation, Māori involvement, financial sustainability, and overall public value.

Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill

NRC's draft submission supports the overall intent to reform the resource management system. However, the submission raises concerns about workability, sequencing, resourcing, and the interaction with concurrent local government reforms. It emphasises that the proposed hierarchical "funnel system" will only function effectively if national direction, limits, and policy settings are clearly established before regional planning begins. The submission raises concerns that compressed timeframes, unclear national direction, and overlapping reforms risk delays, inefficiencies, and increased costs for councils and communities.

The submission highlights issues relating to limiting regional discretion and the need for locally adaptable approaches tailored to regional conditions. It stresses that uniform, centrally driven rules may have uneven impacts, particularly in regions with dispersed populations or high deprivation, and recommends maintaining pathways for local variation, local phasing, and risk-based exceptions. Concern is also raised around funding and capacity, noting that councils are expected to implement significant reforms within tight timeframes while also facing likely constraints on rating revenue and local government reform.

A key part of the submission is the inadequacy of the proposed Māori partnership provisions. It expresses concern that current clauses may limit the ability of councils to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, particularly where national instruments address matters that otherwise require regional expression. It also notes gaps in provisions for those who have yet to settle Treaty claims and for hapū involvement, the narrow scope of Treaty clauses, and the short timeframe for aligning Treaty settlement redress and arrangements with the new system. The submission recommends broader Treaty obligations, stronger provisions for Māori representation at national and local levels, continued availability of the Mana Whakahono ā Rohe (MWaR) mechanism, explicit recognition of co-governance instruments established through Treaty settlements, and central Government support and resources for the identification of Sites of Significance to Māori.

Additional issues raised include the need for national direction and limits to be set prior to spatial plan development, the risk that fast-track approvals may undermine spatial plans and environmental limits, gaps in climate change provisions, and the need for national methodologies and adaptable frameworks for setting environmental limits. The submission also identifies risks in the proposed regulatory relief framework, stating it could lead to significant litigation, financial burdens on councils, and perverse incentives that hinder environmental protection. It recommends ensuring that central government bears the financial responsibility where compensation is required to meet national direction.

Next Steps

The Northland councils are developing a joined-up approach to proactively set up for success across both local government and resource management reforms. This work is being initiated, and is a priority for early 2026. A key aspect of this work will be to ensure council's Te Tiriti commitments are included in the implementation of both tranches of work. A particular risk is that future local government engagements could fail to adequately capture the commitments NRC has made to give effect to its Te Tiriti obligations; this would have flow on implications for future resource management planning activities (such as the development of the regional spatial plan). The recommended actions set out in this report are intended to address these risks.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: **Tāiki ē Strategic Review**

From: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement; Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and
Group Manager/s: Engagement, on 13 February 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this paper is to establish a process by which to review Tāiki ē actions and priorities so that it aligns with the Long-Term Plan (LTP), review of Terms of Reference (ToR), and the Tiriti Health Check recommendations.

As we propose a review, it's important to recognise the wider environment we're operating in. Local government reforms are creating a level of uncertainty about future roles and responsibilities, and at the same time we're working within a fiscally tight environment. There is limited room for additional funding, so the review needs to focus on how we can continue progressing Tāiki ē within the resources already committed through the Long-Term Plan. The aim is to make the best use of what we have, keep the work tangible and achievable, and ensure Tāiki ē remains part of our core business.

Within this context, the scope of the review is to look at progress across the 31 Tāiki ē priority actions, understand what success looks like, and assess whether the work being done is genuinely advancing the intent of Tāiki ē. It also includes looking at the impact of the actions particularly for tāngata whenua, iwi, and hapū and understanding how well council are doing to embed Tāiki ē into the everyday work.

By keeping the scope simple, Te Ruarangi can maintain its intent whilst positioning the working party well for whatever the future local government landscape brings. As a next step it is recommended that the scope of this review be incorporated into the Terms of Reference (Strategic) Review Group for their discussion and brought back to Te Ruarangi for their endorsement. The members of that group are: Co-Chairs Cr Morunga and Nyze Manuel, Chair Pita Tipene, Cr Macdonald, Ihapera Paniora and Kipa Munro.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Tāiki ē Strategic Review' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement; Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and dated 13 February 2026, be received.
 2. That the proposed scope - to review Tāiki ē actions and priorities so that it aligns with the Long-Term Plan (LTP), review of Terms of Reference (ToR), and the Tiriti Health Check recommendations – be endorsed.
 3. That the Tāiki ē strategic review be incorporated into the Terms of Reference Review Group for their discussion and brought back to Te Ruarangi for endorsement.
-

Tuhinga/Background

Tāiki ē provides the framework for giving effect to Kawanatanga and Rangatiratanga in support of the wellbeing of te taiao. As part of LTP preparation, there is an opportunity to further embed how Tāiki ē informs decision-making, operational delivery, and reporting, while strengthening accountability to Te Ruarangi. A review of the Terms of Reference, including membership, is also proposed.

An initial meeting of the council Chair and Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs has been held to discuss how the strategic review could be approached, with the key points being:

Strategic Review of Tāiki e - The strategic review will focus on:

- Ensuring alignment with Te Ruarangi vision and mission
- Strengthening consistency of understanding across council
- Embedding across council operations and governance structure
- Implementation of Tiriti Health Check Stage 2 Recommendations.

Next Steps

- Further development of the Tāiki ē Review Scope by the ToR Review Group
- Development of an implementation plan for the Tiriti Health Check Recommendations.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: Stage Two Treaty Health Check Recommendations and Implementation

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, on 13 February 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to outline a process for implementing the recommendations from the Stage Two Treaty Health Check (THC).

The Stage Two report sets out 14 recommendations, summarised in the background section. To give effect to council's KPIs and Tiriti commitments, a clear approach is now required to prioritise these recommendations and develop a corresponding action plan. This will ensure council responds in a meaningful way to the recommendations, honours the partnership, and upholds its accountability to iwi and hapū.

Accordingly, it is proposed that staff work with the Māori Technical Advisory Group to develop an implementation plan for consideration by Te Ruarangi, with endorsement sought at its April 2026 meeting.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Stage Two Treaty Health Check Recommendations and Implementation' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and dated 13 February 2026, be received.
2. That staff work with the Māori Technical Advisory Group to develop an implementation plan for the Stage Two Treaty Health Check recommendations.

Tuhinga/Background

Te Ruarangi, previously known as the Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC), is the forum where iwi, hapū, and council come together to uphold a Te Tiriti-based partnership in regional decision-making and implementation.

The Stage Two Treaty Health Check report builds on that partnership by identifying system-level opportunities to strengthen council-tangata whenua relationships, better align council practice with its Tiriti commitments, and support meaningful involvement of iwi and hapū across both strategic and operational work.

An update on Tāiki ē — our framework for how council and Te Ruarangi uphold these commitments and maintain accountability to each other — is provided in this agenda through the Tāiki ē: Report on Priority Actions.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Table summarising Stage Two Treaty Health Check recommendations [↓](#) 

Attachment 1

The *Te Tiriti o Waitangi Health Check – Stage Two Report* (Final Report, 20 August 2025) prepared for NRC by Buddle Findlay outlined 14 specific recommendations to strengthen the partnership between council and iwi/hapū.

The following table provides a summarised overview of the recommendations distilled from the Stage Two Report, categorised into eight thematic areas.

Theme	Rec #	Key recommendation summary
Legislative & Policy Changes	1	Continue discussions on legislative changes with Te Ruarangi, Te Kahu o Taonui, and Iwi and Local Government Chief Executives (ILGACE) to understand perspectives and explore joint responses.
Implementation of Tāiki ē	2	Require every department to report on how they intend to implement Tāiki ē actions and track their progress.
	3	Conduct regular reviews of the strategy with Te Ruarangi to ensure it remains focused on current priorities.
	4	Shift reporting to clearly demonstrate the impacts and benefits delivered, rather than just marking tasks as “complete”.
	5	Ensure the long-term planning process specifically accounts for the resourcing required to implement the strategy.
Strengthening Te Ruarangi	6	Review Terms of Reference to embed the forum enduringly (e.g., as a standing committee), expand its remit to resource management, and explore joint decision-making.
Cultural Competency	7	Continue investing in cultural awareness training for both staff and elected councillors.
Lifting Engagement Standards	8	Develop a unified engagement policy for consistency across teams, utilising successful projects as case studies.
	9	Complete and maintain the iwi and hapū contacts database.
	10	Improve internal information management so all departments are aware of Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and Environmental Management Plans.
Governance Relationships	11	Establish standing relationship mechanisms with Te Kahu o Taonui and ILGACE to foster leadership-level connections.
Resourcing	12	Develop guidelines for proactive resourcing and engage independent technical specialists (e.g., expert planners) to support iwi/hapū.
Resource Management	13	Implement the action plan resulting from the independent review of resource consent processes.
	14	Strengthen collaboration with iwi and hapū specifically on the development of policy statements and environmental plans.

TITLE: **Wānanga Waiora 2026 - Strengthening Kaitiaki Networks**

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, on 13 February 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

This paper proposes a three-day Summit/Wānanga, building on the success of the 2024 and 2025 Wānanga Waiora series. The event would continue the strong alignment across key priorities for iwi, hapū, council, and our wider communities — including water, climate change, and economic development. The proposed dates are during the week beginning 11 May 2026, with Waitangi as the preferred location.

Te Ruarangi is invited to endorse the proposed three-day 2026 Summit/Wānanga, focused on the following kaupapa and intended deliverables:

1. **Day 1 Wānanga Waiora** – Kaitiaki share their experiences and the work they are doing across the region to protect the taiao bringing together kaitiaki, hapū practitioners, and council representatives to share mātauranga o te taiao and strengthen the partnership between Kāwanatanga and Rangatiratanga.
2. **Day 2 Climate Change** – Bringing together community climate resilience leaders and networks to strengthen coordination and mutual support. Sharing practical, locally grounded adaptation responses, including marae resilience, water security, housing, and whenua-based solutions. (The separate agenda paper *Climate Adaptation Work Programme and Climate Summit* provides a fuller picture of the climate adaptation work underway with kaitiaki across Taitokerau. Together these papers show how the Summit/Wānanga can help connect and elevate the climate change mahi across the region.)
3. **Day 3 Te Ōhanga Māori** – The Māori Economy contributes directly to the aspirations of [Te Rerenga – Taitokerau Northland Economic Wellbeing Pathway](#)¹, which emphasises building resilient, prosperous Māori communities through strengthened capability, empowered local leadership, and sustainable use of natural resources.

The proposed 2026 Summit/Wānanga Waiora represents the next step in strengthening partnerships and ensuring that tāngata whenua continue to guide the region’s environmental and economic future.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Wānanga Waiora 2026 - Strengthening Kaitiaki Networks’ by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and Kim Peita, Māori Relationships Manager and dated 13 February 2026, be received.

¹ <https://www.northlandnz.com/northland-inc/what-we-do/regional-leadership-strategy-and-insights/tererenga/>

2. That a programme and outline for the three-day wānanga be developed with the Māori Technical Advisory Group and endorsed by Te Ruarangi at the March meeting.
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Tuhinga/Background

The Wānanga Waioira has emerged as a vital regional forum for kotahitanga, bringing together kaitiaki, hapū practitioners, and council representatives to share mātauranga o te taiao and strengthen the partnership between Kāwanatanga and Rangatiratanga.

The inaugural 2025 wānanga, held on 26 March 2025 at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds, drew approximately 150 participants from across Te Taitokerau. It was widely regarded as a success, both in terms of attendance and in the depth of kōrero shared. Subsequent Te Ruarangi hui including the April 2025 meeting hosted by Ngāti Hine at Mōtatau Marae reinforced the commitment to marae-based engagement and the prioritisation of local issues important to haukainga. Discussions have also begun regarding a future Māori economic development wānanga modelled on the Waioira approach.

Key Outcomes of the 2025 Wānanga Waioira

Strengthening Kotahitanga and Partnerships – The wānanga significantly strengthened the relationship between council and tāngata whenua. Participants described the event as a safe, collaborative space where enduring connections could be formed, enabling more meaningful engagement in environmental and regulatory processes.

Deepening Understanding of the Wai–Kaitiaki Relationship – The wānanga served as a measurable tool for understanding the spiritual and physical connections between wai and the waitiaki who protect it. This aligns directly with the principles of Te Mana o te Wai and supports iwi/hapū aspirations for freshwater monitoring.

Building Capacity and Capability (Tāiki ē Action 6) – Participants gained a clearer understanding of the Resource Management Act (RMA) and its specific functions. This was particularly valuable for hapū practitioners working at the “coalface” of environmental monitoring, plan making, and policy development.

Integrating Mātauranga Māori – The involvement of experts such as tohunga Rereata Makiha ensured that mātauranga Māori—particularly māramataka and environmental indicators—remained central to discussions on climate resilience and environmental management.

Establishing a Regional Kaitiaki Network – The wānanga successfully initiated the formation of a regional kaitiaki network. This network is now positioned to support iwi and hapū-led environmental monitoring, species protection, and proactive planning for natural hazard events.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: **Climate Adaptation Work Programme and Climate Summit**

From: Natalie Child, Climate Action & Natural Hazards Manager

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Louisa Gritt, Group Manager - Community Resilience, on 13 February 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

Climate change is already causing material and escalating harm to Māori communities across Te Taitokerau. These impacts are intensifying faster than previous planning assumptions anticipated. The consequences of delay are severe, cumulative, and increasingly irreversible.

Northland is experiencing more frequent and destructive flooding, accelerating coastal erosion, prolonged drought, rising heat stress, and repeated infrastructure impacts. Māori, comprising approximately 37.4% of the regional population, are disproportionately exposed due to the location of marae, papakāinga, Māori land, and whānau housing in high-risk coastal, floodplain, and rural environments.

Repeated climate events are exhausting community resilience. Marae, often relied upon as emergency response hubs, are themselves increasingly vulnerable. Business-as-usual approaches are no longer adequate. Immediate, Māori-centred and well-resourced climate adaptation action is required.

The recent Climate Change Commission's Northland Case Study provides independent evidence of this.

Northland Regional Council and Te Ruarangi have already highlighted this need in two flagship strategies, Tāiki Ē and Ngā Taumata O Te Moana. As well as NRC approval of the joint strategy, Te Taitokerau Climate Adaptation Strategy, that details the importance of collaborative efforts alongside our district councils and in partnership with iwi/hapū. Each highlights the critical impacts of climate change on the region, and the increased exposure of Māori communities in a changing climate.

While significant efforts have been put behind all three strategies and coordination has been undertaken across those programmes, the integration and coordination of Council work programmes still has a long way to go;

- Reaching some of the most isolated and at-risk Māori communities
- Elevating the importance for the entire region of that work (the indirect benefits to tauwi).
- Ensuring the structural issues of historic siloed council (and other agency) work programmes are overcome when serving communities.

It should also be acknowledged that NRC have had considerable success in overcoming such problems with recent programmes in Emergency Management, Rivers Management & the Te Taitokerau Resilience Plan. More is being done right now, and further Community Led Climate Adaptation Planning is beginning in partnership with district councils this year.

We have learnt that Māori communities in Te Taitokerau have unique needs that require specific design and coordination in delivery of climate responses. While tauwi participation in the climate response is critical to the region, spaces are needed for independent Māori specific responses as

well as joint responses. As more initiatives are underway there is a risk of overwhelm or miscommunication. Any pathway forward should:

- Consolidate existing successes.
- Push for ongoing improvement.
- Maintain alignment across groups and agencies.
- Sustain engagement and uplift communities.

The Climate Action team propose a collaborative and visible coming together of those involved within and without councils, in the form of a closed Climate Summit event in May 2026. We also seek to further integrate Climate Adaptation mahi into a dedicated and joint Tangata Whenua Climate Resilience Programme (to be further developed).

This report brings these issues to Te Ruarangi both to provide visibility on Climate Action team plans and to seek guidance and approval for greater coordination regionally. This is to address the needs of Māori and ensure Māori are leading Kaupapa-Māori responses highlighted in all strategies to date.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Climate Adaptation Work Programme and Climate Summit' by Natalie Child, Climate Action & Natural Hazards Manager and dated 13 February 2026, be received.
 2. That Te Ruarangi endorse a visible work programme of engagement and coordination, beginning with a regional Climate Summit
 3. That Te Ruarangi request advice on a dedicated Tangata Whenua-led Climate Resilience Programme as part of Council's planning for the next Long-Term Plan.
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Tuhinga/Background

Overview of a visible work programme of engagement and coordination, beginning with a regional Climate Summit and potential for a Tangata Whenua-led Climate Resilience Programme in the next Long-Term Plan.

A Regional Climate Summit

A Tai Tokerau Climate Summit is proposed to be held in May 2026 as a critical regional intervention in response to the accelerating climate impacts outlined in this report. The Summit is intended to bring together community climate resilience leaders, Māori and non-Māori organisations, hapū and iwi representatives, local government, technical experts, and sector practitioners from across Te Tai Tokerau.

The purpose of the Summit is to move beyond fragmented responses and create a shared regional platform for collective action. It will enable participants to share lived experience from recent extreme weather events, identify what is working on the ground, and exchange innovative and practical climate adaptation and mitigation strategies that can be scaled or supported.

The proposed objectives of the Tai Tokerau Climate Summit include:

- Bringing together community climate resilience leaders and networks to strengthen coordination and mutual support.
- Sharing practical, locally grounded adaptation responses, including marae resilience, water security, housing, and whenua-based solutions.

- Showcasing innovative mitigation initiatives and transition pathways emerging within Te Tai Tokerau.
- Building durable relationships between communities, councils, and agencies to improve alignment of planning, policy, and funding.
- Providing a clear pathway for community priorities to inform Council decision-making and future investment.
- Enable engaging regional promotion of key messages of the coming year in support of further actions and activities within and without council.

The Summit is intended to be action-focused and outcome-driven. Outputs are expected to include strengthened regional networks, shared priorities for urgent adaptation investment, and recommendations to inform Council work programmes, Long Term Plan considerations, and partnership initiatives. The Summit directly supports Council's strategic outcomes relating to climate resilience, equity, and meaningful partnerships with tāngata whenua.

Tangata Whenua-led Climate Resilience Programme

NRC and District Councils host tangata whenua teams that support engagement on Council services. They support tangata whenua to engage with Councils and support Council to act more fully in line with Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

NRC and District Councils (with the exception of Kaipara District Council currently) host climate action and resilience planning or strategy teams. They support Councils to engage with communities on climate change and support Councils to act more fully in line with the climate change response.

Both represent an organisational change programme within Council and involve significant coordination within councils to engage effectively. Resource management is difficult.

This combination of two change programmes is a structural barrier to these programmes being sustained effectively.

There is an existing and growing need for both programmes to be successful.

There is also an existing, although reducing with improved performance, risk that they do not reach communities effectively.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: Chief Executive’s Report to Council

From: Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer

Authorised by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer, on 10
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 10 December 2025, be received.

4.9.1 HIGHLIGHTS

Clean Vessel Plan (National Pathway Management Plan)

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

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

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

Caulerpa Update

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

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

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

Awanui Flood Mitigation Celebration Event

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

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

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

4.9.2 PROTECTED AND FLOURISHING NATIVE LIFE

INCURSIONS

Yellow Legged Hornet

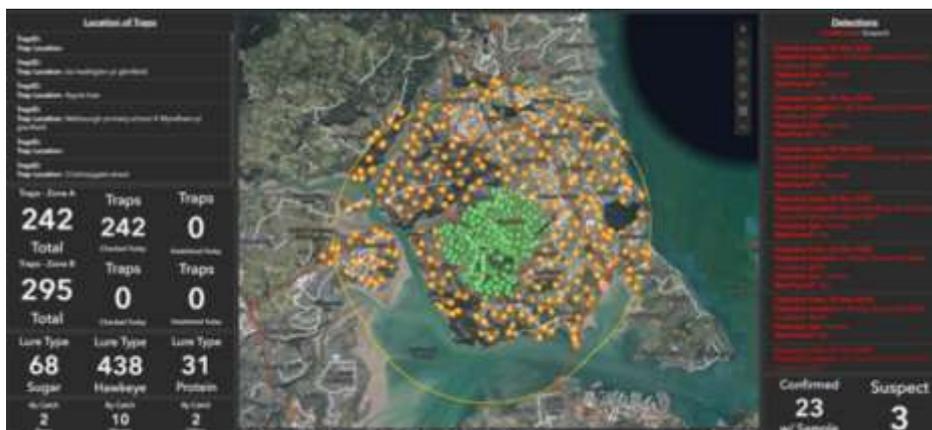
Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) has confirmed 27 yellow-legged hornet (*Vespa velutina*) queen specimens in the Glenfield/Birkdale area, with 16 showing evidence of nesting. Early brooding within one nest indicates that at least one queen successfully overwintered from the previous season. Over 537 traps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

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

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

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

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



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

Wild Animal Control

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

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



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

PREDATOR FREE - Pēwhairangi Whānui **Going high tech for predator elimination**

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

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

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



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

PEST PLANTS



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

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

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

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

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

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

MARINE BIOSECURITY

Egeria control trial

Approximately 500m² of wool matting was laid by dive operators in the bed of Lake Rotokawau, a high value, Regionally Outstanding, dune lake on the Poutō Peninsula. This project, undertaken by Biodiversity, Marine Biosecurity and Maritime Team members, is part of a trial to eradicate Egeria oxygen weed in this lake by using 50m lengths of wool mat secured on the lake bottom to smother Egeria and provide a fresh bed for native plants to regenerate on. This method has been used successfully elsewhere in New Zealand. In addition, small patches of Egeria were weeded by hand. This highly invasive oxygen weed cannot be eradicated using herbicide and, because it grows in limited areas in Rotokawau, there is a good chance it can be eradicated over time.

Biosecurity

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

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

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

- **Tiakina Taitokerau**

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

4.9.3 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 several tasks for parties to complete by agreed deadlines, with an update to the Court on progress being required 28 November 2025. The parties have advised the Court that progress towards resolving the appeal is still ongoing and have requested an extension to continue discussions. The parties await confirmation from the Court for this extension.

Consents Update

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

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

Fifty-one applications were received in November 2025.

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

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

Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

- No commissioners were appointed in November 2025.

Consents Decisions and Progress on Notified Applications in Process, Objections and Appeals

The current level of notified application processing activities at the end of November 2025 is (by number):

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

Compliance Monitoring

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

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

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 in August 2025) Moderate non-compliance for wetland overflowing and short circuiting. Most recent results compliant.
Hikurangi Replacement consent granted – expires 30 November 2031			<u>Under AN</u> TSS, BOD5 and E. coli results continue to be above RC limits for median and 90 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.
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.
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.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
Rāwene Expired 2023 (replacement consent being processed)			TSS exceeding 90 th percentile consent limits. Remedial work scheduled.
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.
Hihi Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)			Ammoniacal nitrogen and E. coli exceeding RC limits. Some self-monitoring results missing.
Ahipara Expires 2033			<u>Under ANs</u> (reissued in September 2022). None currently.
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.
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.
Kawakawa Expires 2036			E. coli spikes on two occasions have caused exceedance in percentile limits. Cause of spikes fixed, and E. coli levels have returned to normal.
Kaikohe Expired 2021 (replacement consent being processed but also listed Fast-track proposal)			<u>Under AN</u> Self-monitoring data missing or not reported correctly.
Ruakākā Expires 2046			Elevated ammoniacal nitrogen levels now only in two bores (and are slowly dropping). Investigations showed that no elevated levels were found in the receiving environment.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
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).
Te Kopuru Expires 2044			Dry weather flows have exceeded discharge limit on several occasions. Most recent results compliant.
Maungaturoto Expires 2032			<u>Under AN; IN issued September 2024</u> No issues currently.
Rangiputa Expires 2032			None currently.
Whangārei City Expires 2045			<u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant. Additional odour controls being implemented. BOD5 and TSS exceeding median limits. Reticulation issues relating to the Whangārei Heads line and pump stations is being managed. Investigations for long term remediation are underway. Further information is available from WDC website.
Kaeo Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed)			Some self-monitoring results missing.
Kerikeri Expires 2036			Some self-monitoring 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.

WWTP/Consent Status	Compliance for last 12 months	Compliance for last 3 months	Enforcement Action/Response
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 are scheduled for monitoring (199 permitted activities and 500 consented farms). All the farms have now been visited, but not all reporting has been completed. Comparisons of this season's results with last year (at the same time) are given in the tables below. Overall, compliance is similar between last year and this year.

Consented farms

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

Non-consented farms

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

Court Cases Update

Litigation	Next Court Event/Action
<p>Enforcement Order and Prosecution Environment Court Earthworks and vegetation removal in a wetland</p>	<p>NRC has approved the Remediation and Mitigation Plan which was a requirement of the Enforcement Orders (issued on 20 January 2025). Charges for prosecution served on defendants on 25 July 2025. A pre-trial hearing was held on 1 December 2025 to determine eligibility for election of jury trial. The judge reserved his decision. A nominal date of 26 January 2026 has been scheduled.</p>
<p>Interim Enforcement Orders Environment Court Discharge to air from the manufacturing of Asphalt and open burning</p>	<p>On 23 June 2025, the parties filed and served a joint memorandum advising that the respondents plan to dismantle and remove the asphalt plant from the site permanently and are no longer pursuing a resource consent for bitumen batching activities on the site. The respondents requested additional time to complete the dismantling process. 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.</p>
<p>Interim Injunction (Civil Matter) Māori Land Court Encroachment and damage of Māori land</p>	<p>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.</p>

Wastewater Discharge Standards

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

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

The standards apply to:

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

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

The regulations introduce mandatory conditions for wastewater-related consents.

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

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

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

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

KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION: Key Performance Indicators

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

Nature & Resilience

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

Jobs & Skills

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

Participation

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

Impact monitoring and reporting

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

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

Outcomes monitoring and reporting

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

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

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

4.9.4 SAFE AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT NETWORKS

Maritime

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

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

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

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



Light aircraft crashed in vicinity of the sister BOI

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

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

Transport Planning

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan (RPTP) 2026–2036

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

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

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

Public Transport

Contracted Bus Services

Tendering of Contracted Bus Services

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

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

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

New Buslink website

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

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

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

Total Mobility Scheme

National Total Mobility hui/meeting

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

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

4.9.5 A SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMY

Climate Resilience

Sustainable Business Network “Electrify Business” event

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

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

Property Update

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

Regional Economic Development

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

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

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

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

Economic Development Funding

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

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

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

Economic Information

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

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

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

Northland Inc

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

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

4.9.6 MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH TĀNGATA WHENUA

Ngā karere o Te Raki e-pānui

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

Te Ruarangi video series

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

Refreshed website section - Tāngata whenua and Northland Regional Council

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

Coastal Biodiversity Update

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

Far North – He Tirohanga Māori education event held

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

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

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



Rongoā Māori with Whaea Kylie Simeon.



Te ao tuna with Te Hokinga Tuna.

Engagement with Kaitiaki Roopu – Whangārei Harbour

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



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

Wild Deer Free Kaupapa

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



Hapū Support at Whangārei Heads Taiao Hui

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



RMA Commissioner Training

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



Future Proofing Groundwater Hui – Te Hiku o Te Ika

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



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

4.9.7 CARBON NEUTRAL, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Climate

Natural Hazards on Land Information Management Reports

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

Flood modelling guidelines

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

Whangarei Urban Flood strategy

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

National Flood Map

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

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

The national flood map is a separate project to the national flood model we discussed in last month's update.

Mangawhai Museum Storm Zone Opening

Staff attended the opening night of The Storm Zone Exhibition, a project funded through this year's round of Climate Resilient Communities funding.

This has been a great cross-council collaborative project with Natural Resources contributing hydrology data and information on storms and weather events in the Kaipara, and advice on pulling together some of the technical aspects of this exhibition. Natural Hazards, Climate Resilience, Civil Defence and the Communications team have also been involved.

The Mangawhai Museum team have put together a very creative, interactive and educational exhibition for the Kaipara community, that strongly aligns with climate resilience messaging, and we're excited to see uptake from the community over summer and the delivery of the programme to schools in the New Year. A video that plays as part of the exhibition can be viewed [here](#).



Visitors to the exhibition are greeted with the story of Tāwhirimātea - atua of weather, storms and wind.

Climate Change Commission Return Visit

The Climate Change Commission returned to Te Taitokerau to present the final case study publication *Ā Te Taitokerau urutau i ngā āhuarangi - Responding to a changing climate in Te Taitokerau/Northland*.

The case study explores the impacts of a changing climate on Te Taitokerau/Northland and shares how communities and businesses are responding. It will be used as an input into the national climate risk assessment and report on progress against the national adaptation plan both of which will be delivered in 2026.

NRC is supporting the two community led adaptation projects commencing in our region, based in Hokianga and Whangaruru in partnership with FNDC and WDC respectively, both of which are referenced in the report.



Staff from the Climate Change Commission, Rural Support Trust, HortNZ and NRC who were all contributors to the report.

Rivers

Kao Stage 2 Flood Infrastructure Project

The tender evaluation for Kao Stage 2 is complete, and a preferred contractor has been selected, pending sign-off.

Iwi, hapū, project archaeologist and project team are organising a training session between the cultural monitors and archaeologist before works begin. A wānanga will be held to kōrero around the environmental aspects of the project, wetland enhancement, inanga spawning, fish refuge and habitat, water quality and fish salvage that will take place during construction.



Site plan showing environmental additions for the project, wetland restoration, construction, inanga spawning habitat and fish refuge/tuna spawning habitat has been designed by our project ecologist and geologist, coming from input from the community on what they would like to see.

Kawakawa Deflection Bank

Further benching work on the right-hand bank opposite the deflection bank has commenced and is progressing swiftly with the favourable weather conditions.

A culvert extension is also underway, adding to the existing culvert infilling to remove the area of low flow that currently acts as a debris catch for woody debris.

Planting will be the final stage of works with a local kaitiaki group.



Otiria

A construction tender closed on Monday 24th November, with bids received. Evaluation is underway, with award expected early December. Once the contract has been awarded, staff expect this work to be completed within two months (weather dependant).

Mangamuka Marae

Following an onsite hui with stakeholders, a programme has been put in place to complete outstanding tasks at the marae. Remaining works include; fencing, re-grassing minor rock and earthworks – expecting 1-2 week turnaround to complete at this stage (weather permitting).

Civil Defence Emergency Management

Operational Overview

The Group Office has been actively navigating the local government environment, preparing and contributing to elected member induction briefings and participating in both regional and national forums, including Northland Lifelines, SIG and national leadership meetings. These engagements continue to support alignment with national emergency management reforms and integration into broader strategic initiatives.

Members of the Group Office and NRC attended the EMPA Awards in Wellington where CDEM won the Recovery category for Excellence in Emergency Communication.

NEMA leadership recently visited the Far North to engage with Te Rarawa. The visit, initiated by an invitation from Te Rarawa, aimed to deepen understanding of the many challenges faced by the iwi. During the trip, NEMA visited 17 of Te Rarawa’s 23 marae, fostering stronger relationships and collaboration. The effort was greatly appreciated by Northland CDEM and the wider community. Ongoing community resilience initiatives include Marae Preparedness workshops, Community Response Group (CRG) hui, and inter-agency collaboration, all aimed at strengthening regional and local readiness and response capabilities.

Capability Development

To support ongoing capability and capacity building, team members have participated in a range of professional development programmes, including Coordinated Incident Management Systems (CIMS) training and Exercise Whakahaumarū.

Exercise Whakahaumarū, held on November 19, was a regional exercise designed to test Northland’s integrated response capability. Internal and multi-agency debriefs are currently underway, with findings to be consolidated for feedback and continuous improvement. These efforts align with both national and regional priorities, reinforcing a strong commitment to operational excellence.

Section 17A Review

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

4.9.8 EFFICIENT, PROGRESSIVE AND TRANSPARENT COUNCIL SYSTEMS

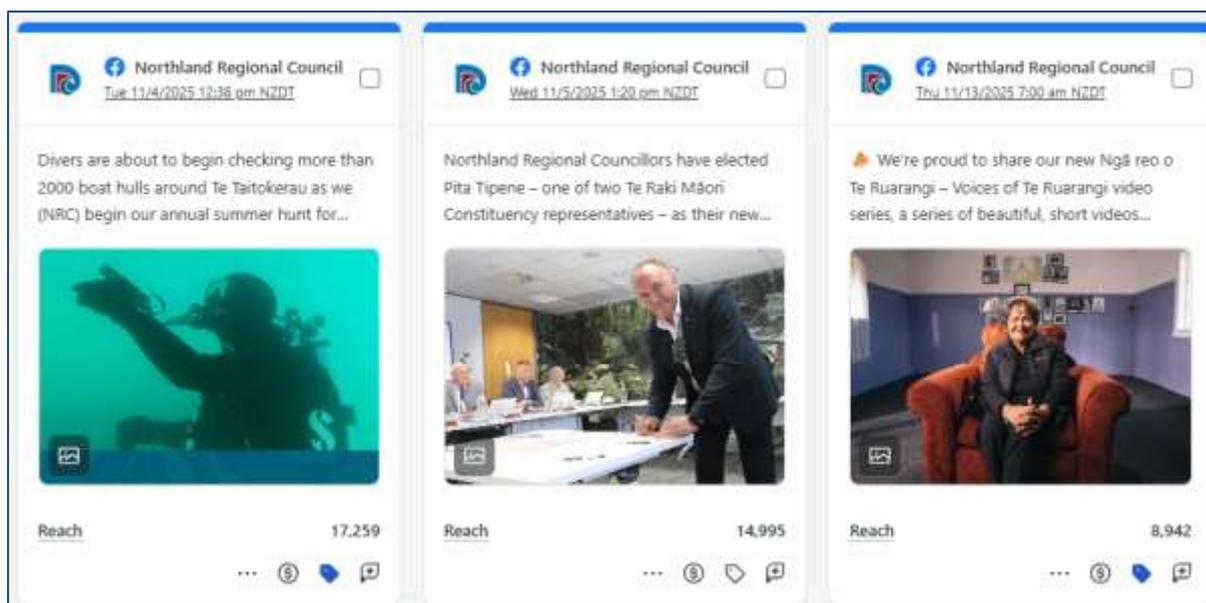
Digital engagement

Overall performance across social media platforms:

Profile	Audience	Net audience growth	Published posts	Impressions	Engagements	Engagement rate (per impression)	Video views
Reporting period 1 – 28 November	23,332 ↑0.7%	170 ↑6.3%	36 ↓30.8%	140,460 ↓46.9%	8,257 ↓41%	5.8% ↑10.7%	14,737 ↓73.9%
Compare to 1 – 31 October	23,161	175	57	297,761	16,795	5.6%	60,767
Facebook	15,801	72	7	118,798	7,560	6.4%	6,761
LinkedIn	4,085	87	4	12,555	521	4.1%	0
Instagram	2,835	6	12	9,107	116	1.3%	5,302
YouTube	611	5	13	N/A	60	N/A	2,674

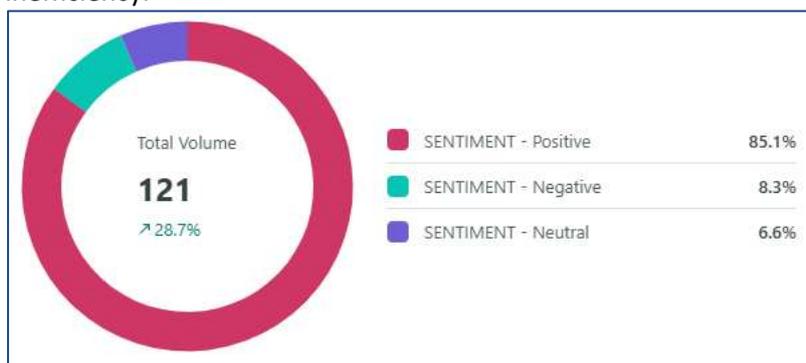
Top three posts reaching the most people:

[Annual summer hull checks](#), announcing the NRC’s newly elected [Chair and Deputy Chair](#), and sharing [Ngā reo o Te Ruarangi](#) (Voices of Te Ruarangi) video series.



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

Sentiment: Positive sentiment related to support for the newly elected NRC Chair and commending NRC for biodiversity efforts and partnerships. Negative sentiment is few but strongly worded and centred around governance accountability, frustration with marine biosecurity and perceived inefficiency.



Top website pages:

Page	Views
Environmental Data Hub	17,998
Pest Control Hub	5,548
Online maps	1,145
Our Northland -Stories	1,521

Key Performance Indicators	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
WEB					
# Visits to the NRC website	79,477	40,440	58,790	84,925	51,476
E-payments made	56	44	40	25	24
# subscribed web alerts (cumulative)	1,730	1,741	1,749	1,757	1,790
# subscribed to eNewsletters (cumulative)	5,571	5,577	5,568	5,576	5,585
CDEM SOCIAL MEDIA (CUMULATIVE)					
# CDEM Facebook followers	39,665	39,647	39,775	40,025	41,752

Key Performance Indicators	Jul-25	Aug-25	Sep-25	Oct-25	Nov-25
# CDEM Overall Facebook Reach (30D)	497,513	54,889	195,981	181,273	339,874

Media liaison

Five Northland Regional Council media releases were created and distributed throughout Te Taitokerau and beyond during November:

- [Awanui flood scheme progress celebrated](#)
- [Local government reform discussion welcomed - Mayoral Forum](#)
- [Passion for rangatahi and te taiao drives Ngāti Rēhia's climate action success](#)
- [Former regional councillor Monty Knight remembered](#)
- [Pita Tipene is new NRC chair, Jack Craw deputy](#)

Two media brief items were also shared: *Bream Bay 'Explore and Restore' road trip*; and *NewBusLink website*.

Media coverage generated 50 mentions of NRC during November, with most assessed as mixed or positive (source: Truescope).

Northland Business Excellence Awards

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rēhia received the Northland Regional Council Sustainability and Climate Action Award at the 2025 Northland Business Excellence Awards, hosted by Northland Chambers of Commerce. This award celebrates businesses making measurable progress in environmental responsibility and climate resilience. To share Ngāti Rēhia's success, we promoted the win on social media during the event and published a feature story: [Passion for rangatahi and te taiao drives Ngāti Rēhia's climate action success](#).

Fraud, Corruption and Dishonesty Statement

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

Finance

During November, the Finance team began implementing EFTsure, which will enhance payment security and reduce fraud risk through real-time verification of supplier banking details. The rollout of an eInvoicing solution is scheduled to commence in December, aimed at streamlining invoice processing and improving accuracy and compliance. In addition, we are progressing with the transition of council-managed funds from EriksensGlobal to Russell Investments, ensuring alignment with strategic investment objectives and improved portfolio oversight.

People and Culture

Correction to the P&C Quarterly Report

The staff turnover rates in the November People and Culture report for August and September were incorrect. The corrected data is:

- **August:** 11.14%
- **September:** 11.39%

The People & Culture team is currently reviewing these figures to determine whether they reflect seasonal trends or if other factors may have contributed to the increase in turnover.

The People & Culture team is actively providing support to our people following the recently announced local government reform proposal.

Our focus includes aiding in clear communication and supporting staff wellbeing and engagement while we wait for the consultation outcome.

Health and Safety

We continue to provide training and support to staff, including the updated *Before You Go* survey and the *Take 5* process for those working on-site. Additional training is being offered on working alone, the buddy system, and the use of Garmin inReach devices as we approach the busy summer season.

Following the recent quarterly Health & Safety report and subsequent questions regarding the high number of driving-related incidents, the Health & Safety team will develop a mechanism to enable council to gain a clearer understanding of the factors contributing to these incidents.

Corporate Strategy

Staff have been progressing a number of projects and working to support mahi across the organisation:

- WayPoint, a system to manage projects, programmes, Risk, KPI reporting, and activities was launched mid-year, with almost 300 projects and 150 programmes now entered in the system. The team have been working with managers to ensure the data entered can support future planning and prioritisation across the organisation.
- Council's newly established in-house legal counsel has been in demand, providing comprehensive legal reviews of contracts and offering expert advice on complex matters, including biosecurity incursion contracts, the Awanui flood management scheme, and proposed government bills.
- Development of the Annual Plan 2026/27 is well underway, with staff compiling proposals and considering consultation options.
- Development of council's strategic direction, that will drive development of the Long Term Plan 2027-2037 is underway.
- The strategic delivery refresh has achieved some key milestones with successful rollout of Project Insight (timesheeting) across the whole organisation. Other projects in the refresh programme continue.
- Improvement programmes such as corporate policy management, contract management improvement and support, internal audit and quality management are continuing as resourcing allows.

Information Service & Technology

Operations:

- Laptop and Mobile Phone refresh underway with steady progress being made and will continue through to April 2026.
- IT support for the Modern Workspaces project has required a significant investment of team resources.
- Some overnight processes related to GIS system updates are currently failing. Alternative approaches are being explored to minimise disruption, and a comprehensive review is scheduled for February 2026.

Projects:

- Project Axis:

Asset Management - Test environment is currently being configured, data is being cleansed and workshops to agree the configuration design with the various business departments are being scheduled to gain sign-off.

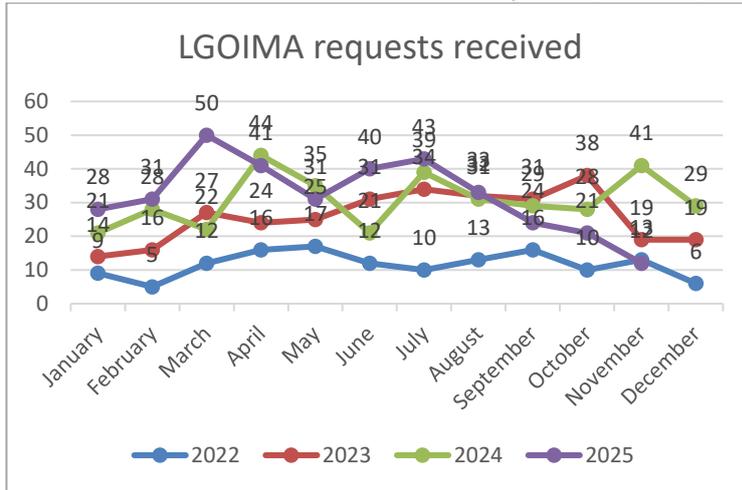
Human Resource Information System (HRIS) - the current Production system for recruitment has been reconfigured to be based on 'Positions' with effect from 1 December.

- IRIS Next Generation:

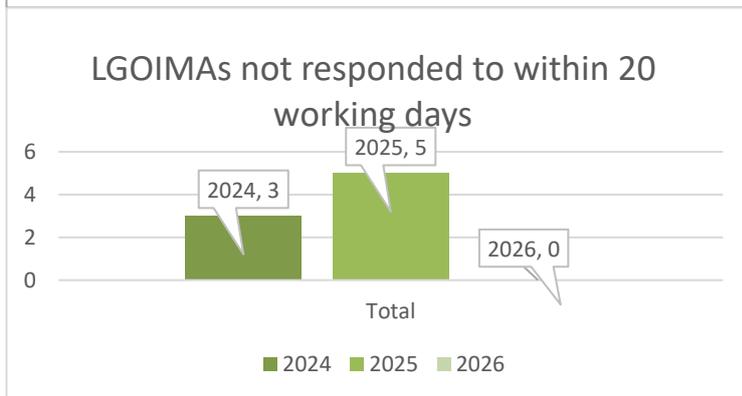
Sector Programme - The Otago Regional Council began the Pilot project for the system on 10 November which will continue until December 2026. Next to implement will be, Bay of Plenty and Waikato in 2027, followed by Northland, Horizons and Hawkes Bay in 2028, then Environment Southland, Nelson City Council and West Coast Council.

- NRC Project - The current focus includes data planning and migration (reviewing current data and housekeeping for system replacement), assessing customer service delivery and supporting systems, defining council core activities to meet regulatory obligations, and identifying IT requirements to prepare for project implementation.

Local Government Official Information Requests (LGOIMA)



In November 2025, we received a total of 12 LGOIMA requests, 29 less requests than at the same time in November 2024. The overall trend shows an increase in LGOIMA requests each year, with 15 more requests compared to the same period in 2024.



A request was received in October, and within the 20 working days staff sought clarification of that request. No response to that request for clarification was received from the requestor. Staff have now partially refused the request, however that response was outside the statutory timeframe for a response. This breach has highlighted a need for further training of staff on LGOIMA processes and statutory timeframes.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil