

AGENDA

RĀRANGI TAKE

Huihuinga O Te Kāhui Māori O

Taitokerau

Te Ruarangi

Thursday 14 May 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 14 May 2026, commencing at 11.00am

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).

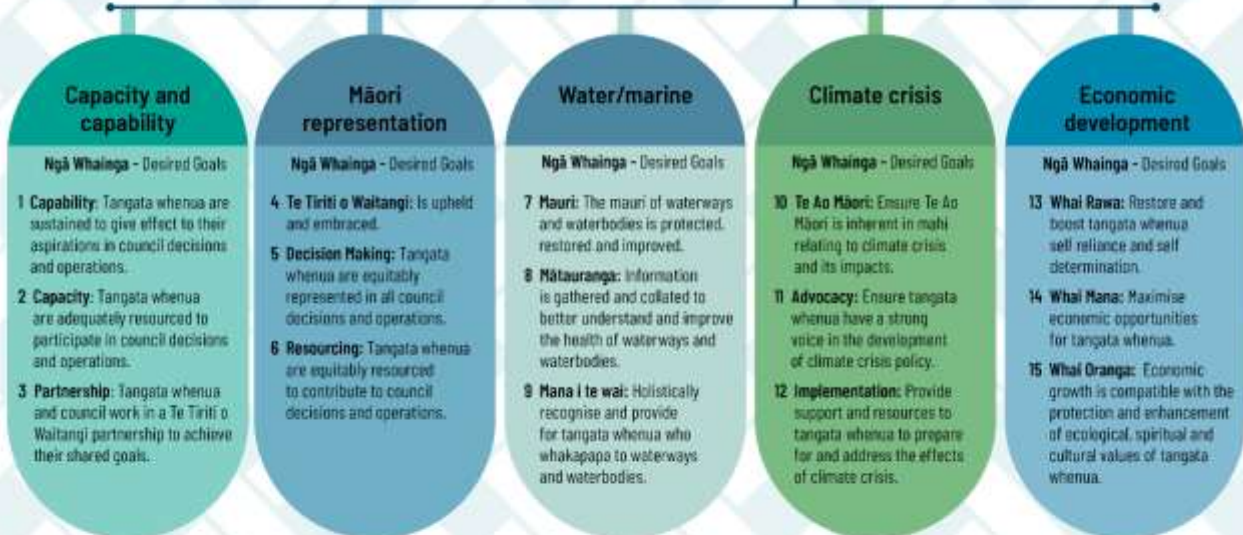
NGĀ MANA WHAKAHAERE (MEMBERSHIP OF TE RUARANGI)

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 |

KARAKIA / WHAKATAU

| RĪMITI (ITEM) | Page |
|---|-------------|
| 1.0 NGĀ MAHI WHAKAPAI/HOUSEKEEPING | |
| 2.0 NGĀ WHAKAPAHĀ/APOLOGIES | |
| 3.0 NGA WHAKAPUAKANGA/DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | |
| 4.0 NGĀ RĪMITI / ITEMS | |
| 4.1 Record of Actions – 12 March 2026 | 6 |
| 4.2 Receipt of Action Sheet | 11 |
| 4.3 Tāiki ē - Report on Priority Actions | 14 |
| 4.4 Resource Consent Review Report - 12-month Action Plan | 17 |
| 4.5 Final Draft - Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference | 37 |
| 4.6 2026 Meeting Schedule | 54 |
| 4.7 Resource Management and Local Government Reforms - advice from Māori Technical Advisory Group | 56 |
| 4.8 Te Ruarangi - Te Touwai Marae, 9 April 2026 | 60 |
| 4.9 Chief Executive’s Report to Council | 71 |

TITLE: **Record of Actions – 12 March 2026**

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

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and
Group Manager/s: Engagement, on 06 May 2026

Whakarāpopototanga / Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present the Record of Actions of the last meeting (attached) held on 12 March 2026 for review by the meeting.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Attachment 1: Unconfirmed Record of Actions - 12 March 2026 [↓](#) 

Te Ruarangi
12 March 2026

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

Meeting held in the Council Chamber and via Teams online
36 Water Street, Whangārei
on Thursday 12 March 2026, commencing at 1.00pm

Tuhinga (Present):

Co-Chairs Councillor Arama Morunga and Nyze Manuel, Te Rūnanga O Whaingaroa
Councillor Amy Macdonald
Councillor Jack Crow (online)
Ngāti Hine, Jaycee Tipene-Thomas
Ngāti Kuta, Michelle Elboz
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 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 Waiāriki, Ngāti Korora, Ngāti Takapari, Arvay Armstrong-Read
Te Whakapiko Hapū, Rowan Tautari

I Tae Mai (In Attendance):

Huihuinga i te katoa (Full Meeting)

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

Huihuinga i te wahanga (Part Meeting)

Climate Action and Natural Hazards Manager
Pou Tiaki Hapori – GM Community Resilience
Pou Tiaki Pūtaiao – GM Biosecurity
Pou Whakaritenga – GM Regulatory Services
Principal Advisor Corporate Service

The formal meeting commenced at 1.00pm. Karakia and mihi were conducted earlier during the iwi and hapū caucus by Kipa Munro and Co-Chair Arama Morunga. Councillors Ruka (Whangārei District Council, Chair of Te Kārearea) and Rākena (Far North District Council, Chair of Te Kūaka) were welcomed to the meeting and attended online.

Te Ruarangi
12 March 2026

Karakia / Whakatau

Ngā Mahi Whakapai/Housekeeping (Item 1.0)

Ngā Whakapahā/Apologies (Item 2.0)

Councillor Colin Kitchen
Councillor Geoff Crawford
Councillor Joe Carr
Councillor John Blackwell
Councillor John Hunt
Councillor Pita Tipene (NRC Chair)
Kahukuraariki Trust Board, Geraldine Baker
Ngāti Hau, Mike Kake
Ngāti Manu, Hon Kelvin Davis
Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri, Niki Conrad
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.

Record of Actions – 19 February 2026 (Item 4.1)

The Record of Actions for 10 December 2025 was received and confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Receipt of Action Sheet (Item 4.2)

The current Action Sheet was received.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Draft Terms of Reference (Item 4.3)

This paper presented the draft revised Terms of Reference (ToR) for Te Ruarangi, developed following the working party's direction at its 11 December 2025 meeting to undertake a review. The review was carried out by the Review Group comprising Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs, two iwi/hapū representatives (Kipa Munro and Ihapera Paniora) and two elected members (Chair Tipene and Cr Macdonald), supported by senior council officers. Endorsement of the draft was sought before being reported to Council for adoption. Key discussion points included:

- Members held detailed discussion on the role and purpose of Te Ruarangi, particularly the balance between representing iwi and hapū mandates and contributing to collective outcomes for Taitokerau.

Te Ruarangi
12 March 2026

- Significant kōrero focused on representation and mandate, including the distinction between primary representatives and proxies, and the implications for participation, speaking rights, and accountability.
- Members expressed concern that the draft Terms of Reference do not yet sufficiently reflect the lived experience of Te Ruarangi or the expectations of iwi and hapū representatives.
- Discussion highlighted the need for clarity about how Te Ruarangi interfaces with other Māori governance and technical groups, including how information flows, how advice is coordinated, and where accountability sits.
- Members emphasised the importance of explicitly recognising access to independent Māori technical advice and appropriate resourcing to support effective participation and timely engagement.
- While progress was acknowledged in aligning the Terms of Reference with Tāiki ē and Te Tiriti commitments, there was agreement that further refinement is required before endorsement.
- It was confirmed that iwi/hapū representatives had collectively agreed not to endorse the draft ToR.

Agreed action points:

- The Draft Terms of Reference were not endorsed.
- The Review Group is to further refine the Draft Terms of Reference, incorporating feedback from the formal meeting and the iwi and hapū caucus, and bring a revised draft to the next formal Te Ruarangi meeting for consideration.

Wānanga Waiora and Climate Change Summit 2026 (Item 4.4)

This paper presented the proposed outcomes and draft programme for Wānanga Waiora and the Climate Change Summit 2026, a regionally significant, action-oriented wānanga intended to strengthen kaitiaki networks and community resilience across Te Taitokerau. Following direction from Te Ruarangi in February 2026, MTAG met twice to confirm desired outcomes and refine the draft programme, including consideration of scope, sequencing and delivery requirements. As programme development continued, it was determined that the proposed Ōhanga Māori forum (Māori Economy) would be better developed as a separate, dedicated forum, resulting in refinement of the Wānanga Waiora programme from a three-day to a two-day event. Endorsement was sought to progress planning on this basis. Key discussion points included:

- Members strongly supported Wānanga Waiora as a hapū led, kaupapa driven forum that has proven value in strengthening kaitiaki networks and sharing practical, place-based knowledge.
- Discussion focused on ensuring clearer alignment between the proposed programme and specific Tāiki ē actions, so that outcomes can be captured, reported, and translated into tangible progress.
- Members emphasised the importance of maintaining hapū leadership in the design and delivery of the wānanga, with council providing support rather than direction.
- Consideration was given to how insights from the wānanga could inform longer-term planning, including into the Ōhanga Māori forum, climate resilience, economic impacts, and future commitment through the Long Term Plan.

Te Ruarangi
12 March 2026

- Capacity, timing, and resourcing constraints were acknowledged, with support expressed for a staged and deliberate approach to related kaupapa, including Māori economic development.

Agreed action points:

- The proposed programme for Wānanga Waiora and the Climate Change Summit 2026 was endorsed, subject to refinement to strengthen alignment with Tāiki ē and inform future planning for the Ōhanga Māori forum.

Reports from Other Working Parties (Item 4.5)

This paper provided updates from the Natural Resources Working Party and the Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party. Key discussion points included:

- Members noted the breadth and complexity of kaupapa being progressed across the working parties and acknowledged the contribution of iwi and hapū representatives in those forums.
- Biosecurity updates highlighted emerging threats (myrtle rust, kauri dieback, golden clam, Caulerpa), the scale of response required, and the importance of coordinated regional approaches to provide a 'biosecurity umbrella' for Taitokerau.
- Natural Resources updates reinforced the long-term nature of several programmes and the need for sustained governance oversight and engagement.
- Members noted the value of these reports in maintaining visibility of work occurring outside the Te Ruarangi table.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Chief Executive's Report to Council (Item 4.6)

The Chief Executive's Report was taken as read. Key discussion points included:

- Current biosecurity matters, including gold clam and Caulerpa
- An update was provided on work underway with MPI to strengthen biosecurity controls for vessels, noting potential permit and cleaning requirements, infrastructure needs, and future funding considerations beyond 2027
- Updates were noted on Caulerpa engagement, including a Ngāti Hine hui, with further information to be shared as available.

Agreed action points: Nil.

Whakamutunga (Conclusion)

The meeting concluded at 2.19pm with karakia by Kipa Munro.

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 06 May 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 Action Sheet - May 2026

| Strategic Intent Whaingā References | | Status References |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| C&C | Capability – Capacity - Partnership | Completed: The action has been completed or has become BAU. These actions are archived. |
| MR | Māori Representation -Te Tiriti o Waitangi - Decision Making - Resourcing | In progress: The action is currently being worked on and is not yet completed. |
| W/M | Water / Marine - Mauri – Mātauranga - Mana i te wai | Stationary: The action is stalled or delayed and action is needed to get back on track. |
| CC | Climate Crisis - Te Ao Māori – Advocacy - Implementation | Pending start: Actions that are scheduled to start in the future or have not yet begun. |
| ED | Economic Development - Whai Rawa - Whai Mana - Whai Oranga | |

| Action ID | Action description / Strategic Intent Whaingā | Strategic Intent Whaingā | Te Ruarangi meeting date | Tāiki ē action | Current status | Most recent coment | Progress/History |
|-----------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|--|
| TRA-0001 | Te Taitokerau Māori Economic Development Forum Progress options for a Te Taitokerau Māori economic development forum, aligned with hapū-led aspirations and Te Rerenga. | ED | 13/03/2025 | Action 29, Priority 2 | In progress | Decision to have a separate Māori economic development forum. Current focus is Wānanga Waiora 2 days to be held on June 11 & 12 at Waitangi. | > 12 Mar 2026 – Programme endorsed; subject to stronger alignment with Tāiki ē and informing future planning for separate Ōhanga Māori forum. > 19 Feb 2026 – Scope and programme for Wānanga Waiora (including economic development component) referred to MTAG. > Apr–Aug 2025 – Initial kōrero held with iwi/hapū subgroup (Pita Tipene, Mira Norris, Nyze Manuel) re kaupapa and outcomes; and with Northland Inc. |
| TRA-0002 | Resource Consent Review – 12-Month Action Plan Implement and oversee the 12-month action plan arising from the Tāiki ē Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process. | C&C + MR + W/M | 13/03/2025 | Action 9, Priority 1 | In progress | Update to be provided at the 14 May meeting (see agenda item). | > 12 Mar 2026 – CIA templates completed; report scheduled for Mar/Apr meeting. > 2025 – Project manager appointed; milestones established. > Sep 2024 – MTAG feedback incorporated into final implementation plan. |
| TRA-0003 | Te Ruarangi Strategic Review (ToR & Strategic Alignment) Complete the Te Ruarangi Strategic Review, including updated Terms of Reference and alignment with Tāiki ē. | C&C + MR | 19/02/2026 | Action 2, Priority 1 | In progress | > Revised Terms of Reference to be presented to Te Ruarangi on 14 May 2026 (see agenda item). | > 12 Mar 2026 - Draft Terms of Reference not endorsed; Review Group met to refine based on feedback and return to next Te Ruarangi meeting. > Feb–Mar 2026 – Review Group met three times to progress draft Terms of Reference. > 19 Feb 2026 – Scope broadened to include alignment with Tāiki ē. > Dec 2025 – Review process approved by Te Ruarangi; Review Group appointed. |
| TRA-0004 | Tāiki ē – Report on Priority Actions Provide Te Ruarangi with updates and guidance on priority Tāiki ē actions and associated work programmes. | C&C | 19/02/2026 | Actions 4, 6 and 24 | Completed | > Being progressed through Tāiki ē work programme and Te Tiriti Health Check follow-up; standalone action complete. | > 19 Feb 2026 – Initial priority topics identified for reporting, including procurement, RM capability (training), MWaR initiation, and deep-dive topics. |
| TRA-0005 | Local Government & Resource Management Reform Support MTAG to develop advice and recommendations on LG and RM reforms, strengthening iwi/hapū involvement and joint advocacy. | C&C + MR + W/M + CC + ED | 19/02/2026 | Action 13, Priority 1 | In progress | > MTAG advice to be presented to Te Ruarangi on 14 May 2026 (see agenda item). | > 12 Mar 2026 – Reform options discussed at MTAG; feedback to inform Te Ruarangi paper. > Feb 2026 – MTAG tasked to consider iwi/hapū representation and advocacy options. |

| Action ID | Action description / Strategic Intent Whaingā | Strategic Intent Whaingā | Te Ruarangi meeting date | Tāiki ē action | Current status | Most recent coment | Progress/History |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|---|---|
| TRA-0006 | Stage Two Treaty Health Check – Implementation Develop an implementation plan for Stage Two Treaty Health Check recommendations in partnership with MTAG. | C&C + MR | 19/02/2026 | Action 1, Priority 1 | Pending start | This will be presented to the July meeting due to other priorities re: LG reforms and Terms of Reference. | > Feb–Mar 2026 – Work deferred while priority given to Wānanga Waiora and LG/RM reform kaupapa. |
| TRA-0007 | Wānanga Waiora & Climate Change Summit Deliver Wānanga Waiora and the Climate Change Summit to strengthen kaitiaki networks and advance climate resilience outcomes. | W/M + CC | 19/02/2026 | Actions 7, 8, 27 Priority 1 | In progress | > Verbal update be provided to Te Ruarangi on 14 May 2026 as part of Tāiki ē update. | > 12 Mar 2026 – Proposed programme endorsed, subject to refinement to strengthen alignment with Tāiki ē and inform future Ōhanga Māori forum planning. > Mar 2026 – MTAG confirmed desired outcomes and refined draft programme. > Feb 2026 – Draft scope and programme referred to MTAG following Te Ruarangi direction. > 2025 – Wānanga Waiora established as priority kaupapa under Tāiki ē. |

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 08 May 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.

Further updates have been provided in the action sheet attached pertaining to:

- Action 4 Mana Whakahono a Rohe agreements
 - Action 6 Wananga Waiora 2026
 - Action 9 Regulatory Services delivery
-

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 29 April 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 | TRA-0006 This will be presented to the July meeting due to other priorities re: LG reforms and ToR. | \$100,000 allocated as part of overall budget for implementation. |
| Action 02 | Continue developing Tāiki ē | Priority 1 | On track | TRA-0003 Revised ToR to be presented to Te Ruarangi 14 May 2026. Taiki e review will be completed as part of the Long Term Plan. Once ToR endorsed staff to work with ToR review group to review strategic priorities within Taiki e. | |
| 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. Council have received initiations from a number of iwi and hapu to date given the legislative reforms and these are being workshopped with council to consider resources and support required. | \$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 | Planning has begun for 2026 with the wananga to include a second day specifically for climate change and action. Dates and venue have been confirmed for June 11 & 12 2026 at Tahuaroa Conference Centre, Waitangi. | \$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. | 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. Currently running through the process of selection for successful recipients. | \$120,000 per annum |
| Action 09 | Transfer of powers | Priority 1 | On track | TRA-0002 Paper provided on 14 May. Project Manager Cathy Orevich- Regulatory Services has reported progress to date and working with MTAG. To date 60% of the actions outlined have been achieved and Cathy has presented to MTAG the progress to date. CIA templates at final draft stage and staff will present outcomes of this action plan at the July formal 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 | LTP planning underway and update will be provided at the July meeting in regards to process of iwi and hapu involvement. | 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 | TRA-0005 MTAG advice to be presented to Te Ruarangi on 14 May. see paper related to Resource Management and LG reforms advice - MTAG | 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. | 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 | Te Whariki CCFramework has been reviewed and updated. Managers Wananga set for end June, 2026. Councillor cultural competency training to take place before 30 June. | 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 |
| Action 21 | Transfer of powers | Priority 2 | On track | Implementing approach endorsed by Te Ruarangi and information provided re: approach. | |
| Action 22 | Māori constituencies | Priority 1 | Needs attention | Given the outcome of the binding poll Maori constituencies not currently possible and action will be received as part of strategic review. | Budgeted: \$20,000 allocated in governance budget for 22(a) |
| Action 23 | Equitable/safe environment for councillors | Priority 1 | On track | Support provided for councillors to attend and participate at Waitangi Commemorations. Te Reo translator provided and cultural competency training provided annually to support councillors (KPI) | Within existing resources |
| Action 24 | Procurement | Priority 3 | On track | Procurement policy has recently been updated with a specific provision progressing this action. | Within existing resources |

| 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 25 | Council contracts for iwi and hapū | Priority 3 | On track | see action 24 | 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 | TRA-007 Verbal update be provided to Te Ruarangi on 14 May 2026. Wananga Waiora will support and assist the development of the hapori maori resilience plan by establishing a regional hapori leadership group in partnership with councils. | |
| Action 29 | Sustainable economic development | Priority 2 | Needs attention | Wananga for economic development has been deferred and no longer is part of the Wananga Waiora as previously proposed. | |
| 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: **Resource Consent Review Report - 12-month Action Plan**

From: Colin Dall, Pou Whakaritenga - Group Manager Regulatory Services and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement

Authorised by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and
Group Manager/s: Engagement and Colin Dall, Pou Whakaritenga - Group Manager Regulatory Services, on 08 May 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to present an update to Te Ruarangi on the 12-month Action Plan, which is based on the recommendations from the report “Tāiki ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process”, including completed actions and actions currently underway. This significant work programme is being guided by the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG), and efforts are in progress to develop tools that will make information more accessible for iwi, hapū, and key stakeholders.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Resource Consent Review Report - 12-month Action Plan’ by Colin Dall, Pou Whakaritenga - Group Manager Regulatory Services and Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 4 May 2026, be received.
 2. That Te Ruarangi be provided further updates on progress of the 12-month implementation plan to give effect to the report and recommendations.
-

Tuhinga/Background

The *Tāiki ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process* (the RC Report) was prepared by Barker & Associates (B&A) to review council’s resource consenting process in alignment with the requirements of Action 9 of *Tāiki ē*. The RC Report provided an in-depth analysis of the resource consent determination process, with a particular focus on how and when iwi and hapū are engaged prior to lodgement, during lodgement, and post-decision-making. It highlighted key issues and findings, alongside 11 key preliminary recommendations for improvement.

The final draft was endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) on 12 September 2024. (Since that time, TTMAC has been renamed Te Ruarangi.) It was then presented to the Audit, Finance and Risk Committee whose key feedback included support for the Report, with emphasis on the importance of the iwi and hapū contact database, confidentiality of contact details, and the use of cultural impact assessment templates.

Following the Report’s release and its endorsement by NRC and Te Ruarangi (formerly TTMAC), NRC staff and B&A consultants prepared a 12-month Action Plan to implement the recommendations, with Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) oversight. The Action Plan was presented at MTAG’s 23 January 2025 meeting and their feedback incorporated into the Action Plan.

During this process, overlaps and synergies were also identified with similar initiatives being undertaken by Te Kahu o Taonui. Te Kahu o Taonui has undertaken engagement with Taiao Practitioners to assess their ability to participate and respond effectively and efficiently to resource consents from FNDC. It was identified that their input and participation is hampered by a range of process and system issues, including but not limited to the following:

- Volume of resource consents
- Statutory timeframes
- Section 36A requirements¹
- Cost recovery
- Relationships
- Cultural competency
- The understanding and application of iwi/hapū environmental management plans
- The consideration of sites of cultural significance
- Hard and soft infrastructure; and
- Capability and capacity.

Update – Overall Status

Most of the actions within the programme have been completed (65%), with several core process and governance improvements now embedded. A smaller number of actions are overdue or in progress, primarily where work is dependent on system changes (IRIS/GIS), regulatory reform timing, external consultation, or resourcing decisions.

Completed Actions

- **Iwi and hapū contact database:** Annual review processes are in place, engagement with iwi and hapū has occurred, and a centralised internal database (IRIS) is operational, with ongoing data cleansing required for duplicates.
- **Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Regional Plan (RP) tangata whenua provisions:** Internal review and consultation with MTAG have been completed, with no plan changes progressed due to the “plan stop” in the Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025.
- **Pre-application process refinements:** Pre-application processes are in place, guidance has been published on the NRC website, communications to applicants have occurred, and monitoring is ongoing.
- **Circulation of non-notified resource consent decisions:** Processes are implemented and operating, with decisions circulated to iwi and hapū by rohe and ongoing feedback considered.
- **Māori hearing commissioners guidance:** At the 13 March 2025 Te Ruarangi meeting, MTAG was asked to provide feedback on, and if needed develop amendments to, the framework for selecting and appointing RMA consent hearings commissioners. The guidance has since been developed, considered by the former Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, and approved by council.
- **Hearing tikanga:** Tikanga has been incorporated into hearing processes, frameworks are in place, and staff and commissioners have received training, with ongoing review.

Actions In Progress or Overdue

- **Iwi and hapū spatial mapping:** GIS viewer is now available; however, updating and verifying spatial data within IRIS, system testing, and staff training remain outstanding. This work is dependent on further GIS and system integration actions.

¹ s.36A of the RMA identifies that there is no duty to consult about RC applications and notices of requirement.

- **Updating resource consent forms:** Review and revision of consent forms to better address assessment of effects on tāngata whenua values remain deferred, pending RMA reform outcomes.
- **Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) templates:** Revised templates have been drafted. Engagement with MTAG and finalisation of templates are nearing completion.
- **Dedicated iwi and hapū consent support:** Investigation into dedicated support (including feasibility, resourcing, and funding considerations) remains in progress, with further discussion required to determine an appropriate model.
- **Timeframes for further information requests:** Engagement with MTAG on agreed timeframes, integration into procedures, and staff training to be prioritised in regard to improving engagement with iwi and hapū.

Key Risks and Considerations

- Several actions are reliant on system capability (IRIS/GIS) and external consultation, which affects delivery timeframes.
- Some process changes are appropriately paused pending RMA reform clarity, particularly in relation to resource consenting.
- Further progress on resourcing-related actions will require funding and governance decisions.

Next Steps

- Progress GIS and IRIS-related tasks to embed iwi and hapū spatial information.
- Complete engagement and finalisation of CIA templates through M-TAG.
- Advance discussions on dedicated iwi and hapū consent support and further information request timeframes.
- Resume deferred consent form updates once regulatory settings are clearer.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: 2025 03 05 council workshop Tāiki ē – RCR Action Plan [↓](#) 



Resource Consent Review 12-month Action Plan

Draft Project Plan – For TTMAC Review

4 February 2024

Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this project plan is to provide an overview of the management and delivery of the Resource Consent Review 12-month Action Plan (RCR Action Plan), to achieve the objectives within the agreed timeframes.

| Details | |
|---------------------|--|
| Project name | Resource Consent Review 12-month Action Plan (RCR Action Plan) |
| Project description | Implement the 11 recommendations of 'Tāiki Ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process Report' (refer to Appendix A) |
| Project sponsors | Auriole Ruka & Colin Dall |
| Project owner | Stuart Savill |
| Project manager | Julian Hansen with assistance from Barker & Associates |
| Project timeframe | 12-month action plan, but certain deliverables will extend beyond Q4 2025 |
| Iris/ Obj reference | TBC |
| Finance code | TBC |

Objectives

The primary objective of the RCR Action Plan is to ensure that Northland Regional Council (NRC) processes resource consents (RC) in a culturally appropriate manner, fostering meaningful engagement with iwi and hapū. The RCR Action Plan will implement the 11 recommendations from the 'Tāiki Ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process Report,' to:

- Strengthen iwi and hapū engagement in NRC RC processes;
- Streamline RC processes so they work for all parties (e.g., iwi / hapū, applicants and NRC); and
- Integrate tikanga in RC processes, in particular RMA hearings.

Background

On 12 August 2021, iwi and hapū members of TTMAC, adopted the "TTMAC Strategic Intent 2021 – 2040". The Strategic Intent provides:

- Te Pae Tawhiti | Vision 2040
- Te Kaupapa | Mission Statement
- Ngā Whaingā | Desired Goals in five key focus areas being – Capacity and capability, Māori representation, Water/Marine, Climate crisis and Economic development
- Ngā Tikanga | Values that underpin the Strategic Intent

Following this, in partnership NRC and TTMAC developed Tāiki ē (Te Tiriti Strategy and Implementation Plan). Tāiki ē was developed as NRC's Implementation Plan to give effect to the first Ngā Whaingā related to capacity and capability, and Māori representation. Tāiki ē was adopted on 26 July 2022.

Action 9 of the Tāiki ē includes the following:

“Review, update and embed how NRC delivers its regulatory services to ensure regulatory activities (e.g., resource consents and compliance monitoring) are undertaken in a culturally appropriate manner and seek to include iwi and hapū to the greatest extent possible, including by:

- (a) Developing an efficient and consistent framework for notifying and involving iwi and hapū with resource consent applications;*
- (b) Providing suitable opportunities for iwi and hapū to provide feedback within statutory timeframes;*
- (c) Taking into account the following:*
 - (i) The legislative constraints of the RMA;*
 - (ii) Where legislative conflicts arise, advocate for change to central government in accordance with Action 12 of this Implementation Plan.*
- (d) Committing funding to consistently resource iwi and hapū for undertaking this work.”*

Barker & Associates (**B&A**) were engaged in mid-2023 to complete the review of NRC’s resource consenting processes in alignment with the requirements outlined in Action 9 above. The review took into account the legislative constraints of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**) and other relevant statutory documents. Workshops were undertaken with key internal NRC staff along with the Māori Technical Advisory Group (**M-TAG**). Based on this, the ‘*Tāiki Ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process Report*’ (refer to **Appendix A**), endorsed by Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) in July 2024, and approved by the Audit, Risk and Finance (**ARF**) Committee in August 2024. This outlined 11 clear recommendations which are as follows:

“Stage One Pre-Lodgement

1. *Iwi and Hapū Contact Database – update and regularly maintain a contacts database.*
2. *Spatial Mapping – invest in the improvement of spatial mapping tools (e.g., GIS platforms) that more clearly identified iwi and hapū rohe (boundaries). Encourage iwi and hapū to map more Sites and Areas of Significance to tāngata whenua.*
3. *Review Plan Settings – review the tāngata whenua provisions of the Regional Plan for Northland (RPN) and Northland Regional Policy Statement (RPS), in particular D.1 tāngata whenua policies to provide clearer direction around engagement with, and notification to iwi and hapū.*
4. *Application Forms – review and update forms, in particular the application form to make it clearer for applicants on what is required in regard to an assessment of effects on tāngata whenua and their taonga.*
5. *Cultural Impact Assessment Templates – collaboratively prepare and utilise best practice templates for CIAs.*
6. *Resourcing – investigate the possibility of a dedicated staff member to support iwi and hapū in the distribution, vetting, review and comment on resource consent applications.*

7. *Pre-Application Meetings – Have clear guidance on when a pre application meeting should be undertaken and in what format. This should be specifically encouraged and promoted for moderate to complex resource consent applications.*

Stage Two – Further Information

8. *Timeframes – establish and agree consistent timeframes and expectations with iwi and hapū associated with further information requests.*

Stage Three – Notification / Decisions

9. *Circulation of Non-Notified Decisions: Close the loop by ensuring that non-notified resource consent decisions be circulated to the relevant iwi and hapū whose rohe that the resource consent it is located within.*
10. *Māori Commissioners: Investigate opportunities for developing a practice note to guide the process and what considerations need to be made when appointing Māori Commissioners.*
11. *Hearing tikanga: Develop a consistent approach to working with the relevant iwi and hapū on a case-by-case basis to imbed their tikanga into the hearing process.”*

This 12-month RCR Action Plan provides a structured approach to implementing these recommendations, ensuring NRC’s resource consent processes align with Tāiki Ē’s vision.

Scope

The 12-Month RCR Action Plan focuses on executing key recommendations as outlined to improve NRC’s RC process, in alignment with Tāiki Ē, Action 9. This plan prioritises strengthening iwi and hapū engagement and ensuring NRC’s regulatory services are culturally appropriate, efficient, and responsive. This plan provides clear direction on responsibilities, timelines, and actions required to achieve these goals.

In Scope:

- Enhancing engagement with iwi and hapū in NRC resource consents through updated contact databases, improved spatial mapping, and formalised pre-application procedures;
- Reviewing and updating application forms, Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) templates, and notification processes for non-notified resource consents;
- Exploring the appointment of dedicated staff to support iwi and hapū in resource consent processes.; and
- Establishing consistent processes for embedding tikanga into hearings and appointing Māori Commissioners¹.

Out of Scope:

- Actions beyond the 12-month timeframe or unrelated to specific resource consent improvements, including Fast-track consenting processes;
- Broader Tāiki Ē actions not directly linked to the resource consent process; and

¹ Noting this work is largely complete with the Group Manager Regulatory Services taking a guidance paper to Audit Risk and Finance Committee on 18 November 2024, and this paper being voted on by Council in December 2024.

- General regulatory or compliance monitoring tasks outside the scope of iwi and hapū engagement improvements – this is subject to a separate review and recommendations for action associated with those processes.

This scope ensures clarity for all stakeholders, clearly defining the boundaries and deliverables, while focusing on tangible improvements to the resource consent process within the 12-month timeframe.

Key milestones

The table below outlines those key milestones that are fundamental to delivery of the project and achievement of objective/s. This should be viewed alongside the breakdown of key tasks in **Appendix B**.

| Milestone | Milestone description | Target completion date | Responsibility of | Actual completion date |
|--|--|---|--|------------------------|
| Stage One Pre-Lodgement | | | | |
| 1. Update iwi and hapū contact database | Regularly maintain and update an iwi and hapū contact database to ensure accurate and effective engagement | March 2025, with quarterly reviews for accuracy | NRC Māori engagement team (maintenance), iwi and hapū (provide updates) and NRC RC team (practice and implementation) | |
| 2. Improve iwi and hapū spatial mapping | Development of GIS viewers/layers to identify iwi and hapū rohe (boundaries) and sites of significance to tāngata whenua that iwi / hapū are willing to share the location of. . | December 2025, with ongoing updates | NRC RC, Māori engagement and GIS working group (implementation), iwi and hapū (provide input on boundaries and sites) | |
| 3. Review RPS and RP iwi provisions | Review and update tāngata whenua provisions in the Regional Policy Statement (RPS) and Regional Plan for Northland (RPN) for clearer engagement guidelines. | By December 2026. Begin initial review in 2025, noting medium to long term process to get this through given changes in resource management national direction and legislation. | NRC policy team (lead review and implementation), iwi and hapū (provide feedback) | |
| 4. Update RC forms to make it clear re assessment of effects on tāngata whenua values. | Review and update RC application forms to streamline the process and ensure forms are user-friendly and effective. | June 2025 | NRC RC team (design and update), iwi and hapū (provide feedback), possibly with a peer review from an independent external as needed. | |
| 5. Develop Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) templates | Collaborate to create tiered CIA templates (e.g., simple, moderate and complex) for culturally appropriate assessments, with different levels of complexity. | June 2025 | NRC Māori engagement and RC teams (template development), iwi and hapū (development and testing) possibly with a peer review from an independent external. | |
| 6. Investigate dedicated iwi and hapū support to | Investigate the possibility of appointing a dedicated staff member to assist | September 2025 | NRC RC and finance teams (feasibility study), iwi and hapū (provide feedback on support needs) | |

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| vet consent applications | iwi and hapū with vetting resource consent applications. | | | |
| 7. Refine pre-application process | Develop and promote a clearer process for pre-application meetings, focusing on moderate to complex applications. | June 2025 | NRC RC team (process development, promotion) | |
| Stage Two – Further Information | | | | |
| 8. Establish clear timeframes for further information requests | Agree on consistent timeframes for handling further information requests with iwi and hapū to improve clarity and efficiency. | June 2025 | NRC RC team (process development), iwi and hapū (provide feedback on timeframes) | |
| Stage Three – Notification / Decisions | | | | |
| 9. Circulate non-notified RC decisions | Create a streamlined process for circulating non-notified RC decisions to iwi and hapū within their rohe. | March 2025 | NRC RC team | |
| 10. Develop guidance for selecting Māori hearing commissioners | Guidance prepared by the Group Manager Regulatory Services, and being considered by Council in December 2024 | December 2024 – already complete Further work / feedback may be required to incorporate M-TAG and TTMAC feedback, noting comments from M-TAG hui in January 2025. | NRC Māori engagement, RC and democracy/hearing teams | Complete – 10 December 2024, although further refinement may be needed following feedback from M-TAG. |
| 11. Develop hearing tikanga | Establish a consistent approach to embedding tikanga in hearings by working with iwi and hapū on a case-by-case basis. | December 2025 | NRC Māori engagement, RC and democracy/hearing teams (approach development), iwi and hapū (provide tikanga guidance) | |

Roles, responsibilities and support service approval

The following table shows the key roles and responsibilities for delivery of the project and should include reporting lines where necessary and who is accountable. The estimation of hours spent working on the project and sign off is for purpose of involving support services, such as IT and Comms, from the outset so they can factor projects into work their programmes early.

| Role | Responsibility | Who | Estimated hours | Support services sign off |
|---------------------------------|--|--|------------------|---------------------------|
| Internal Project steering group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides guidance on the development of the project plan (incl variations), and on communications and engagement Meets regularly to monitor progress, resourcing, risks and mitigation Identifies necessary resources (budget and staff) | Colin Dall, Auriole Ruka and Ruben Wylie | 1 hour per month | N/A |

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|-----|
| Project sponsors (should be a member of ELT) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the project plan and major variations Approves unbudgeted resources Approves consultation and communications strategies Reports to ELT | Auriole Ruka & Colin Dall | 1-3 hours per month | N/A |
| Project owner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultimately responsible for the project Approves minor variations to the project plan Approves budgeted expenditure Liaises with councillors as necessary Prepares council agenda items Monitors and reports progress to council Reviews documents and strategies before they go to project sponsor Reports to project sponsor | Stuart Savill | 3-5hours per month | N/A |
| Project manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conducts overall planning and management of resources Prepares project plan and key tasks/ project management tools Ensures delivery and achievement of objectives as per project plan Manages the project team and advises about their role in the project and delivery deadlines Manages workloads for all those involved Drafts Customer Services Brief and Mailroom Statement of work Manages contracts Organises and runs hearings Reports to project owner and steering group | Julian Hansen with assistance from B&A | 0.2-0.4 FTE, 35-70 hrs per month (8-16 hrs per week) | N/A |
| Project team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for individual tasks and key documents where they are the expert/ specialist Responsible for delivery of individual tasks within agreed timeframes Attends meetings where necessary Reports to project manager | A representative from each team: Māori engagement, GIS, policy, RC, finance and hearings/democracy. | | N/A |
| Communications lead | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads the preparation and delivery of the communications and engagement plan, and ensures delivery of this plan in agreed timeframes | TBC | | N/A |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads all document design, proofing and production Leads the preparation of all communications material Reports to project manager | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|

Costs/ budget

The table below shows the estimated costs for key areas/ tasks for delivery of the project. The costs are based on a range of sources, including estimates from service providers, and estimates based on costs in like-for-like or similar projects. The overall budget for the project is \$106,000.

| Area/ task | Estimated cost (excl GST) | Is this budgeted for? | Actual cost (excl GST) |
|---|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Resourcing iwi and hapū engagement (10 iwi/hapū representatives at 2-hour hui, \$150/hour excl. GST, for 12 months) | \$36,000 | TBC | TBC |
| Meeting expenses (estimated at \$500 per month for 12 months) | \$6,000 | TBC | TBC |
| Iwi travel expenses (estimated at \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month for mileage and parking) | \$12,000 - \$24,000 | TBC | TBC |
| External advice – iwi or RC matters | \$20,000-30,000 | TBC | TBC |
| Contingency (approx. 10%) | \$10,000 | | |
| Total cost | \$84,000-106,000 | TBC | TBC |

Note: The majority of project time involves internal staff hours, which are not included in the budget estimate above.

Key documents

The table below lists the documents that are key to delivery of the project and names who is ultimately responsible for the drafting/ maintaining of these.

| Document name | Who is responsible |
|---|--------------------|
| Tāiki Ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process Report’ (refer to Appendix A) | Project Manager |
| Tāiki ē: Te Tiriti strategy and implementation plan | Project Manager |

Communication and engagement

Internal communications

Are customers likely to be interested in this project, therefore requiring the preparation of a brief for the customer services team (NB a separate template exists for this): Yes – prepare brief and deliver to Customer Services | No – reasons:

Are any other internal departments likely to be affected/ interested in the project: Yes – who, plus a brief statement of communication with those departments so they are aware of the project:
 No – reasons:

Unless a project has been through a New Initiative process, it should also be run by Human Resources and Health and Safety.

Is HR aware of this project: Yes | No – reason:

Is H&S aware of this project: Yes | No – reasons:

Current situation

- A press release was issued on 4 September 2024 to raise public awareness of the project to improve resource consent processes.
- The Te Taitokerau Māori and Council Working Party (TTMAC) endorsed the project in July 2024, followed by approval from the Audit, Risk, and Finance Committee in August 2024.
- Council leadership and staff have moderate awareness of Tāiki Ē, which was adopted by Northland Regional Council in July 2022. Further internal communication, such as an intranet story, may be required to raise awareness and understanding.
- Beyond TTMAC, it is expected that iwi and hapū have some awareness of Tāiki Ē and the project, but targeted communication may be needed to ensure full understanding.

Communication outcomes

- Iwi and hapū, Councillors and Council kaimahi clearly understand the project’s objectives, the specific recommendations being implemented, and how they can actively engage and contribute to its outcomes.

Spokespeople for the project

- Political - Cr Tui Shortland, and Pita Tipene (TTMAC co-chairs) **TBC**
- Technical - Project sponsor, Auriole Ruka; **or delegate to Project owner.**

Audience/ stakeholders

The table below shows a list of those who need to be communicated/ engaged with, both internally and externally, e.g. those who have been identified as people likely to be affected by the project.

| Who | What they need | How |
|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Councillors | Inform | Quarterly update at council meetings TBC |
| TTMAC | Inform | Quarterly updates at TTMAC hui TBC |
| Council executive | Inform | Quarterly ELT update TBC |
| Council kaimahi | Inform | Quarterly intranet updates/stories, regular updates to internal project webpage |
| M-TAG | Involve | Quarterly updates and involvement in key tasks – see Appendix B. |

Key messages for communication and engagement

The following are the key points that need to be made when communicating the project

- Improving RC processes: The 12-month Action Plan will implement key improvements to streamline and enhance the resource consent process, ensuring it is more efficient and culturally appropriate.
- Collaborating with iwi and hapū: A core focus of this project is ensuring meaningful engagement with iwi and hapū, with RC processes being aligned with tāngata whenua values, including embedding tikanga in hearings.
- Delivering Tāiki Ē: This project delivers Action 9 of Tāiki Ē by ensure RCs are processed in a culturally appropriate manner, fostering meaningful engagement with iwi and hapū.
- Stakeholder Involvement: Councillors, council staff, iwi, and hapū are all integral to the successful delivery of this project, with regular updates and clear communication provided to all parties.

Constraints

A list of key constraints for the project is as follows:

- **Staff availability:** The project team requires input from a wide range of business units. Limited availability of staff, or competing priorities could impact project timelines and deliverables.
- **Iwi and hapū engagement timelines:** Availability and scheduling of iwi and hapū for consultation and engagement may influence project milestones.
- **Budget constraints:** Financial limitations could affect the scope and speed of implementation for some deliverables.
- **External dependencies:** Coordination with external stakeholders, such as advisory groups or consultants, may introduce delays due to conflicting schedules or resource constraints.

Risks/ issues

The table below identifies the major risks associated with the delivery of the plan within the agreed timeframes.

| Risk description | Mitigation measures | Residual risk |
|--|--|---------------|
| Staff availability Limited availability of staff across business units due to competing priorities could delay project timelines. | Plan project tasks around key staff availability. Prioritise tasks and ensure resource allocation is clear from the outset. Escalate potential delays early. | Medium |
| Iwi and hapū engagement timelines Scheduling and availability challenges may delay consultation and project milestones. | Engage with iwi and hapū early and provide flexible timeframes for consultation. Allow buffer time in the schedule to accommodate delays. | Medium |
| Budget constraints Financial limitations could restrict the implementation of certain deliverables or require scope adjustments. | Monitor budget regularly. Reallocate resources if necessary and flag any budget issues with the project sponsor for timely resolution. | Medium |
| Council meeting timing for approvals Delays in securing approvals from Council, TTMAC or ELT could impact project progress. | Align project milestones with Council, TTMAC or ELT meeting schedules. Engage councillors, TTMAC or ELT early to expedite decision-making processes. | Medium |
| Wide ranging RMA legislative changes Potential changes to relevant legislation (e.g., RMA amendments) could impact project scope or processes. | Keep up to date with legislative developments and adjust project scope as required to remain compliant. | Low |
| Communication breakdown Ineffective communication within the project team or between stakeholders could result in misalignment or delays. | Ensure regular updates and clear communication through established channels (e.g., intranet, emails). Set expectations for timely information flow. | Low |

Key tasks

A breakdown of the key tasks (i.e. key task list) for delivering the project plan is attached in **Appendix B**.

Change management

Once the project plan has been signed off by the **Executive Leadership Team/ Group Manager**, any changes to the plan milestones and/or budget must be approved by the Project Sponsor. Record all changes below:

| Description of change | Reason for change | Change initiated by | Date change approved |
|--|--|---|--|
| <Short description of the change here> | <Why the change to the project plan is required> | <Who has requested/ initiated the change> | <Date change incorporated into project plan> |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Document control and approval

Version control

| Version | Date | Author/ revisor | Notes |
|---------|------------|--|--|
| 1 | 17/10/2024 | David Badham and Kelly Parekowhai, Barker & Associates | First draft for NRC review |
| 2 | 4/2/2025 | David Badham and Kelly Parekowhai, Barker & Associates | Updated draft following M-TAG feedback for TTMAC review. |
| | | | |

Project plan approval

| Information | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Version | 2 – Updated Draft Following M-TAG feedback for TTMAC review |
| Name | Resource Consent Review 12-month Action Plan |
| Approved by (sponsor/ owner) | TBC |
| Date approved | TBC |
| Owner | Stuart Savill |
| Author | David Badham and Kelly Parekowhai |
| Group | Independent Consultants, Barker & Associates |
| Date published | TBC |
| Date created | 4/2/2025 |
| Review date | 12 months from date approved |

Appendix A: Tāiki Ē – Regulatory Services Review – Resource Consent Process Report

To be appended to the final version of the Action Plan.

Appendix B: Key tasks list

Key tasks are listed below for each milestone. NB: Milestones are not in recommendation order, but rather in a prioritised list, by target completion date, to show the critical path or trade-offs which might need to be made if constraints are present.

| Milestone | Key Tasks | Target Completion Date | Person Responsible |
|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. Māori hearing commissioners Develop guidance for selecting Māori hearing commissioners | Task 1: Draft guidance for selecting Māori hearing commissioners | Completed | NRC Māori engagement, RC and democracy/hearing teams |
| | Task 2: Present guidance to Audit, Risk and Finance Committee | Completed on 18 November 2024 | Group Manager Regulatory Services |
| | Task 3: Council to consider guidance in Dec 2024 | Completed 10 December 2024 | Group Manager Regulatory Services |
| 2. Update iwi and hapū contact database The first phase will focus on creating and maintaining an internal contact database for iwi and hapū by March 2025. This database will provide accurate information for all teams to use in their engagement work. The second phase will explore options for an external web portal with GIS viewer capabilities. This public platform will display consents, marae locations, environmental management plans, statutory information, and sites of significance to iwi and Māori that iwi / hapū are willing to share the location of. | Task 1: Schedule quarterly reviews to update contact details. | End-Jan 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, noting crossover with work with Te Kahu o Taonui (TKoT) |
| | Task 2: Engage with iwi and hapū for updates on their preferred contacts. | Mid-Feb 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, iwi and hapū, noting cross over with work |
| | Task 3: Maintain a centralised, easily accessible internal contact database. | Early-Mar 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team |
| | Task 4: Ensure internal database updates are communicated to all relevant NRC teams. | End-Mar 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team |
| 3. Update RC Forms Review and update RC application forms to streamline the process and ensure forms are user-friendly and effective. | Task 1: Identify areas in the current RC forms that require simplification and streamlining. | End-Mar 2025 | NRC RC team |
| | Task 2: Draft revised RC forms. | End-Apr 2025 | NRC RC team |
| | Task 3: Test new forms for usability with internal staff and iwi representatives from M-TAG. | Mid-May 2025 | NRC RC team, iwi and hapū |
| | Task 4: Implement and roll out the updated RC forms, ensuring staff are trained. | End-Jun 2025 | NRC RC team |
| 4. Refine pre-application process Develop and promote a clearer process for pre-application meetings, focusing on moderate to complex applications. | Task 1: Review current pre-application meeting processes, particularly for moderate and complex cases (and how NRC define/identify these consents) | End-Mar 2025 | NRC RC team |

| Milestone | Key Tasks | Target Completion Date | Person Responsible |
|--|--|------------------------|--|
| Consider fee options for pre-app hui, and how pre-app hui can be incentivised for moderate to complex applications. | Task 2: Develop clearer, step-by-step pre-application guidelines | End-Apr 2025 | NRC RC team |
| | Task 3: Promote the new process through targeted communications. | End-June 2025 | NRC RC team |
| | Task 4: Monitor the effectiveness of the process and gather ongoing feedback. | Ongoing | NRC RC team |
| 5. Circulate non-notified RC decisions Create a streamlined process for circulating non-notified RC decisions to iwi and hapū within their rohe. | Task 1: Develop a process for identifying and categorising non-notified RC decisions. | End-Feb 2025 | NRC RC team |
| | Task 2: Create a distribution list of iwi and hapū based on rohe. | Mid-Mar 2025 | NRC RC team |
| | Task 3: Ensure non-notified RC decisions are promptly circulated to iwi and hapū within their rohe. | End-Mar 2025 | NRC RC team |
| | Task 4: Gather feedback from iwi and hapū on the process and make any necessary adjustments. | Ongoing | NRC RC team |
| 6. Develop Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) Templates Collaborate to create tiered CIA templates for culturally appropriate assessments, with different levels of complexity. | Task 1: Gather input from iwi and hapū via M-TAG on key assessment components for the CIA templates. | End-Mar 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 2: Develop tiered CIA templates reflecting varying complexities. | End-Apr 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 3: Share CIA templates with M-TAG and gather feedback. | End-May 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, iwi and hapū M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 4: Refine and finalise templates based on feedback. | End-Jun 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team |
| 7. Establish clear timeframes for further information requests Agree on consistent timeframes for handling further information requests with iwi and hapū to improve clarity and efficiency. | Task 1: Consult with M-TAG reps to agree on appropriate timeframes for further information requests. | End-Mar 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 2: Integrate agreed timeframes into NRC's official procedures and documentation. | End-Apr 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 3: Train staff to adhere to the new timeframes. | End-June 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team |
| | Task 4: Monitor and review the process regularly, ensuring timeframes are met. | Ongoing | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, M-TAG representatives |
| 8. Review RPS and RP Iwi Provisions Review and update tāngata whenua provisions in the Regional Policy Statement | Task 1: Conduct an internal review of current RPS and RP provisions relating to tāngata whenua. | End-Jun 2025 | NRC Policy team, NRC Māori engagement team and M-TAG representatives |

| Milestone | Key Tasks | Target Completion Date | Person Responsible |
|---|--|------------------------|---|
| (RPS) and Regional Plan for Northland (RPN) for clearer engagement guidelines. | Task 2: Consult with M-TAG to gather feedback on the provisions. | *End-Dec 2025 | NRC Policy team, NRC Māori engagement team and M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 3: Draft updates and amendments based on iwi and hapū feedback. | *End-Jun 2026 | NRC Policy team, NRC Māori engagement team and M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 4: Review the draft provisions with key stakeholders for feedback and approval. | * End-Dec 2026 | NRC Policy team, NRC Māori engagement team and M-TAG representatives |
| 9. Investigate dedicated iwi and hapū support for consent vetting Investigate the possibility of appointing a dedicated staff member (e.g., NRC or external) to assist iwi and hapū with vetting resource consent applications = possibly pilot programme. Once consent vetting is working well, NRC will consider other ways Council Officers could assist iwi and hapū with their work, noting potential regulatory conflicts. | Task 1: Conduct a feasibility study and a 3-month pilot to assess the need for a dedicated support position. | End-May 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 2: Engage with iwi and hapū to understand specific support needs. | End-Jun 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, M-TAG representatives |
| | Task 3: Assess the financial and operational implications of appointing dedicated support. | End-Aug 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, M-TAG representatives, Finance team |
| | Task 4: Present findings and make recommendations for a new support process and / or resource. | End-Sep 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, M-TAG representatives, finance team |
| 10. Develop hearing tikanga Establish a consistent approach to embedding tikanga in hearings by working with iwi and hapū on a case-by-case basis. | Task 1: Consult with iwi and hapū to establish appropriate tikanga principles for hearings. | End-Jun 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, Democracy/Hearing team, M-TAG |
| | Task 2: Create a framework for applying tikanga on a case-by-case basis. | End-Aug 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, Democracy/Hearing team, M-TAG |
| | Task 3: Train staff and Commissioners on tikanga protocols. | End-Dec 2025 | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, Democracy/Hearing team |
| | Task 4: Review tikanga practices regularly, ensuring cultural appropriateness is maintained. | Ongoing | NRC Māori engagement team, RC team, Democracy/Hearing team |
| 11. Improve iwi and hapū spatial mapping Development of GIS viewers/layers to identify iwi and hapū rohe (boundaries) and sites of significance to tāngata whenua. | Task 1: Collaborate with iwi and hapū to confirm rohe boundaries and significant sites. | End-Jun 2025 | NRC GIS team, iwi and hapū and M-TAG |
| | Task 2: Input and verify spatial data in the GIS system. | End-Aug 2025 | NRC GIS team |
| | Task 3: Conduct system testing and troubleshoot any integration issues. | End-Sep 2025 | NRC GIS team, iwi and hapū |

| Milestone | Key Tasks | Target Completion Date | Person Responsible |
|-----------|---|------------------------|--------------------|
| | Task 4: Provide training to relevant NRC staff on the updated GIS platform. | End-Dec 2025 | NRC GIS team |

* Timeline exceeds 12-month Action Plan period but indicative forward dates shown.

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TITLE: Final Draft - Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference

From: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, on 08 May 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

This report presents the revised draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for Te Ruarangi for the 2025–2028 triennium, for Te Ruarangi to consider for endorsement and onward adoption by Council.

Te Ruarangi agreed in December 2025 to undertake a review of its ToR through a Review Group made up of the Co-Chairs, iwi/hapū representatives and elected members, supported by senior staff.

At the formal meeting on 12 March 2026, Te Ruarangi did not endorse the draft ToR and directed the Review Group to further refine the draft, incorporating feedback from both the formal meeting and the iwi/hapū caucus, and to bring a revised version to the next formal meeting.

In response to Te Ruarangi’s direction, the Review Group met on 15 April 2026 to consider feedback from the March meeting and agree refinements to the draft ToR. The revised draft reflects the outcome of that meeting and is presented for Te Ruarangi consideration. Written feedback received subsequently has not been incorporated, but is summarised below for completeness and transparency.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Final Draft - Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference’ by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao and dated 28 April 2026, be received.
 2. That the attached revised draft Terms of Reference for Te Ruarangi for the 2025–2028 triennium be endorsed.
 3. That Te Ruarangi recommend that Council adopt the Terms of Reference for Te Ruarangi for the 2025–2028 triennium, noting that minor formatting and grammatical refinements may be made prior to adoption, including updates to te reo Māori headings, where appropriate.
-

Tuhinga/Background

Te Ruarangi agreed in December 2025 to undertake a review of its Terms of Reference through a Review Group comprising the Co-Chairs, iwi and hapū representatives, elected members and senior staff.

At the formal meeting on 12 March 2026, Te Ruarangi did not endorse the draft Terms of Reference and directed the Review Group to further refine the draft, incorporating feedback from both the formal meeting and the iwi and hapū caucus. Areas identified for further attention included:

- clearer language distinguishing representation and contribution
 - alignment of MTAG and other working groups with Te Ruarangi
 - clarification of appointments to joint committees and related roles
 - improved visibility of the governance structure
 - consideration of access to independent technical advice aligned with the Strategic Intent.
-

The Review Group met on 15 April 2026 to consider this feedback and agree refinements. The revised draft presented to this meeting reflects the matters agreed at that session.


Feedback

Additional written feedback was received following circulation of the 15 April 2026 Review Group draft. Minor corrections reflecting agreed decisions (e.g. terminology updates and cross-references) have been incorporated. Other key themes from this feedback are summarised below for completeness and transparency.

- the need for clear and consistent use of terminology, particularly the distinction between tangata whenua and iwi/hapū
- clarification that the non-elected Co-Chair proxy should be a primary member, for consistency
- consideration of including a glossary to support shared understanding of key terms used throughout the document (e.g. kaupapa-based forum)

The written feedback also noted that the revised draft was clearer and better reflected the kōrero undertaken through the review process, and that it would support the work of Te Ruarangi for the remainder of the triennium and beyond.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Draft Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference – Revised by Review Group (15 April 2026) [↓](#) 

Te Ruarangi

Ngā Kupu Pānga | Terms of Reference 2025-2028



DOCUMENT INFORMATION

| | Information |
|------------------|-------------|
| Document ID | |
| Document version | |
| Document Name | |
| Approved by | |
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CONTENTS

| | |
|---|----|
| 1. Kupu Whakataki Background..... | 4 |
| 2. Te Kaupapa Mission..... | 4 |
| 3. Te Pae Tawhiti Vision 2040..... | 4 |
| 4. Tikanga/Ngā Uara Values..... | 4 |
| 5. Ngā Whaingā Objectives..... | 4 |
| 6. Roles and Responsibilities | 5 |
| 7. Te Roopu The Working Party..... | 5 |
| 8. Ngā Mema Membership..... | 6 |
| 8.1 Composition | 6 |
| 8.2 Current membership | 6 |
| 8.3 Appointment and Term | 7 |
| 8.4 Removal and Vacancies..... | 8 |
| 8.5 Proxy Members | 8 |
| 8.6 He Utu Payment..... | 9 |
| 9. Papā o te pānga Declaration of Interest..... | 9 |
| 10. Ngā Heamana Co-Chairs | 9 |
| 11. Other iwi/hapū representation on working parties (see appendix) | 9 |
| 12. Māori Technical Advisory Group | 10 |
| 13. Hokohitanga o Ngā Hui Meetings..... | 10 |
| 13.1 Formal Meetings | 10 |
| 13.2 Kōrama Quorum | 10 |
| 13.3 Marae-based meetings..... | 10 |
| 13.4 Iwi and hapū preparation..... | 10 |
| 13.5 Changes to meeting dates..... | 11 |
| 13.6 Attendance and conduct at meetings..... | 11 |
| 14. Whakaoti raruraru Conflict resolution | 11 |
| 15. Annual reporting | 11 |
| 16. Te Ruarangi not discharged at triennial elections..... | 11 |
| 17. Whakamahinga Operation..... | 12 |
| 18. Arataki Tangata Member Induction | 12 |
| 19. Ngā purongo Reporting -accountability | 12 |
| 20. Arotakenga Review..... | 12 |
| Appendix – Iwi/hapu representation on council governance structure 2025-2028..... | 13 |
| | 13 |

1. Kupu Whakataki | Background

Te Kaunihera ā rohe o Te Taitokerau / Northland Regional Council (NRC) is committed to giving effect to its responsibilities to tāngata whenua under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Te Ruarangi is an enduring partnership forum between council and iwi and hapū of Taitokerau. **Council's decision to maintain Te Ruarangi is one practical way council gives effect to** its Te Tiriti responsibilities.

Te Ruarangi is a working party of council and iwi and hapū of Taitokerau the purpose of which is to foster an enduring partnership of mutual respect and good faith between tangata whenua and council, grounded in He Whakaputanga o Te Rangatiratanga o Nū Tīreni (1835) and Te Tiriti o Waitangi (1840).

This Terms of Reference is guided by the kaupapa, vision, mission and whainga (objectives) of the Te Ruarangi Strategic Intent 2021–2040 (“Strategic Intent”) which collectively inform and direct the contributions of Te Ruarangi.

2. Te Kaupapa | Mission

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

3. Te Pae Tawhiti | Vision 2040

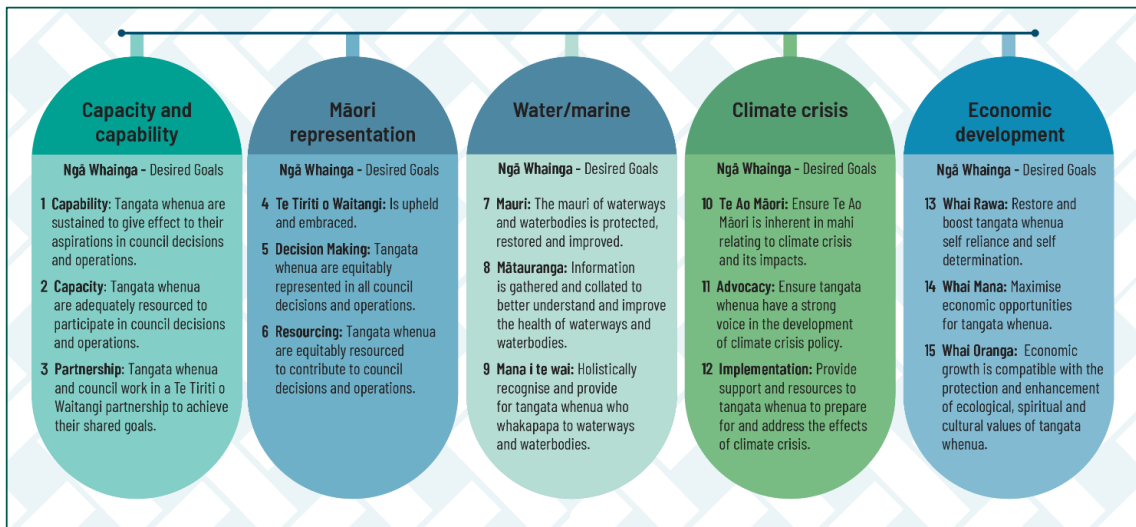
- **He whenua haumoko** – Land that is bountiful
- **He wai mā** – Water that is pure and healthy
- **He iwi whai ora** – People that are flourishing.

4. Tikanga/Ngā Uara | Values

- **Titiro ki ngā taumata o te moana** — Always remain strategic in our approach/intent/view
- **Mahi tahi tūtuki noa** — Identify opportunities, increase collaboration, and complete projects
- **Me whakatau mā roto i te kōrero** — Resolution through conversation
- **Kaitiakitanga** — Dedicated stewardship by tangata whenua of Te Taitokerau.

5. Ngā Whainga | Objectives

These five key objectives from the Strategic Intent inform and guide the governance priorities of Te Ruarangi:



6. Roles and Responsibilities

To advance iwi and [hapū involvement in council governance activities and decision making linked with the strategic objectives set out in Clause 5 in a way that upholds council's Te Tiriti responsibilities. Key roles include:](#)

- Monitor and advise on council's compliance with its obligations to iwi and hapū, including (but not limited to) those set out in the Local Government Act 2002, the Resource Management Act 1991, and any successor or replacement legislation.
- [Monitor and advise on legislative reforms that could have an impact on the relationship between council and tangata whenua.](#)
- Provide advice to council on topics referred to it by council
- Provide advice to council on topics of strategic importance and relevance to tāngata whenua
- To develop pathways (and processes) that will achieve lasting and meaningful relationships between tāngata whenua and council
- To ensure the views of tangata whenua are taken into account in the exercise of council functions
- To provide access to specialist Māori technical advice Te Ruarangi members can provide advice based only on information presented and does not replace council's obligation to consult with iwi and hapū.
- Oversee the implementation of Tāiki ē and council's Te Tiriti commitments, monitoring progress and advising to ensure council is consistently accountable for delivering on these commitments.

7. Te Roopu | The Working Party

These terms of reference are between Northland Regional Council and iwi and hapū members who participate in Te Ruarangi. Both parties are committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi responsibilities and to working as active Te Tiriti partners through meaningful, enduring relationships.

[Although iwi and hapū members aspire to reflect the views of tāngata whenua in Taitokerau and act to contribute to the collective benefit of council and Taitokerau they recognise their advice does not](#)

replace council's responsibility to engage directly with iwi and hapū, nor does it usurp the mana of iwi and hapū to represent themselves.

Te Ruarangi provides:

- A kaupapa based forum grounded in te Ao Māori, where Māori perspectives influence and challenge council processes and policy.
- A stable and safe space for whānau, hapū and iwi to connect, communicate and engage in open, forthright discussion.
- Collective leadership that supports strong relationships between tāngata whenua and council.

The partnership is enacted through:

- Ensuring iwi and hapū views and expertise inform council functions on matters of significance to tāngata whenua of Taitokerau.
- Applying Te Ao Māori, including mātauranga Māori, kaitiakitanga and mauri, to council policy, planning and operational processes.
- Giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi through representation, participation and shared leadership.
- Working together to advance Tāiki ē – Te Tiriti Strategic Intent and Implementation Plan, while recognising council's wider statutory and strategic responsibilities.
- Being strategic in the intent with goals that maximise opportunities to achieve meaningful outcomes for Taitokerau.
- Te Ruarangi is a working party and therefore does not have delegated authority of council to make decisions.

8. Ngā Mema | Membership

8.1 Composition

Te Ruarangi will comprise up to 30 members in total consisting of:

- **Councillors:** All nine elected members
- **Taitokerau iwi and hapū:** up to 21 members in total:
 - Twelve iwi authority members, noting that flexibility is retained to kōrero directly where required as iwi dynamics may change over time.
 - Nine hapū members, to maintain broad coverage of Taitokerau and ensure active hapū voices are in the forum.
- Te Ruarangi aims for coverage across all parts of Taitokerau. A catchment lens may be used to help balance geographical knowledge and perspectives in the forum.
- Te Ruarangi may operate with vacancies, which can be filled according to the processes below in sections 8.2 to 8.4.

8.2 Current membership

Despite clause 8.1, which sets a membership limit at 30, Te Ruarangi may have up to 32 members for the current triennium only. This allows for two additional hapū members to be appointed for this term.

Under this temporary arrangement, the membership may include:

- 9 elected members of council
- up to 12 iwi members

- up to 11 hapū members

This is a temporary measure only. The long-term membership model remains the same as set out in clause 8.1: a maximum of 30 members, including up to 9 hapū members.

The two extra hapū seats are subject to a sinking lid. This means that when a hapū vacancy arises above the normal limit of 9 hapū members, that vacancy will not be filled, unless this would reduce hapū membership below 9.

Over time, as those temporary vacancies occur, the number of hapū members will reduce naturally back to 9. Once that happens, the total membership limit automatically returns to 30.

This temporary arrangement ends at the close of the current triennium. At the start of the next triennium, membership returns to the normal limit in clause 8.1, unless council decides otherwise through a formal amendment to these Terms of Reference.

8.3 Appointment and Term

Appointments of iwi and hapū members are for the council triennium, or until a member resigns or is removed under section 8.4. Re-appointment is permitted if re-endorsed.

Councillors

As part of council's commitment to a Te Tiriti-based partnership, all councillors are members of Te Ruarangi.

Iwi and hapū members

| Iwi authority members | Hapū members |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Kahukuraariki Trust Board | Hokianga o Ngā Hapū ¹ |
| Ngāti Hine | Ngāti Hau |
| Ngāti Kuri Trust Board | Ngāti Kuta, Patukeha |
| Ngātiwai Trust Board | Ngāti Manu |
| Te Roroa | Ngāti Rēhia |
| Te Rūnanga ā Iwi o Ngāpuhi | Ngāti Tara |
| Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri | Patuharakeke |
| Te Rūnanga o NgaiTakoto | Te Parawhau |
| Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Whātua | Te Uri o Hau |
| Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa | Te Waiariki, Ngāti Kororā, Ngāti Takapari |
| Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa | Te Whakaminenga o Te Hikutu Hapū-Whānau ² |
| Te Rūnanga-a-Iwi o Ngāti Kahu | Te Whakapiko Hapū |

Iwi members

Each iwi authority nominates its representative [and proxy](#) in writing to the council. Where an iwi chooses not to fill its seat, it may endorse a hapū nominee in writing to hold that seat for the remainder of the triennium. At the next triennium, the iwi has first right to appoint (or re-appoint) a representative to Te Ruarangi.

¹ Ngati Pakau, Mahurehure, Ngatikorokoro

² Te Hikutu/Whanau Whero/Whanautara/Ngati Kairewa/Ngati Kerewhiti/Ngati Parenga/Ngati Tuapango

Hapū members

Priority is given to the hapū listed above that have demonstrated early and ongoing commitment to the relationship and kaupapa, and whose longstanding participation has contributed to the continuity and stability of Te Ruarangi. Each hapū authority nominates its representative and proxy in writing to the council.

Should a vacancy arise, Taitokerau hapū may submit nominations in writing to council to fill that available hapū seat. Where there are more nominations than available seats the Co-Chairs after appropriate consultation will recommend appointments that best:

- maintain coverage across Taitokerau,
- ensure active participation, and
- align with the values, mission and knowledge sought for the forum.

Endorsement and selection processes are for iwi and hapū to resolve. Iwi and hapū members are responsible for undertaking their own nomination and selection processes to identify their representative and proxy for Te Ruarangi.

Any change to an iwi or hapū member must be formally notified in writing to council but does not require council endorsement. For clarity, a change to a member's representative needs to be notified in writing to the Co-Chairs but does not need to be notified to council.

8.4 Removal and Vacancies

- Membership ceases if a member resigns or their representative fails to attend three consecutive meetings within a 12-month period without providing an advance apology. **Written notice of the removal will be provided to the relevant iwi or hapū.**
- In exceptional circumstances where behaviour is detrimental to effective operation, council may remove a member following a 75% majority recommendation of members present and voting.
- When a member vacancy arises, council (through the secretariat) will invite a replacement as soon as possible consistent with sections 8.2 and 8.3.

8.5 Proxy Members

Each iwi or hapū member may name one proxy in writing, using the same endorsement process required for their primary representative. The role of the proxy is as follows:

- a. The proxy may speak and vote when the primary representative is absent,
- b. When the primary is present, the proxy does not hold speaking or voting rights **nor hold a seat at the table, and**
- c. The proxy is only eligible to claim under council's non-elected members allowance policy when 8.5(a) applies.

Although proxies may only sit, speak and vote at the table when the primary representative is absent, proxies are encouraged to attend Te Ruarangi meetings as an important way of managing succession by building a good understanding of the role of Te Ruarangi, the kaupapa, history, discussions, and evolving issues.

8.6 He Utu | Payment

Payments for non-elected members of Te Ruarangi (iwi and hapu representatives) for meeting attendance and mileage will be in accordance with the council's '[Non-Elected Members Allowance Policy](#)' and in accordance with this Terms of Reference. Payments that can be claimed include:

- Meeting allowance for meetings of Te Ruarangi
- Mileage and travel time
- Attendance at other working parties, as endorsed by council.

9. Papā o te pānga | Declaration of Interest

Members will be asked by the Co-Chairs to declare any interests at each meeting.

10. Ngā Heamana | Co-Chairs

A Co-Chair arrangement applies to Te Ruarangi.

Appointment process each triennium

- Council will appoint one elected member (and proxy) to serve as Co-Chair.
- The non-elected members will appoint a Co-Chair (and proxy) from among themselves.
- Both appointments are submitted to council for endorsement.

Participation:

At least one Co-Chair must be present at all formal meetings and marae-based hui of Te Ruarangi.

Responsibilities:

In addition to chairing meetings, the Co-Chairs (or their proxy when applicable) are responsible for:

- attending agenda preview meetings and reviewing actions before circulation
- being available to consider and vet prospective membership applications
- assisting with mediation, in the first instance, when issues arise.

11. Other iwi/hapū representation on working parties (see appendix)

Te Ruarangi nominate and endorse iwi and hapū members to represent tangata whenua on the relevant committees and working parties of council. These members are responsible for reporting back to Te Ruarangi as these other working parties provide structured mechanisms for iwi and hapū to participate in council governance activities that are relevant to Te Ruarangi strategic objectives set out in Clause 5.

12. Māori Technical Advisory Group

The Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) is an extension of Te Ruarangi. The purpose of MTAG is to provide a forum, supported by council staff, which provides specialist technical advice and guidance to Te Ruarangi with the following aims:

- Strengthen the quality of Māori participation in council decision-making by ensuring iwi and hapū representatives have access to robust technical, policy, and legislative advice.
- Support informed, evidence-based advice from iwi and hapū representatives to councillors and the Council, particularly on complex statutory, environmental, and policy matters.
- Act as technical support to deep dive on matters at the direction of Te Ruarangi.
- Embed Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles into council work, by supporting Māori representatives to engage with council processes on an equitable and well-resourced footing.
- Build and retain Māori technical expertise that the Council can draw on for policy development, strategic advice, and responses to central government reform

Te Ruarangi appoints up to six members of Te Ruarangi onto the MTAG to meet regularly on matters referred to the group by the working party.

13. Hokohitanga o Ngā Hui | Meetings

13.1 Formal Meetings

Te Ruarangi will hold up to five formal meetings each year at council offices. These meetings address the governance-level kaupapa of Te Ruarangi, focusing on the strategic Whāinga, consideration of advice to council, and agreement on recommended actions for council to consider.

13.2 Kōrama | Quorum

A formal meeting will have quorum when:

- at least one-third of elected members (councillors), and
- at least one-third of non-elected members (iwi and hapū representatives)

are present. These thresholds are calculated only on currently filled seats, and vacant positions are not included.

13.3 Marae-based meetings

Up to five marae-based hui may be held each year to focus on local issues important to the haukāinga. These hui are not formal Te Ruarangi meetings and, therefore, cannot agree recommended actions. Marae-based hui are open beyond Te Ruarangi members, and the schedule will ensure geographic coverage across Taitokerau.

All Te Ruarangi members are welcome to attend Te Ruarangi marae-based hui. Members who attend are eligible to claim for meeting fee allowances and mileage.

13.4 Iwi and hapū preparation

When the full Te Ruarangi working party meets at council offices, a meeting room will be made available before or after the formal meeting for iwi and hapū members to caucus. This provides a forum and safe space for open discussion, and collective preparation for the formal meeting.

13.5 Changes to meeting dates

Any changes to meeting dates or locations required outside of a formal Te Ruarangi meeting will be determined by the two Co-Chairs, following consultation with the council Chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer.

13.6 Attendance and conduct at meetings

- a) Councillors, including the Chair, will endeavour to prioritise attendance at Te Ruarangi meetings.
- b) Iwi and hapū members are expected to attend consistently, participate constructively, and report back to nominating iwi or hapū, as appropriate.
- c) If a member is unable to attend, their nominated proxy may attend in their place, in accordance with the proxy provisions set out in these Terms of Reference.
- d) Regular non-attendance without approved leave may result in the member's position being reviewed under clause 8.4.
- e) A member may request a leave of absence if they are unable to attend meetings for an extended period. Leave of absence requests should be submitted to the Co-Chairs for consideration. Approved leave protects the member from being reviewed for non-attendance under section 8.4 and ensures continuity of representation through the nominated proxy where appropriate.

14. Whakaoti raruraru | Conflict resolution

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

15. Annual reporting

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

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

16. Te Ruarangi not discharged at triennial elections

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

17. Whakamahinga | Operation

Council's Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Executive Leadership Team are the senior managers responsible for supporting Te Ruarangi. Executive Leadership Team members will attend meetings **as required to support agenda items or the broader purpose of Te Ruarangi.**

The CEO will ensure Te Ruarangi is appropriately supported through the Executive Leadership Team and be responsible for coordinating the administrative support required for Te Ruarangi, including venue arrangements, minute-taking, and catering.

Support for Te Ruarangi also extends to the council-controlled organisation Northland Inc, through the CEO and relevant staff.

18. Arataki Tangata | Member Induction

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

19. Ngā purongo | Reporting - accountability

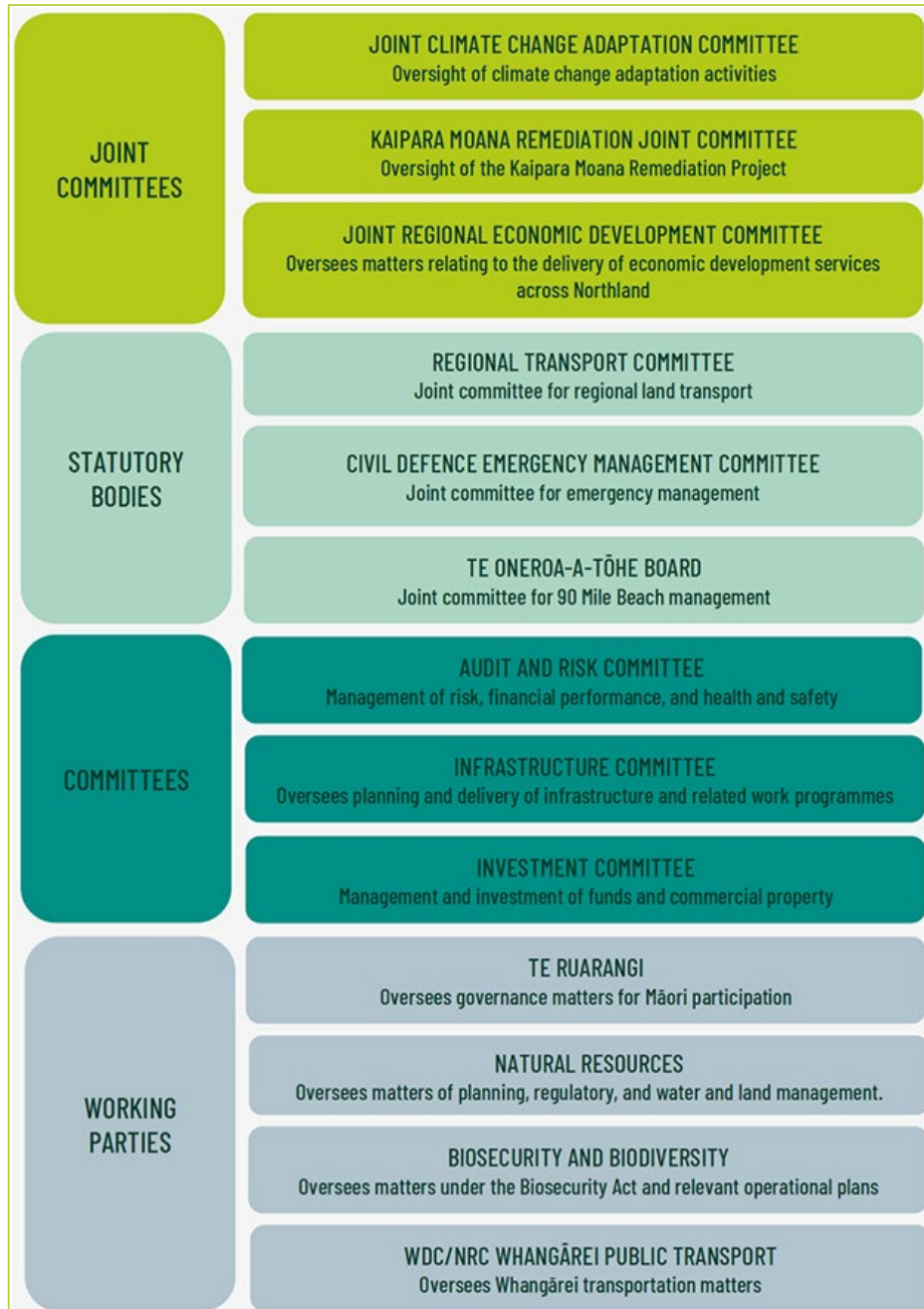
Te Ruarangi, through the Co-Chairs will provide a summary report to the council following each meeting.

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

20. Arotakenga | Review

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

Appendix – Iwi/hapu representation on council governance structure 2025-2028



| Committee / Group | Representation |
|--|--|
| Te Oneroa ā Tōhe Board | A joint committee with Far North District Council, Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, Te Manawa o Ngāti Kuri Trust, Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupouri Trust, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Takoto |
| Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee | One representative from iwi / hapū appointed by each council from within their jurisdiction. Where possible, this appointment should follow recommendations from council Māori advisory groups or committees. |
| Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee | The Kaipara Moana Remediation Joint Committee consists of 6 appointed Kaipara Uri entities, three elected members appointed by Auckland Council and three elected members appointed by NRC. |
| Audit and Risk Committee | Two Independent Tangata Whenua Members: George Riley and Dee-Ann Wolferstan. Steve Watene is Independent Risk Advisor |
| Investment Committee | One Independent Tangata Whenua Advisor: George Riley |
| Infrastructure Committee | Two Independent Tangata Whenua Members: George Riley and Dee-Ann Wolferstan |
| Natural Resources Working Party | Four members of Te Ruarangi Working Party: 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) |
| Biosecurity and Biodiversity Working Party | Four members of Te Ruarangi Working Party: 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). |



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E info@nrc.govt.nz

W www.nrc.govt.nz

TITLE: 2026 Meeting Schedule

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, on 08 May 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

This report presents the proposed Te Ruarangi meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year. The proposed schedule aligns with the Te Ruarangi Terms of Reference, which provide for up to five formal meetings and five marae-based hui each year, and supports delivery of Te Ruarangi kaupapa and the key strategic priorities of Tāiki ē.

2026 meetings to date:

- 19 February – formal meeting
- 12 March – formal meeting
- 9 April – marae-based meeting
- 12 May – formal meeting

Proposed meeting schedule - Remainder of 2026:

- 11 June – Wānanga Waiora (subject to confirmation)
- 9 July – Marae-based strategic workshop (focused on Tāiki ē strategic priorities)
- 11 August – Marae-based hui
- 10 September – Formal meeting
- 8 October – Marae-based hui
- 12 November – Formal meeting
- 10 December – Marae-based hui

This approach supports both formal governance functions and place-based kōrero, and enables Te Ruarangi members, councillors and staff to engage collectively on matters of strategic importance to Taitokerau.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report '2026 Meeting Schedule' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 30 April 2026, be received.
2. That the proposed meeting schedule for the remainder of the 2026 calendar year be endorsed
3. That Te Ruarangi notes the expressions of interest received from the following iwi and hapū to host marae-based hui, and agrees that the timing and location of each hui will be worked through collaboratively with the hosts:
 - 9 July – Marae-based strategic workshop (Tāiki ē strategic priorities) _____
 - 11 August – Marae-based hui _____
 - 8 October – Marae-based hui _____
 - 10 December – Marae-based hui _____

Tuhinga/Background

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

Clause 14 of the Te Ruarangi terms of reference states:

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

Te Ruarangi meetings are generally scheduled as follows:

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

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Nil

TITLE: Resource Management and Local Government Reforms - advice from Māori Technical Advisory Group

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Ruben Wylie, Pou Tiaki Taiao, on 08 May 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

Taitokerau councils have been preparing for Resource Management (RM) and Local Government (LG) reforms, and have agreed to work collaboratively together (all four councils on RM reforms and Northland Regional Council (NRC), Whangarei District Council (WDC) and Far North District Council (FNDC) on LG reforms). This has included the Mayoral Forum agreeing in principle to establish a Resource Management Joint Committee (to oversee RM reforms) and the councils agreeing to establish a Local Government Reform Steering Group (to oversee LG reforms). The Joint Committee and the Steering Group will provide recommendations to each of the councils for decision-making. Councils are already making decisions about the governance and technical collaboration mechanisms required to progress RM and LG reforms given the compressed timeframes councils are likely to be working under.

At its 19 February meeting Te Ruarangi recommended *“that staff support the Māori Technical Advisory Group (MTAG) to report back at the next Te Ruarangi hui with recommendations on options to ensure involvement of iwi and hapū as the councils work together to deliver both local government and resource management reform.”*

MTAG has considered papers from NRC staff which identified options for input from tangata whenua at an operational level. While generally supportive of establishing a skills/experience based technical advisory group to provide Te Ao Māori advice to staff and councils, MTAG flagged that the governance arrangements for tangata whenua involvement are critical. This is something MTAG suggests be further discussed by Te Ruarangi and the co-chairs of the existing Māori working groups/parties: Te Ruarangi, Te Kārearea (WDC) and Te Kuaka (FNDC). MTAG also noted that there is currently no resourcing to support these discussions and subsequent advice to the respective councils. The limited resourcing was flagged as a critical challenge by MTAG members.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report ‘Resource Management and Local Government Reforms - advice from Māori Technical Advisory Group’ by Alison Newell, Policy Specialist; Justin Murfitt, Strategic Policy Specialist; Tami Woods, Policy and Planning Manager and Julian Hansen, Kaiārahi Kaupapa Māori - Senior Māori Technical Advisor and dated 28 April 2026, be received,
2. That Te Ruarangi endorse the option of establishing a cross council technical advisory group to enable involvement and input of tangata whenua representatives at a technical level to support both the resource management and local government reform processes
3. That Te Ruarangi note further work is required prior to the establishment of any cross-council Māori technical advisory group, including engagement with other councils and their associated Māori governance and advisory structures, and that the direction

provided by Te Ruarangi is to guide that work and support future decisions by the respective councils.

4. That Te Ruarangi endorse an action for the co-chairs of Te Ruarangi to work with the co-chairs of Te Kārearea and Te Kuaka to:
 - a. Advise the co-chairs of those groups on Te Ruarangi's preferred approach for enabling involvement and input of tangata whenua representatives at a technical level, and
 - b. Enable a process that is consistent with the tikanga/process of Te Kārearea and Te Kuaka to endorse their respective approaches for involvement and input of tangata whenua at a technical level into the reforms.
5. That Te Ruarangi endorse an action that staff work with the Māori Technical Advisory Group to report back to Te Ruarangi once Te Kārearea and Te Kuaka have identified their preferred approach(s).

Tuhinga/Background

Taitokerau councils have been progressing cross-council planning for both resource management (RM) and local government (LG) reforms at both technical and governance levels. Several 'structures' (see **Attachment**) have been or are in the process of being agreed by the councils, noting that Kaipara District Council (KDC) has not yet formally agreed to participate in the cross-council work on LG reforms. NRC approved the LG reform structure at its meeting on 25 March, and both FNDC and WDC have also endorsed participation in the LG reform programme and the associated structure and resourcing. The first LG reform Elected Member Steering Group² meeting was held on 23 April. The RM reform structure has been endorsed in principle by the Mayoral Forum and will be considered by NRC at its 26 May meeting and by the other three councils at their next available meetings in May.

At its meeting held on 23 April, MTAG considered papers prepared by NRC staff on options for Te Ao Māori technical input into Resource Management (RM) and Local Government (LG) reforms at an operational level. The preferred option was for a cross-council skills/experience-based advisory group.³ However, it should be noted that another option favoured by some MTAG members was a pure contractor-based model, with staff contracting consultants with relevant expertise to provide independent Te Ao Māori advice on RM and LG reforms. While this option does have merits from a process perspective, it does present a number of challenges. Key challenges would include potential limitations on the scope of advice because discrete contracts would need to be procured for each piece of work in addition to a lack of connection or accountability with the relevant governance structures. The option of contracting consultants was therefore not universally supported by MTAG.

MTAG noted that while the staff papers focused on technical/operational level input and interaction with the councils' staff on RM and LG reforms, the link to governance-level input from iwi and hapū was critical so that it would be clear who the advisory group reports to (e.g. Te Ruarangi as well as staff working groups), and to ensure that high-quality advice is also provided to iwi and hapū. This is identified as an area that needs further work as a priority.

² Elected members of the group are: FNDC: Mayor Tepania and councillors Kelly Stratford and Felicity Foy; WDC Mayor Couper and councillors Brad Flower and Chrichton Christie; NRC Chair Pita Tipene and councillors Jack Crow and Geoff Crawford. The DIA representative has yet to be confirmed.

³ Other options considered included a Pan-iwi advisory group; BAU i.e. for NRC to rely on Te Ruarangi and MTAG, FNDC to rely on Te Kuaka and WDC to rely on Te Kārearea; Independent consultancy service contracts; and Do nothing.

While generally supportive of establishing a skills/experience-based technical advisory group (similar to the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group), MTAG recognised that it is essential for such a group to have appropriate oversight from a tikanga and hapūtanga perspective before advice was provided to any council working group or steering group, and stressed the need for a robust governance arrangement across Taitokerau.

Given that both RM and LG reforms involve other Taitokerau councils, two of which have their own Māori advisory working parties or committees (Te Kārearea and Te Kuaka), a staged approach that involves those entities will be needed. MTAG noted that this is an opportunity to collaborate and 'simplify the engagement landscape'.

MTAG noted the speed of reforms, and compressed timeframes within which councils are (or will be) operating under, and that NRC has existing commitments to tangata whenua that it needs to meet (regardless of the positions of other Taitokerau councils on Māori engagement).


Next Steps

Recommendations are provided in this report to confirm Te Ruarangi's preferred approach for providing Māori technical expertise into both reforms and to provide a clear direction for the Te Ruarangi Co-Chairs to engage with the Co-Chairs of Te Kārearea and Te Kuaka so that those entities can establish their preferred approaches.

Once Te Kārearea and Te Kuaka have endorsed a preferred approach staff will engage further with MTAG and report back to Te Ruarangi with further advice on how best to provide cross council/rohe Māori technical expertise. This step will also provide an opportunity for Te Ruarangi to provide direction on any future role of the Tangata Whenua Water Advisory Group.

It should be noted that the Terms of reference for the cross-council steering group on local government reforms, and the draft (unconfirmed) terms of reference for the resource management reform joint committee both place a duty on those entities to address how to provide for the involvement of Māori. It is anticipated that a cross-council Māori Technical advisory group would provide advice to both governance entities on this matter.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Agreed & Proposed Structures for RM and LG Reforms [↓](#) 

Attachment 1 Proposed and Agreed Structures

RM Reform Structure:



LG Reform Structure:



TITLE: **Te Ruarangi - Te Touwai Marae, 9 April 2026**

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

Authorised by Group Manager/s: Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement, on 08 May 2026

Whakarāpopototanga/Executive summary

The purpose of this report is to provide Te Ruarangi with a summary of the kōrero and reflections shared at the marae-based hui hosted by Whangaroa Rohe at Te Touwai Marae, focusing on flood mitigation, marae-led responses, and coordination between hapū, marae, Council and Civil Defence.

Ngā mahi tūtohutia/Recommended actions

1. That the report 'Te Ruarangi - Te Touwai Marae, 9 April 2026' by Auriole Ruka, Pou Manawhakahaere - Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and dated 28 April 2026, be received.
-

Tuhinga/Background

Te Ruarangi held a marae-based hui at Te Touwai Marae on 9 April 2026. The hui followed a site visit to the Kaeo Phase 2 flood mitigation works and was designed as an opportunity to hear directly from hapū and marae about their recent experiences responding to flooding events in the Whangaroa area, and to reflect collectively on preparedness, resilience and partnership responses.

Matters Presented and Discussed

Flood mitigation and marae-led response

Kōrero focused on how marae and hapū responded during recent flooding events, including:

- Practical experiences of marae-led and community-led responses
- What support was available, what was effective, and where gaps were experienced
- Key learnings emerging from haukāinga-led responses during flood events

These discussions were led by those directly involved, with the kōrero shaped by marae and hapū present rather than formal presentations.

Civil Defence response in Whangaroa

The hui included discussion on the Civil Defence response, including:

- How hapū, marae, Council and Civil Defence worked together to protect whānau and the wider community
- Coordination during the flooding events
- Reflections on how collective preparedness and relationships can be strengthened for future emergencies

This kōrero was also available for online participation and emphasised shared learning rather than decision-making.

Reflections and collective learning

The hui concluded with reflections from participants on:

- Lessons learned from recent flood responses


- The importance of marae-centred and Tiriti-consistent approaches
- Strengthening relationships between hapū, marae, Council and agencies to support future resilience

No formal resolutions or funding decisions were sought or made at the hui.

Key Takeaways for Te Ruarangi

- Marae-based hui provide a critical forum for hearing lived experience directly from hapū and marae.
- Recent flooding events highlighted both strengths and challenges in current response and coordination arrangements.
- Ongoing focus is required on partnership, preparedness and learning to support resilient, marae-led responses in future events.

Ngā tapirihanga / Attachments

Attachment 1: Te Touwai Marae presentation - Whangaroa Kaitiaki Response to civil defence emergency weather event [↓](#) 

An aerial photograph showing a flooded landscape. A road runs diagonally from the top right towards the center. The surrounding area is covered in brown, murky floodwater. Several trees are partially submerged in the water. The overall scene depicts significant flooding in a rural or semi-rural area.

KIA RITE - KIA Ū - KIA MATAARA
~~WHANGAROA KAITIAKI~~
RESPONSE



KO WAI MĀTOU

Whangaroa Response is a community-driven initiative that operates with the mandate of local hapu and marae, emerging from the response to Covid-19. This grassroots model is resilient, capable of adapting to various kaupapa. While our focus today is on Whangaroa, it is important to recognise that it encompasses the entirety of Te Tai Tokerau.

We are a dedicated hyper-local civil defense team, providing unparalleled service. Our duty is to bridge gaps and offer support —before, during, and after an event or emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic ignited our commitment, and we are fully prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead.

OUR WHY

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

Communities know their needs best

TRUST & CONNECTION

Stronger relationships provide effective support

CULTURALLY FIT

Solutions resonate with local values and tikanga

SUSTAINABILITY

Community ownership and long term impact

AGILITY

Local groups can fast move, adapt and respond





WHAT WE DO WHANAUNGATANGA

Building strong relationships in rural communities, hapū, and iwi is vital for promoting unity and resilience in Whangaroa and Te Tai Tokerau.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS

Recognising and harnessing local knowledge, skills, mātauranga Māori, and resources is crucial for effective response mobilisation in our rohe and across Te Tai Tokerau.

ACTIVATION

Localised knowledge empowers whānau in remote areas to prepare for emergencies, activate marae and evacuation hubs, and offer support throughout events.

HOW WE DO IT

READINESS

By identifying community pou tangata, we can effectively connect and coordinate support for our rural areas. This approach allows us to gain firsthand insights into specific events, ensuring that we stay alert and responsive at all times.

KARANGA

Effective communication is vital in rural areas. By being concise and present with whānau, we can build trust and efficiently share prioritised information.

MAHIA

Collaborating with authorities and hapū enhances communication and resource distribution, evacuation hub activation in providing immediate relief and strengthening community resilience for future events.





EVALUATION

At each event, we carefully assess and enhance our processes.

We have noticed that our strategies and approaches have proven particularly effective for our rohe.

After the January event, we acknowledged that capturing data was crucial for support, accountability, and gaining insights into our community.

The introduction of the QR code system, with support from our office, seems to be a game-changing solution. It is essential to ensure that data ownership stays with the hubs and the community, empowering them to analyse the information and make informed decisions.

KIA RITE - KIA Ū - KIA MATAARA

WHANGAROA EVACUATION HUBS

TE TOUWAI MARAE

Te Touwai Marae, Matangirau is open and ready to receive
and support whānau

Let's take care of each other and remain vigilant
Kia kaha tātou katoa.

Wainui Road, Matangirau

Contact person for Evacuation Hub:

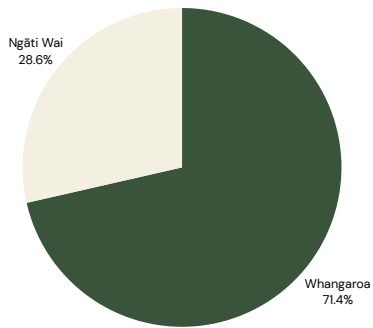
Nyze; 021 159 6554

Tama; 021 083 23505

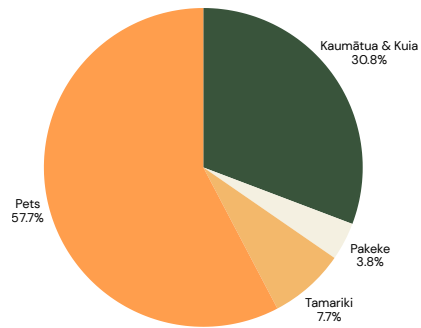
Be prepared e te whānau



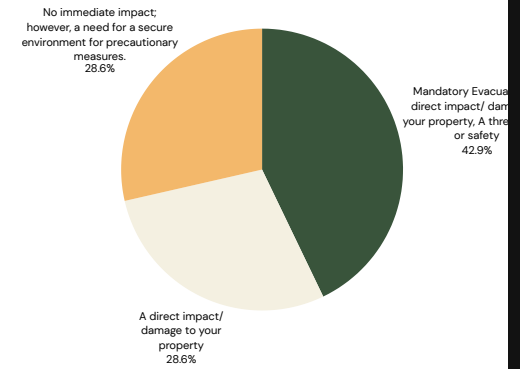
QR CODE DATA COLLECTION



**WHĀNAU EVACUATED
PER ROHE**



WHANAU PROFILE



**REASON FOR
EVACUATION**

HONO MAI KI A MĀTOU

✉ Tetaitokeraresponse@gmail.com



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 08 May
Group Manager/s: 2026

Ngā mahi tūtohutia / Recommendation

That the report ‘Chief Executive’s Report to Council’ by Jonathan Gibbard, Tāhūhū Rangapū - Chief Executive Officer and dated 29 April 2026, be received.

4.9.1 HIGHLIGHTS

Civil Defence Emergency Management

Weather Impacts, Response and Recovery

March was characterised by renewed severe weather activity across Te Taitokerau, resulting in multiple Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) activations and two State of Local Emergency declarations (Whangārei District and Far North District). These events occurred while recovery from the January 2026 severe weather event remains ongoing, placing sustained pressure on local and regional emergency management capability.

On 26 March, MetService Red Severe Weather Warnings triggered coordinated responses across the region. Significant flooding occurred, particularly in the Far North, with record river flows recorded in the Awanui catchment. While impacts varied across districts, the March event reinforced ongoing challenges associated with cumulative weather impacts, floodplain vulnerability, and the increasing frequency of high-intensity rain events.

Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) arrangements were stood up to support district responses as required, alongside continued recovery coordination from January. Recovery activity is now running concurrently with response readiness for further weather events, underscoring the importance of cross-council coordination and staff resilience.

4.9.2 PROTECTED AND FLOURISHING NATIVE LIFE

INCURSIONS

Sika Eradication Project

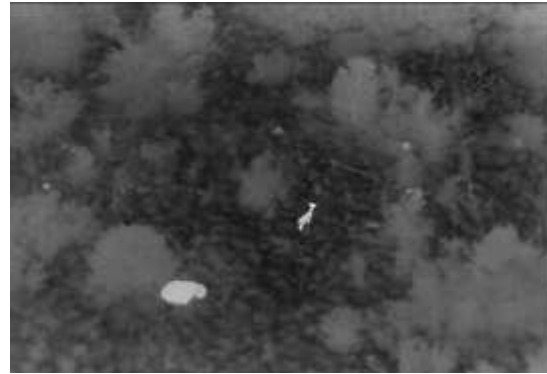
Work to understand if the eradication of sika from Russell can be confirmed is underway. This phase is called “validation” and focuses on collecting camera and ground survey search data using trained detector dogs to try and locate any remaining animals that may have been missed or locating their sign. To mark this milestone in the project a pōwhiri was held at Te Rawhiti Marae to introduce the new contractors involved in this work, providing an opportunity to connect and share kai together. Before field activities began, a blessing was held at the entrance to the Russell/Ngaiotonga Maunga to acknowledge the significance of the area and mark the start of this work.

Wild Deer Free Tai Tokerau

Thermal drone surveillance is underway during the roar period when stags are less wary and sometimes approach deer farms in search of hinds. These surveys prioritise deer farms near native bush to assist in locating wild deer that may be present outside of fences but close to the boundary fence. A deer has already been detected outside the fence (see image below) and steps are now being taken to remove this animal.



NRC Staff & Contractors reviewing Sika Project information on site.



Deer outside the farm boundary detected using thermal drone surveillance

PARTNERSHIPS

Piroa Brynderwyns Kiwi Release



Bruce and Janine Copeland meet Hinekiuta the kiwi, held by Todd Hamilton (Photo: Malcolm Pullman)

On 23 March, three juvenile Northland brown kiwi were successfully translocated and released into Te Waorahi, a regenerating native forest located behind Langs Beach within the Piroa–Brynderwyns High Value Area. This landscape is recognised for its ecological significance and is supported by the Northland Regional Council through its High Value Area (HVA) programme. The kiwi, two females and one male aged approximately two to three years, were gifted by Ngāti Hine and raised from chicks on Matakōhe–Limestone Island, a predator-free kiwi creche. Their release occurred at dusk and was formally acknowledged through a pōwhiri involving mana whenua, landowners, community conservation groups, and agency partners, reflecting

the collaborative governance and delivery model underpinning biodiversity restoration in the area. The Northland Regional Council was also represented at the event by Chair Pita Tipene and Councillor John Hunt, demonstrating council’s support for hapū- and community-led conservation initiatives within the HVA.



Partnerships officer, Councillor John Hunt and Chair Pita Tipene in the background.

The release event brought together four hapū, Patuharakeke, Te Uri o Hau, Te Parawhau and Ngāti Hine, demonstrating a shared commitment to restoring taonga species and strengthening cultural and ecological connections to whenua. Each kiwi was named by Mana Whenua, reinforcing the species' cultural significance and the role of mātauranga Māori in contemporary conservation practice. Kōrero shared during the pōwhiri linked present-day predator control programmes with ancestral management traditions, highlighting a continuity of kaitiakitanga over multiple generations. The release also marked a key outcome for landowners who purchased the site to enable long-term ecological restoration rather than subdivision, supporting both biodiversity outcomes and reconnection between mana whenua and whenua.

The translocation forms part of the Piroa Conservation Trust's wider programme to restore kiwi populations and associated ecosystems across the Piroa–Brynderwyns Hills, with ongoing pest control and monitoring aimed at establishing a self-sustaining kiwi population across the High Value Area.

NRC -Te Aupōuri visit

Te Rūnanga Nui o Te Aupōuri has a long-standing commitment to enhancing the taiao across their rohe, which includes the ecologically and culturally significant Kokota Sandspit and Te Ārai Reserve. Their kaupapa is focused on restoring these environments toward their pre-settlement condition, supporting healthy waterways and resilient populations of native species. Over the past four years, the Northland Regional Council has been proud to support this mahi, initially through the Community Pest Control Area (CPCA) programme and, more recently, through the Mid and Far North Partnerships Fund. The project is currently in the second year of a five-year funding agreement. Council investment has helped build capacity and enabled the Rūnanga to leverage additional funding from multiple agencies to fully resource the programme. Key activities include pest animal and weed management, ecological monitoring, integration of mātauranga Māori, workforce training, and meaningful community and whānau engagement, including education and advocacy for culturally significant wāhi tapu.



Staff from land management, biosecurity and the māori relationship teams were hosted by Te Aupōuri and visited key restoration projects. The Taiao restoration team above have planted the margins of Lake Whahakari (in the background) with the aim of restoring water quality and halting the damaging effects of pine plantations which once grew up to the lake edge.

MARINE BIOSECURITY

Invasive Seagrass

A seagrass sample was recently collected by a contractor during a sediment survey within an enclosed area of Marsden Cove Marina. The sample was initially analysed by Earth Sciences New Zealand (ESNZ), with formal identification now confirming the species as *Halophila decipiens*, a small tropical seagrass not previously recorded in this location. ESNZ subsequently undertook dive surveys to determine the extent of the incursion. The infestation is largely confined to the enclosed Stage 2 basin of the marina, where coverage is extensive, with a smaller patch identified in Stage 1. At this stage, no seagrass has been detected outside the marina. While the lock system provides some level

of containment, regular water exchange and vessel movements mean there remains a potential pathway for spread.



The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has completed an initial risk assessment and considers the risk of adverse effects to be low. *Halophila decipiens* is a fast-colonising species found naturally in warmer regions, but it is not widely recognised as a highly invasive species globally. The main uncertainty is how it may interact with New Zealand’s only native seagrass species, which plays an important ecological role in coastal habitats. MPI is progressing this matter quickly and has begun engaging with Patuharakeke on response options. Early intervention is being considered, particularly targeting the smaller infestation in Stage 1 to prevent further spread.

Seagrass (*Halophila decipiens*).

Wetland Training

Eighteen council staff from land management, compliance, biosecurity, partnerships and education teams took part in the annual Wetland Training Course run by wetland experts in the Biodiversity Team. The programme combined classroom learning, plant identification and field-based practise tailored to the needs of the staff who attended. Students developed practical skills in identifying Northland wetland types, using mapping as a tool to assess wetlands before a field visit, recognising characteristic species, and applying national wetland delineation methods. This course creates a strong foundation for increasing capability across the council for wetland related work.



Students undertaking a wetland delineation plot in the field.



The NRC herbarium is a good tool to help students learn to identify wetland plants

Fish of the Year

Following passionate advocacy by council staff, a committed radio campaign by More FM, a promise of the Northland Taniwha renaming themselves for the 2026 season, and the Northland public getting in behind the rare Northland Mudfish, it won the New Zealand Fish of the Year. It was the smallest fish to ever win, the first freshwater fish and threatened species; huge achievement for a generally unknown freshwater fish found only in wetlands within a 25km radius of Lake Ōmāpere.

The competition is run by the Mountains to Sea Trust and provides a fun platform to highlight our freshwater and marine fishes and the challenges they face.

Acoustic long-tailed bat survey

There is currently only one site in Taitokerau that is receiving bat-specific predator control to halt the rapid decline of this critically threatened species in our region. A month-long acoustic long-tailed bat survey was delivered in the Pīroa-Brnderwyns conservation area in collaboration with the Piroa Conservation Trust, Patuharakeke, landowners and several ecology consultants. If bats are present at this site in adequate levels, it could become a priority site for recovery efforts. Data is still to be analysed.

Fisheries New Zealand consultation on proposed temporary pāua closure at Tauroa Peninsula Northland

Fisheries New Zealand recently undertook consultation on a proposal to implement a temporary closure of pāua harvesting at Tauroa Peninsula, Northland, under sections 186A and 186B of the Fisheries Act 1996. The proposal has been requested by Ahipara Takiwa (including Roma Marae, Ahipara Marae, associated hapū, and community members) to support the recovery of depleted pāua stocks and to recognise customary management practices. The proposed closure would apply for up to two years, prohibit the taking of pāua within a defined coastal area, align with an existing customary rāhui, and would not allow customary authorisations during the closure period, with the intention of enabling stock recovery and improving long-term availability.

The consultation was targeted at affected tangata whenua and fishing interests only.

4.9.3 HEALTHY WATERS, LAND AND AIR

Our Changing World Interview

Council's senior coastal resource scientist was interviewed by Dr Clair Concannon of Our Changing World, a science podcast on Radio New Zealand, about plastic pollution in our marine environment. The coastal monitoring team manages an ongoing project using Littatrap devices to capture litter that would otherwise wash into stormwater drains and discharge to harbours and open coastal areas. The project is helping to quantify plastic pollution and supports educational drives. The podcast can be streamed at the following link: <https://www.rnz.co.nz/podcast/ourchangingworld>

Dune lake update

Hornwort was controlled in two dune lakes in the far north in March. A drone was used to apply the herbicide over Lakes Waikanae and Mt Camel North. Controlling hornwort is done to ensure the lakes do not flip into an algal dominated state, which often occurs if weeds are left untreated. Algal dominated lakes have reduced habitat quality, and hence less biodiversity that can live in and around the lakes.

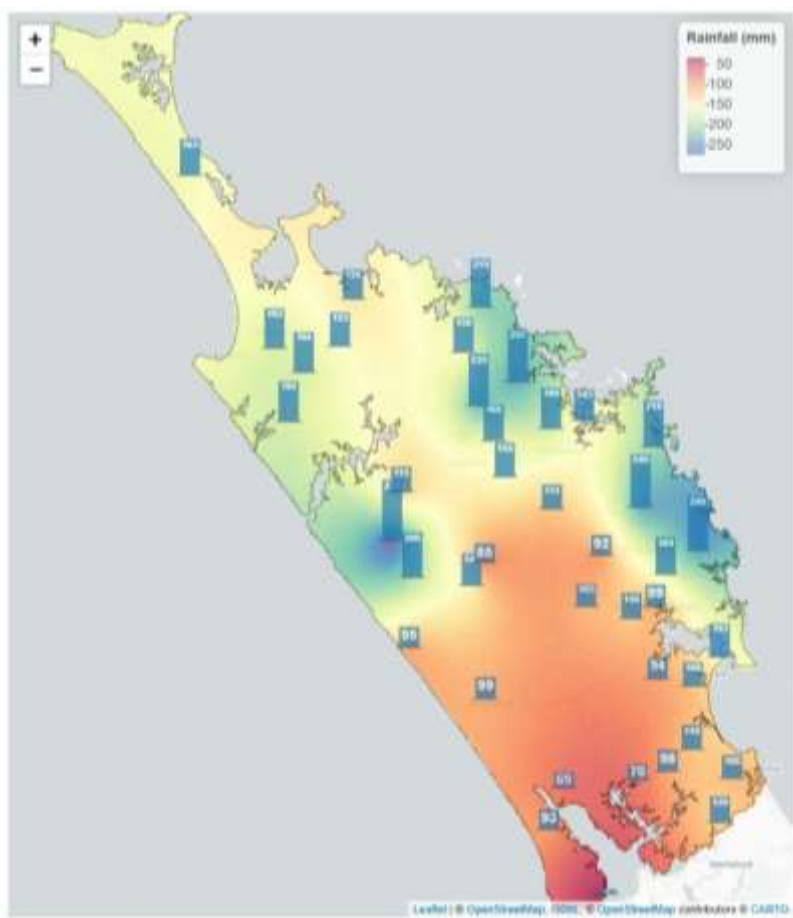


A drone in operation above Lake Waikanae in the Far North, applying herbicide to control the invasive lake plant hornwort.

Hydrology update

On 25 March, a Red Heavy Rain Warning was issued for Eastern Northland, covering areas from Doubtless Bay to Whangārei. The warning was in effect for 36 hours from 25 March to 27 March. Forecast rainfall totals of 270–320 mm were expected, with peak intensities increasing to 25–40 mm per hour from Thursday afternoon and possible thunderstorms. The warning highlighted a significant threat to life due to dangerous river conditions, major flooding, slips, travel disruption, impassable roads and potential isolation of communities. Residents were advised to avoid travel and floodwaters, be prepared to self-evacuate if necessary and expect possible power and communication outages.

The on-call Hydrology flood duty team monitored the rainfall and river levels around the clock for the region throughout this event, updating CDEM, attending multi agency briefings, and providing a steady stream of river level status updates through to CDEM whenever river levels were likely to, or had exceeded river level alert and warning thresholds for flooding.



A map of the region with rainfall totals recorded at NRC's rainfall recording stations during the event

The rainfall was primarily concentrated in the North and North East of the region. The highest rainfall totals were recorded at the Waimamaku at Wekaweka Road station with 275mm, the Ngunguru at Dugmores Rock station with 245mm and the Whakapara at Puhipuhi station with 239.5mm. Many rivers across Northland rose above Flood Alert and Warning levels in the East Coast, Mid and Far North.

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. The applicant and appellant are in discussions to resolve the appeal, if possible. Update on progress provided to the Court on 30 March 2026. This update also requested that a final update on progress be provided on 11 May 2026, and if appeal cannot be resolved, then request for a Court hearing date will be made by 9 June 2026. Parties await Court confirmation of proposed reporting timeframes. |

Consents Update

During March 2026, a total of 72 Decisions were issued. These decisions comprised:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| • Coastal Permits | 12 |
| • Coastal Discharge Permits | 4 |
| • Air Discharge Permits | 1 |
| • Land Discharge Permits | 2 |
| • Water Discharge Permits | 5 |
| • Land Use Consents | 32 |
| • Water Takes | 7 |
| • Bore Consents | 9 |

Twenty-three applications were received in March 2026.

Of the 92 applications in progress at the end of March 2026:

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

Appointment of Hearing Commissioners

- No commissioners were appointed in March 2026.

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

The current level of notified application processing activities at the end of March 2026 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 March 2026 (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 | 17 | 16 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Coastal Discharge | 15 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 0 |
| Coastal Permit | 126 | 88 | 0 | 38 | 0 |
| FDE - Discharge permit | 62 | 62 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Land Discharge | 47 | 31 | 7 | 9 | 0 |
| Land Use Consent | 56 | 49 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| NES-F | 16 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 0 |
| Water Discharge | 60 | 31 | 6 | 22 | 1 |
| Water Permit | 14 | 13 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Water Take | 88 | 59 | 20 | 9 | 0 |
| Total | 501 | 365 | 41 | 92 | 3 |
| Percentage | | 72.9% | 8.2% | 18.4% | 0.6% |
| Year to date | 4000 | 3008 | 428 | 490 | 74 |
| Percentage | | 75.2% | 10.7% | 12.3% | 1.9% |











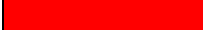
Municipal wastewater treatment plant compliance/enforcement

| 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) Significant and moderate non-compliance for wetland overflowing and short circuiting. Most recent results compliant. |
| Hihi Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed) | | | Ammoniacal nitrogen and E. coli exceeding RC limits. |
| Hikurangi Expired June 2025 (replacement consent application being processed) | | | <u>Under AN</u> TSS, BOD5 and E. coli results above RC limits for 90 th percentile due to historic results. Only 90 th percentile for E.coli now exceeding. |
| Paihia Expires 2034 | | | <u>Under AN</u> Moderate non-compliances due to ammoniacal nitrogen exceeding RC limits for 90 th percentile. Some results missing and meter not working. |

| WWTP/Consent Status | Compliance for last 12 months | Compliance for last 3 months | Enforcement Action/Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| Whatuwhiwhi Expires November 2025 (replacement consent application being processed) |  |  | Moderate non-compliances for TSS exceeding RC limits. Self-monitoring not being undertaken in accordance with consent requirements. FNDC exploring options for plant upgrade alongside consent renewal. |
| Taipā Expires 2029 |  |  | Moderate non-compliances for FC exceeding 85 th percentile and TN exceeding RC limits. Electrocoagulation trial being set up. FNDC committed to land-based discharge by 2027. |
| Opononi & Ōmāpere Expires 2028 (s139C RMA extension) |  |  | <u>Under ANs</u> Moderate non-compliances for BOD, ammoniacal nitrogen, E. coli, and TSS. Baffle curtains recently installed and further remediation measure planned. |
| Rāwene Expired 2023 (replacement consent being processed) |  |  | TSS and FC exceeded 90 th percentile consent limits. Total ammoniacal nitrogen exceeded median consent limit. FNDC working on remedial plan. |
| Kohukohu Expires 2026 (s139C RMA extension) |  |  | <u>Under AN</u> FC and ammoniacal nitrogen exceed consent limits. Discharge volumes have also exceeded RC limits on some occasions. Some remedial actions have been undertaken, including installation of baffle curtains. |
| 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. FNDC investigating leachate rates and mitigation strategies. Awaiting further updates. |
| 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. E.coli exceeded median limit. |
| Ahipara Expires 2033 |  |  | <u>Under ANs</u> (reissued in September 2022). None currently. |

| WWTP/Consent Status | Compliance for last 12 months | Compliance for last 3 months | Enforcement Action/Response |
|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| 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 of F-specific bacteriophage. |
| 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. BOD and TSS have exceeded 90 th percentile limits due to spike in November. |
| Ruakākā Expires 2046 | | | None currently. |
| Waipū Expires 2030 | | | Discharge volume exceeded consent limit on multiple occasions. WDC undertaking remedial action. The purpose of the last site inspection was to check if a specific activity authorised by the consent had been implemented. The activity had not been implemented but as the activity was not mandatory, the associated consent conditions were deemed to be “not exercised” – denoted by the grey shading. |
| Ngunguru Expires 2035 | | | Exceedance of 95 th percentile for TSS. |
| Tutukaka Expires 2054 | | | None currently. |
| Kāeo Expired 2022 (replacement consent being processed) | | | Several water quality parameters exceeded consent limits (temperature and microcystis cell count) in January. February and March results compliant. |
| Te Kōpuru Expires 2044 | | | Low risk non-compliance for discharge flow meter not working. |

| WWTP/Consent Status | Compliance for last 12 months | Compliance for last 3 months | Enforcement Action/Response |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Whangārei City Expires 2045 | | | <p><u>Under AN</u> for odour from plant.</p> <p>Additional odour controls being implemented.</p> <p>Low risk non-compliance for offensive or objectionable odour at time of site visit.</p> <p>Reticulation issues relating to the Whangarei Heads line and pump stations is being managed.</p> <p>Investigations for long term remediation are underway. Further information is available from WDC website. Recent maintenance was undertaken on the Pārua Bay pump station. WDC has been requested to provide an update on the long-term solution to problem.</p> |
| Rangiputa Expires 2032 | | | <p>None currently.</p> |
| Dargaville Expires 2043 | | | <p><u>Under ANs</u></p> <p>None currently.</p> |
| Maungaturoto Expires 2032 | | | <p><u>Under AN; IN issued September 2024</u></p> <p>No issues currently.</p> |
| Kerikeri Expires 2036 | | | <p>None currently.</p> |
| Mangawhai Expires 2042 | | | <p><u>Under ANs</u></p> <p>Enforcement relates to odour.</p> <p>None currently.</p> |
| Ōākura Expires 2025 | | | <p>None currently.</p> |

| WWTP/Consent Status | Compliance for last 12 months | Compliance for last 3 months | Enforcement Action/Response |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Portland Expires 2054 |  |  | None currently. |
| Glinks Gully Expires 2034 |  |  | None currently. |
| Waioira Expires 2030 |  |  | None currently. |
| Compliance Status | | | |
| Not exercised in the period | |  | |
| Full compliance | |  | |
| Low risk non-compliance | |  | |
| Moderate non-compliance | |  | |
| Significant non-compliance | |  | |

Court Cases Update

| Litigation | Next Court Event/Action |
|---|---|
| Enforcement Order and Prosecution Environment Court Earthworks and vegetation removal in a wetland | <p>NRC approved the Remediation and Mitigation Plan which was a requirement of the Enforcement Orders (issued on 20 January 2025). Some requirements of the Enforcement Orders have not been met by the defendant.</p> <p>Charges for prosecution served on defendants on 25 July 2025.</p> <p>Outcome of the pre-trial hearing held on 1 December 2025 found the defendants are eligible for jury trial.</p> <p>The next case review hearing is 28 April 2026 in Whangarei District Court.</p> |

| Litigation | Next Court Event/Action |
|---|---|
| <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 (RC) consent for bitumen batching activities on the site. The respondents requested additional time to complete the dismantling process.</p> <p>A joint memorandum was filed on 27 February 2026. Parties agreed to leave the undertaking in place until either a RC for the plant operation is granted or the plant is dismantled.</p> |
| <p>Abatement notice appeal Operation of pyrolysis plant without resource consent.</p> | <p>Three parties issued abatement notices in November 2025 appealed the notices. A joint memorandum was filed in court on 30 January 2026. The memo advised the court that the parties have been engaging in constructive resolution discussions. The court issued a Minute on 18 March 2026 regarding the parties seeking a declaration as to whether the Appellants' pyrolysis plant is a permitted activity under the Regional Plan for Northland. The Minute included timetabling directions to parties to file evidence. An online hearing is set down for 5 June 2026.</p> |
| <p>Interim Injunction (Civil Matter) Māori Land Court Encroachment and damage of Māori land by neighbour's earthworks</p> | <p>The Māori Land Court requested the NRC to participate in the proceedings as a Third Party. There was not enough time at the initial hearing of the matter for the presiding judge to rule on the matter. However, he granted an interim injunction restricting the neighbour's earthworks in the vicinity of the contested land boundary and gave directions regarding further evidence filing. The parties exchanged their further evidence for the further hearing of the matter which was scheduled for 27 March 2026 but has been postponed to allow settlements discussions between the parties. The Applicant is required to report to the Court on 26 June 2026 regarding the outcome of the discussions.</p> |

KAIPARA MOANA REMEDIATION

Key Performance Indicators

The information shown below 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 at end March 2026 KMR has delivered the following results on the ground:

Nature & Resilience

- 2.97 million plants in the ground or contracted to plant
- 1,827 hectares planted or contracted, or regenerating into native forest
- 1,166 km of fencing completed or contracted – the same distance as to Coromandel and back.

- Over 151,000 hectares managed under KMR plans

Jobs & Skills

- \$31 million invested in restoration projects
- 53 local businesses and nurseries accredited to supply KMR
- Over 472,000 hours of new work created – a year’s work for over 287 people (**end March*)
- 282 people trained and mentored, many from local iwi/hapū, to advise on project design and delivery (**end March*)

*(*Data collated at each quarter end)*

Participation

- 1,513 landowners have expressed interest in KMR
- 975 plans have been completed with landowners
- 168 more plans are in development
- 142 group-led projects led by hapū, marae, community groups, catchment groups and other collectives.

Impact monitoring and reporting

1. KMR’s recognition as an exemplar case study at last month’s launch of the Aotearoa Circle’s “Natural Infrastructure Plan” has produced further opportunities for collaboration. We were pleased to be invited to connect with some of the team from Zealandia Consulting while they have been visiting their clients and projects in Te Tai Tokerau and share ideas about how their expertise and networks may assist with KMR’s focus over the next phase of our programme journey.
2. Building on KMR’s previous successful involvement as an applicant in the Sustainable Business Awards, we shall be meeting again this month with the Sustainable Business Network to discuss their invitation for KMR to be featured at their annual symposium in August.
3. In late March the KMR Leadership Team were able to meet with Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) representatives to further understand their funding criteria for catchment collectives and navigate how KMR and other parties contribute to the jigsaw of multiple agency funding opportunities. Unfortunately, the scheduled MPI / NZ Landcare Trust community catchment hui last month was moved to online only, due to the severe weather conditions that day. Whilst an online hui was restrictive to the free flow of ideas and views, it was successful in imparting new information to community catchment representatives to gain an understanding of MPI funding criteria and set the scene for a new kanohi ki te kanohi hui on 30 April. KMR is also keen to hear from catchment communities on how they envisage proposed new catchment structures, and where KMR could provide support.

Outcomes monitoring and reporting

1. With the data collected last month on plant survival rates across a selection of monitored sites, we are now taking a deep dive to produce an analysis of the findings to test whether there are statistically significant differences in height and vigour across species, plots, and sites. This will help determine if species perform differently at different sites and plots, and

to understand if additional environmental factors (e.g., soil type, moisture, temperature) influence plant growth and survival. The final report will produce recommendations based on trends observed in the data and build the KMR knowledge base for sediment reduction planning.

4.9.4 SAFE AND RESILIENT TRANSPORT NETWORKS

Maritime

There were 13 maritime incidents reported in March, the majority related to floating debris such as large logs creating navigational hazards and vessels sinking/ taking on water which resulted from the severe weather event.

11 cruise ships visited the Bay of Islands as scheduled with no cancellations. Anthem of the Seas was unable to tender due to weather, but arrived and departed after a short stay due to some issues with passengers onboard. 1 derelict vessel was removed from a mooring area in Whangarei and sent for disposal.

Servicing of aids to navigation continued as usual, though the vandalism and theft of equipment from the leads on Veronica Channel for the second time this year was disappointing.

Transport

Draft Regional Public Transport Plan 2026 – 2036 (RPTP)

Work has continued on the draft RPTP, design and formatting are being worked on to ensure a reader-friendly format ahead of public release. On completion, the Draft RPTP will be presented to Council with a recommendation that it be released to the Regional Transport Committee, Far North, Whangarei and Kaipara District Councils and NZTA for comment and input. Following this step, staff will present a finalised RPTP to Council requesting that it be released for public consultation.

Regional Land Transport Plan 2027/2033 (RLTP)

At the time of compiling this report, no formal notification has been received on the release of the Draft Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2027, or the NZTA compilation guidelines for the RLTP.

An Expression of Interest was placed on GETS seeking the services of a suitable party to undertake the Investment Logic Mapping workshops with the Regional Transport Committee to agree on the regions transport infrastructure and service Objectives, Problems and Benefits for the 2027/2033 funding period.

Transport Operations

Link Service Tenders

CityLink/School Tender Update

The CityLink/SchoolLink tender documentation with the draft contract is now complete, with all clauses aligned to internal requirements and NZTA expectations.

Updated timetables have had to be prepared as part of this process as the increased traffic congestion in some areas has led to the existing running times not being met. Options include three additional peak buses to cover extra running times for the CityLink and SchoolLink services, an additional peak bus on the Kamo to Whangarei service and implementation of a hospital shuttle service from Rose Street bus station. The full tender package will be ready for release within the coming weeks.

Hokianga Link

The Hokianga Link Request for Tenders closed on 31 March with one submission received. Staff are now completing the evaluation process and preparing the recommendation for approval.

The Far North Link, Mid North Link, Hikurangi Link, Bream Bay Link

The documentation for the remaining tenders is nearing completion.

National Fuel Supply Situation

Staff are working closely with bus operators and NZTA on this matter. To date, no formal information has been received from the Government or NZTA regarding any financial assistance to cover the increase in diesel costs, what stages of remedial action will be undertaken for each level of criticality and if contracted bus services will be deemed as essential services.

Staff are working with the operators on the development of a phased service reduction plan that can be activated if required. This framework prioritises core routes, peak time capacity, and essential travel needs, while allowing lower demand or less critical services to be reduced gradually and in a controlled, transparent manner. Operators are currently reviewing their fleet fuel resilience and providing operational input into the phasing approach.

Pending the receipt of notification from NZTA as to what, if any, financial assistance will be provided to cover Cost Price Indexes increases, staff are unable to accurately determine the financial impact on Council at this time.

Whangarei Hospital Bus route – scoping

Transport staff have scoped a proposed Whangarei Hospital route focusing on travel times and suitable bus stop locations. The information will support future planning should this service be developed for both hospital staff and the public.

Total Mobility Scheme

Eyed Solutions (ESL) agreement - Ridewise

Staff continue to represent the smaller regions nationally on the Ridewise Steering Group, which oversees the electronic ticketing system use on the Total Mobility Scheme. There had been background work with NZTA on potentially going out to procure a new system, however, NZTA want to undertake further due-diligence on the project so it was agreed by all parties that the contract for the current provider be extended a further two years.

Total mobility Trips and client travel for March 2026:

- Whangarei – 1,984 clients undertaking 4,711 trips
- Far North – 480 clients undertaking 323 trips

4.9.5 A SUSTAINABLE, INNOVATIVE AND EQUITABLE ECONOMY

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

The financial report for March was not available at the time of writing due to time constraints arising from the Easter holiday period.

On 31 March 2026, Council received a shareholder loan repayment from Northport Group Limited totalling \$2.46 million (m), comprising a principal repayment of \$1.68m and an interest payment of \$791 thousand. Including the September 2025 distribution, total receipts from Northport Group Limited for the 2025/26 financial year were \$5.44m, marginally exceeding the budget requirement of \$5.25m.

The ongoing conflict in Iran continues to pose an external financial risk due to increased volatility in the global energy markets and disruptions to key oil supply routes. This uncertainty has contributed to heightened volatility across global financial markets. In response, and as part of a deliberate strategy to derisk the council's investment portfolio, \$2.50m of gains earned to date was withdrawn from the managed funds during March 2026. This withdrawal was executed in accordance with advice from, and supported by, Russell Investments. These funds have subsequently been placed into term deposits, with maturity dates aligned to the August 2026 council meeting.

Regional Economic Development

Follow up actions from the JREDC included a letter from JREDC Chair Crawford to WDC Mayor Ken Couper regarding funding into the Investment Growth Reserve for 2026/27, and a long term commitment to joint ownership of Northland Inc in the LTP 2027-37

Feedback was provided on the draft Northland Infrastructure Plan being developed in Beca. An updated draft will be provided to the next JREDC on 24 April for their feedback and a plan for further engagement will be agreed.

Assistance was provided to JREDC Chair Geoff Crawford for his speech at the Ngāti Hine pre-kiwifruit harvest karakia event on Friday 13 March. Chair Crawford's speech was supported by a media release and a social media post.

Economic Development Funding

A council workshop with Te Tai Tokerau Water Trust (TTTWT) was held provide an update on Trust activities including progress to completion of construction and additional funding received from the Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF). Staff have commenced work with the Trust on revising the funding agreement for the Mid North Water Scheme to provide for an earlier payback of council's investment.

Work continues with TTTWT, Northland Inc and other parties on research and co-funding opportunities to support the commercial uptake of water from the Kaipara Water Company.

Economic Information

The March edition of the Northland Economic Quarterly e-newsletter was distributed on 31 March 2025 and is available online at [Economic quarterly - Northland Regional Council - Economic quarterly | March 2026 - Northland Regional Council](#). This edition covered the topics of retail spending, changes in the forestry sector, details about GDP growth in Northland and renewable energy developments.

Discussions were held with Te Puni Kokiri regional economic development staff and Te Hiku Iwi development Trust representatives on Northland economic data and information availability, including the Regional Economic Profile produced by Infometrics.

As part of council's annual subscription service, a meeting was held with Brad Olsen, Chief Executive, Infometrics to discuss council data requirements and future developments by Infometrics.

Northland Inc

Northland Inc hosted a workshop in partnership with MBIE Innovation Services (formally Callaghan Innovation) to educate local businesses on the benefits of, and how to apply for the Research & Development Tax Incentive (RDTI). More than a dozen Northland businesses joined to explore how the programme works and ask practical questions about whether their projects might qualify for a tax credit equal to 15% of eligible R&D expenditure.

In mid-March, the Tuputupu Grow Northland team held four workshops around the region (Ngāwhā, Kaitaia, Mangawhai, Whangārei) in partnership with Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Horticulture New Zealand, and NorthChamber to explain requirements, services and support available to growers who are exploring export opportunities. The workshops

covered MPI requirements for food and fibre products, an overview of the NZGAP food certification programme, requirements for preparation to export, and what agency and community support is available in Northland. The sessions were well attended and provided a platform for growers and producers to learn and share their stories in practical, in-person settings.

A Trade Marketing Manager represented Northland at the Regional Tourism New Zealand Inbound Trade Event in Auckland in early March. The two-day event allowed 160 members of New Zealand's inbound travel trade industry to connect and collaborate with regional tourism organisations, where new and upcoming tourism developments for each region were shared, creating fresh sales opportunities for travel trade representatives - ultimately supporting visitation into Northland.

International trade marketing was also a focus in March, with the Trade Marketing Manager attending the Tourism New Zealand Regional Showcase in Sydney, meeting with 26 key Australian travel providers where she showcased the Northland region and new tourism products. She then undertook frontline training of 26 travel trade staff in the Gold Coast in partnership with Tātaki Auckland Unlimited, promoting the Northland region alongside Auckland as a gateway for international visitors. With Australia still New Zealand's largest visitor market (accounting for 44% of international visitors each year, and Australian arrivals up 39% from 2019), these international trade engagements are an important way to showcase Northland as a visitor destination to travel trade agents.

4.9.6 MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH TĀNGATA WHENUA

Kohatutaka Bioblitz

The Kohatutaka Bioblitz with Te Hauora o Ninihi Trust had teams on the whenua conducting biodiversity surveys based on local priorities. This included pekapeka (bats), plants in the ngahere, mokomoko (lizards), wetland manu (birds) and installing permanent plots in the Kaipeha repo (the 10th top wetland in Taitokerau) for long term wetland condition monitoring. These plots will be jointly assessed with mana whenua every five years as part of the NRC wetland SOE monitoring programme. Threats and pressures for key ecosystems in the Kohatutaka rohe were also identified. The results from the bioblitz will provide baseline data to inform ongoing taiao protection and restoration work led by mana whenua in the Ōtau catchment, as well as support future funding applications through identification of threatened and taonga species and ecosystems.



NRC, Northland Forest Managers and Te Hauora o Ninihi kaimahi learn to survey for pekapeka using acoustic devices.



The team admires an impressive rākau and endemic giraffe weevil.



Te Hauora o Ninihi kaimahi record data from Kaipeha wetland plots.

Tangata Whenua Environmental Management Fund

TWEMF is a funding programme that supports iwi and hapū-led environmental monitoring projects, recognising the role of tāngata whenua as kaitiaki and partners in environmental stewardship.

A total of 18 Tangata Whenua Environmental Monitoring Fund applications were received this period, each valued at \$20,000, a total of \$360,000 over-subscribed in support for iwi and hapū-led

initiatives. Three Iwi Hapū Environmental Management Plans (IHEMP) and projects have been completed, and a total of 10 TWEMF have been proposed to be approved for funding.

Rahui Tapu - Health and Safety Capability Building

Council continue to support Te Uri Hikihiki, and Te Whānau Whero within the Rāhui Tapu kaupapa through health and safety wānanga facilitated by our Kaiwhakahaere Moana Ora in collaboration with WorkSafe, Maritime NZ, Site Safety, and iwi representatives. These sessions ensure compliance, strengthen sector knowledge, and provide a platform for sharing current issues affecting hapū and iwi operations.

Iwi Engagement and Relationship Strengthening

Strengthening our partnership with Te Roroa by supporting the induction of their new Chief Executive, Darren Beaty, ensuring continuity in our relationship and maintaining iwi priorities at the centre of NRC's work programmes.

Kauri Ora Collaboration

The Kauri Ora team continues its partnership with Te Roroa to combat kauri dieback, working alongside scientists and technical specialists. This collaboration supports both mātauranga Māori and scientific approaches to protect kauri ecosystems and only heightens the importance of kaitiaki work and the need for close alignment across NRC workstreams.

Rangatahi Development

Council continues to support the development of rangatahi capability by creating opportunities for young people, all nominated by their iwi to participate in professional spaces. This enables rangatahi to contribute their perspectives and build confidence in regional decision-making environments.

Additional members of Te Mahuri o Te Taiao have been inducted and onboarded to continue the distribution of Foundation North funds across the Kaipara region. This kaupapa is steadily growing in the background, with council increasingly providing support to strengthen its development and connect the group with other like-minded initiatives and settings.

A key strength of this work is our coordinated approach as this is not a standalone council initiative, but a partnership where rangatahi remain grounded in their iwi and hapū spaces, carving out the work needed for their communities and whenua, with council walking alongside them to support and enable their aspirations.

Severe Weather Response – Hapū and Iwi Coordination

With continued external pressures and the ongoing environmental impacts affecting Taitokerau, our region has once again been struck by severe weather events. In response, many of our Tiriti Partnerships and engagement team have been redeployed, supporting hapū outside of standard working hours, reflecting the scale and urgency of community need. It is important to acknowledge that haukāinga continue to face these pressures daily, often carrying the immediate response burden long before agencies arrive.

4.9.7 CARBON NEUTRAL, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

Natural Hazards

Landslide Mapping

Aerial Survey have completed the collection of orthographic aerial photographs and LiDAR from the part of the region effected by January's rainfall event. These are currently being processed and will then be used by Earth Science NZ to map the landslide triggered by this rainfall.

Both the aerial photography and LiDAR will be hosted by Land Information New Zealand which means they will be available for councils, lifelines, iwi/hapū and the community.



Orthographic aerial photograph of Oakura showing landslides on the hills to the west of the settlement.

Whangarei Urban Flood Strategy

The consultants on the Whangarei Urban Flood Strategy have begun to identify and model possible mitigation options, looking at how they interact and the costs vs benefits. The project team will be workshopping pathways with the council in April.

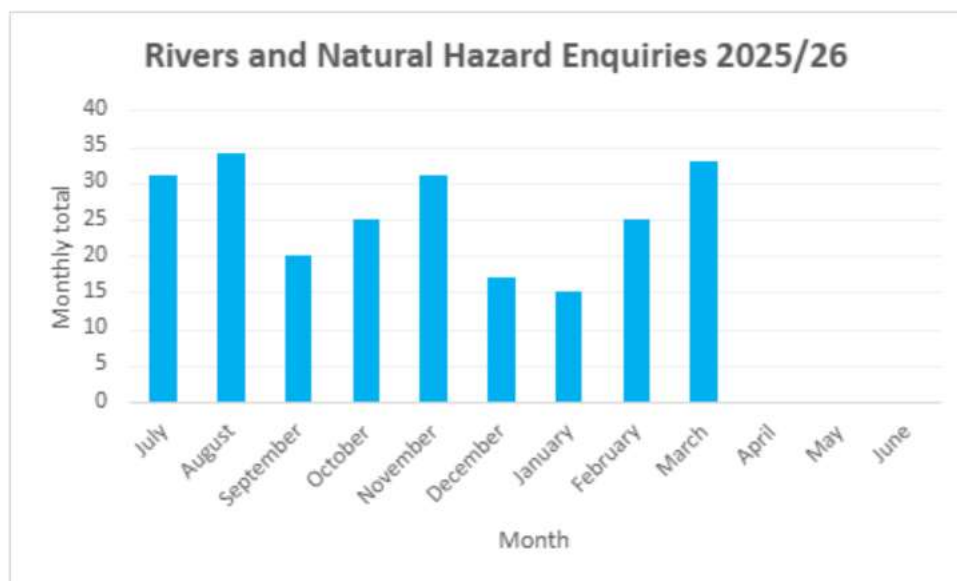
Early Flood Forecast System

NRC are tendering for the next steps of the early Flood Forecasting System, extending the rainfall forecasting and including five additional rivers. The tender closes in mid-April with a cross-council team established to review the tenders and identify a preferred consultant.

The January and March rainfall events have provided a good opportunity to test the system with staff able to access the system and run flood forecasts for the Waitangi catchment, our test catchment.

Natural Hazard enquires

In March, the team received 33 enquiries, bring a total of 231 enquires in the year to date. Most enquiries continue to be property flood level data, and we are investigating ways this information can be shared with the public reducing the query burden on staff.



Rivers

26 March 2026 Flood Event:

The 26 March 2026 rain event produced the highest flows on record at Awanui School Cut gauge at 413 cubic meters per second (cms) almost double the 1958 event of 220 cms which caused widespread flooding to Kaitaia Township. While some overtopping occurred on both the Awanui River and Whangatane Spillway this was in areas that works have not been completed. The team (contractors and quarry) worked over Easter weekend to repair a slip that developed after this record flow weekend a stopbank.

Whirinaki

Local hapū report that this was not as big as the 1999 flood, however several homes were flooded and some red-stickered - this highlights the managed retreat option and that this should be the long-term goal. We have also surveyed over 200 flood levels in Kaitaia and Whirinaki and staff have marked other flood levels around Northland to help with future calibration and verification.

Awanui - Lower Whangatane Spillway

Enabling work progressed on Lower Whangatane Spillway Setback Tranche 2 with the team sealing the site ready for winter following the 26 March flood.

NIFF Programme

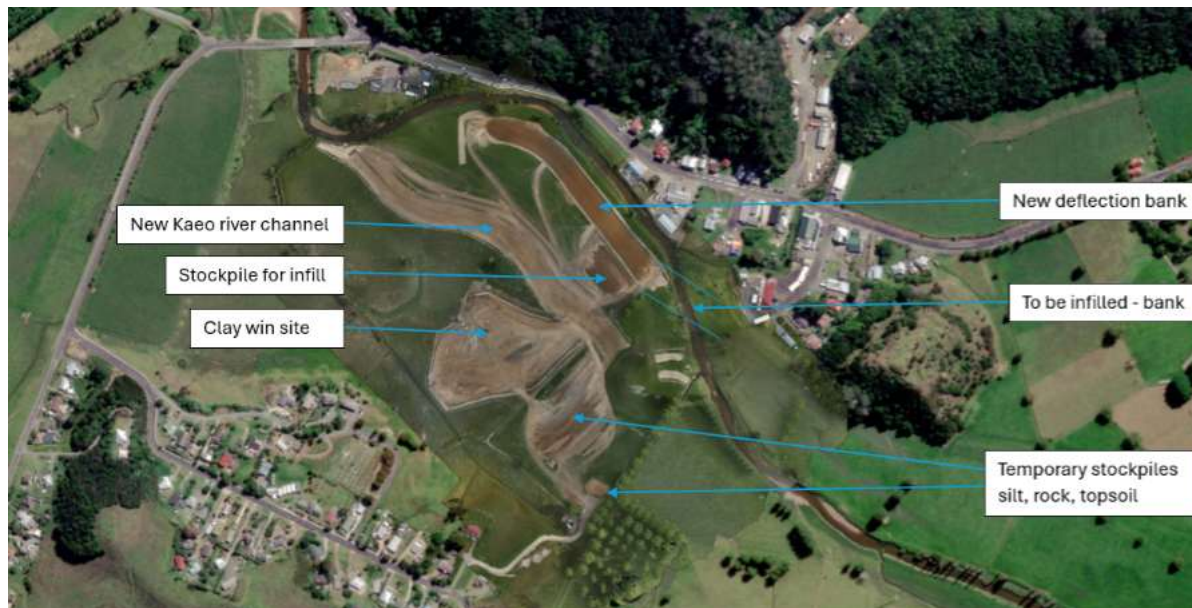
Mangamuka Marae flood protection works are now complete, only final fencing remaining. The extra capacity from the flood work was welcomed relief.

Otiria Swale

Work is underway with approximately 20% of the swale being complete. More rubbish has been encountered, this is being “raked” sorted and disposed at a landfill.

Kaeo Stage 2 Flood Infrastructure Project

Earthworks continue to progress, however the rain and archaeological finds have continued to delay the work. Its likely that the site will need to be closed down over winter and works completed in the spring.



LTP Business Case

Awanui Lower Stopbank Assessment and Options:

Modelling work has been scoped and is underway for the coastal stopbank set-back options developed. NRC will be sharing costs with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) regarding the modelling.

TNC have funds for modelling and if the modelling shows favourable environmental benefits, TNC may fund other work. Staff have developed a plan for conditional and conventional surveys of the banks to feed into the the model assumptions.

Kerikeri Flood Mitigation Options:

Hydraulic modelling is underway; the options include Cross-Catchment flows, targeted channel improvement and K3A detention dam. Staff have met with the 2 x landowners that the dam footprint is located. NRC is investigating the most effective way to enable Geotech testing.

Tauranga Bay Flood Mitigation:

Staff set out the proposed stopbank alignment ahead of the Tauranga Bay Community Association Easter AGM. Staff attended the Easter AGM and presented the proposed flood mitigation options about 26 people attended and good support from the group. The peer review is underway with geotech testing and modelling.

Dargaville Flood Risk Assessment and Options:

Staff have engaged a hydraulic modelling consultant to progress this work, we expect preliminary results late April. A conditional assessment of the Flood Wall is scheduled for later in April.

Community Engagement and Capability Development

Across the region, engagement with community response groups, marae, iwi, and vulnerable communities continued, with a strong focus on incorporating recent event learnings into planning and preparedness. Reviews of response plans were supported for the Northland Fijian Community, Rawene and Te Rāwhiti communities, alongside ongoing marae preparedness work.

Operational readiness activity included EOC exercises, equipment recommissioning following activations, Starlink testing, and continued roll-out of regional CIMS and functional role training. Applications are now open, and courses scheduled, for further regionally facilitated training through May.

Lifelines and Infrastructure Resilience

The Northland Lifelines Group met on 6 March, with a focus on climate adaptation, infrastructure resilience and emerging risks. Councils are advancing coordinated climate adaptation pilots in Whangārei and the Far North, supported by iwi engagement and shared data tools. Lifeline utilities were encouraged to align risk assessments and investment planning to support long-term resilience and recovery.

Work continues to consolidate and update the Northland Lifelines Infrastructure Resilience Plan, incorporating new hazard data (including wildfire and liquefaction) and strengthening alignment with emerging risks such as cyber threats and forthcoming emergency management legislation.

4.9.8 EFFICIENT, PROGRESSIVE AND TRANSPARENT COUNCIL SYSTEMS

Whangarei Future Development Strategy

At the recent New Zealand Planning Institute Conference, national awards for Planning Best Practice were presented. Whangarei District Council and Northland Regional Council were Highly Commended in the category of Strategic or Non-Statutory Planning for the joint preparation of the Whangarei Future Development Strategy. Congratulations also to our colleagues at Far North District Council who won the category for the Kerikeri-Waipapa Spatial Plan.

Community Engagement

Media and reputation

Six media releases were issued during March to local and national outlets, with five out of six (83%) receiving pickup. Additional activity included three media briefs and responses to 22 media enquiries.

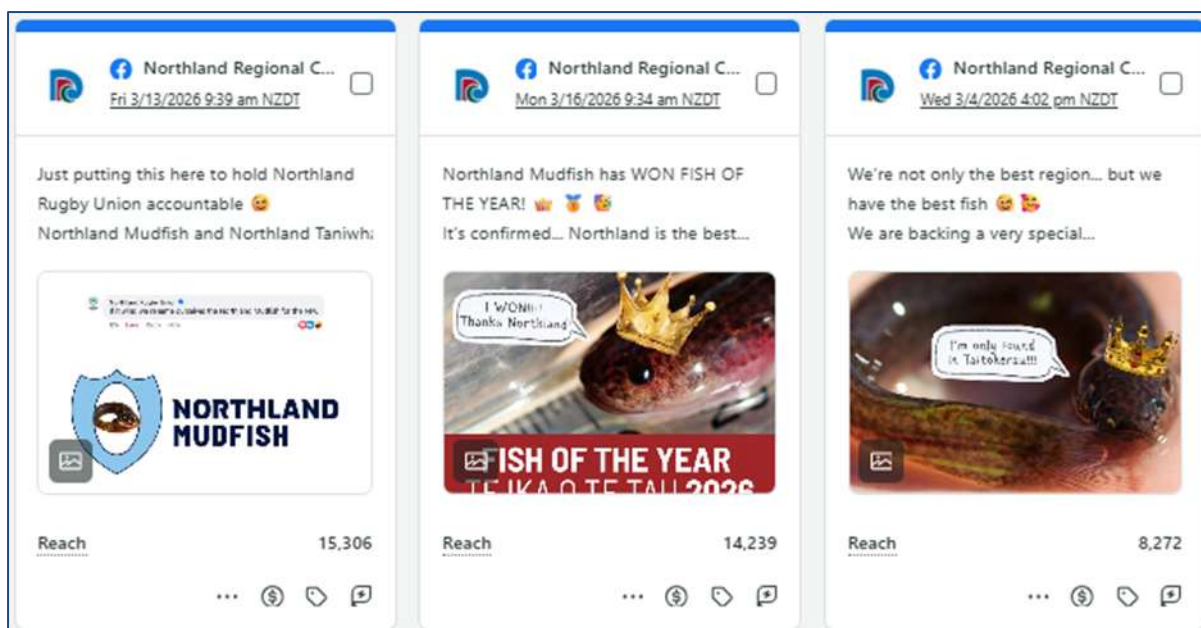
Media monitoring recorded 91 mentions, covering a wide range of council functions. The dominant driver of coverage during March was severe weather, flooding and emergency response.

Digital engagement

Engagement across NRC's digital channels eased in March following the exceptionally high activity levels in February, which were driven by Waitangi commemorations and Field Days. Despite this, overall reach continued to grow, with total social impressions increasing by nearly 50% month-on-month and the total audience growing by 1%.

Our content supporting the national Fish of the Year campaign featured among the top three performing posts for March and helped lift the profile of the Northland mudfish – and, with the support of local radio - went on to win the 2026 title.

The campaign raised awareness of this threatened freshwater species and positioned biodiversity and wetland protection within a positive, community-led national conversation.



A short-form video explaining the 0% rates increase also performed above industry engagement benchmarks and generated largely positive sentiment.

Website traffic increased by 17% compared with February, driven by heightened public interest in recent weather events – with the Kaeo webcam and the Environmental Data Hub the most visited pages, alongside ongoing interest in Madagascar ragwort information.

Several targeted e-newsletters were distributed during the month, including the quarterly Economic Update, Ngā karere o Te Raki, and an education-focused Moth Plant Competition EDM, which achieved a particularly strong 51.7% open rate, indicating high engagement from core audiences.

Digital engagement snapshot

| Metric | Feb 2026 | Change since last period |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Total audience (social) | 24,799 | +1% audience growth |
| Net audience growth (social) | 247 | ↓154.7% |
| Published posts | 69 | 122 in February |
| Impressions | 917,683 | ↑49.7 (from 612,818) |
| Engagements (social) | 10,352 | ↓76.8% (from 44,639) |
| Engagement rate (per impression) | 1.1% | (7.3% in February) |
| Video views | 36,324 | ↓69.6% (from 120,353) |
| Website visits (nrc.govt.nz) | 75,224 | +17.0% (from 55,783) |
| Top website pages (by views) | Kaeo webcam | 15,930 |
| | Environmental Data Hub | 12,625 |
| | Webcams | 7,249 |
| | Madagascar ragwort – A major threat to pastoral farming | 5,723 |
| eNews subscribers (cumulative) | 6,250 | No change |
| Subscribed web alerts (cumulative) | 1,899 | Up from 1,869 |

Campaigns and business support

The Community Engagement team provided strategic communications and coordination support across a range of priority council initiatives this month. This included:

- Coordination, writing and editing support for two council submissions to the Taituarā Local Government Excellence Awards, recognising council leadership in community engagement (Whirinaki Managed Retreat Project) and Māori–council partnerships (Rāhui Tapu Marine Protected Areas).
- Working in partnership with Whangarei District Council and Far North District Council to plan and implement multi-faceted promotional strategy for Coastal Conversations events that support communities to understand the coastal issues they face and how to adapt.
- Coordinating attendance from multiple business units for the Funky Fish competition, enabling Biosecurity teams to engage directly with the Whangārei Heads community. This included support for Predator Free, Marine and Moana Ora teams to deliver interactive education focused on pest control, marine pests and marine protection rules.
- During the March severe weather event, the team supported the Civil Defence response, contributing to coordinated public information and digital communications.
- The Community Engagement team also provided end-to-end campaign and project support for the Moth Plant Competition, including marketing, digital promotion and community engagement to encourage participation and awareness of this biosecurity issue.
- Madagascar ragwort: Digital and regional print advertising is now well established, delivering nearly 895,000 impressions, 10,100+ clicks, and 7,700 website sessions to date, supported by regional newspaper advertising. Additional digital placements and rural signage are rolling out.

Ballance Farm Environment Awards

Alan Dobbie of Wiroa Horticulture (Kerikeri) has been named the 2026 Northland Regional Supreme Winner, also receiving the Northland Regional Council Water Quality Enhancement Award and three additional awards. A winners' field day on 6 May will showcase Wiroa's transition from dairying to a high-performing kiwifruit orchard producing 450,000 trays annually, alongside improved biodiversity outcomes.

Tū i te Ora Scholarship

Applications are now open for the 2026 Tū i te Ora Scholarship. Four scholarship packages are available, each offering \$5,000 to support study costs, along with a paid, full-time work experience opportunity in one of the following areas: Te Tiriti Partnerships & Engagement, Climate Action, Biodiversity & Science, or Rivers and Natural Hazards / Civil Defence. More information:

<https://www.nrc.govt.nz/scholarship>

Education

The Education team delivered a range of place-based and curriculum-aligned learning activities across the region, supporting environmental literacy, practical skills development and kaitiakitanga. A Far North Wai Fencing workshop brought together 35 senior students from four schools for NCEA-aligned training, combining theory and hands-on learning around fencing waterways, riparian management and water quality outcomes, delivered in partnership with industry and land management experts.



Wai Fencing students get their knots and ties right before constructing a new fence.



Small groups work well in Wai Fencing theory sessions.

A two-day Waiarohia Stream source-to-sea programme engaged five Whangārei schools in freshwater, biodiversity and mātauranga Māori learning, combining environmental science with cultural knowledge and hands-on restoration activities. The programme strengthened student understanding of biosecurity, freshwater health and river systems through a te ao Māori lens.



Students were horrified at the number of baby bats found inside a feral cat.

Environmental stewardship milestones were also celebrated, including the five-year oxygen weed-free anniversary of Lake Ngatu, with 115 students from Paparore School participating in interactive freshwater, biosecurity and kauri protection activities alongside council and DOC staff.

Students 'built' a lake at the freshwater plants rotation.



'Who dirtied the water?' was an engaging water quality activity.

In Kerikeri, a Seaweed littatrap installation supported practical learning about waste pathways from land to sea, with plans to expand this initiative to additional schools.

Corporate Strategy

Council's programme and project system, WayPoint, continues to be embedded across the organisation to support activity reviews, project and programme reporting, and improved linkages between activities, cost centres, risks, and performance measures.

Reporting and dashboard development is progressing, including timesheet and resident survey dashboards, and work is underway to strengthen forecasting and improve clarity around coding and allocation.

Governance and democratic services continue to support a significant programme of council and committee business, including preparation of agendas, minutes, workshops, and follow-up actions across council, CE Forum and Mayoral Forum meetings.

Long Term Plan and Annual Plan development is progressing with project planning, continued activity review work, background analysis, audit planning, and preparation of supporting papers. Drafting of the zero-percent increase Annual Plan 2026/27 continues.

Council's internal policy, process and system improvement programme continues, including policy updates, Promapp rationalisation and clean-out, preparation for procurement to replace current process management tools, and ongoing legislative compliance reporting and risk framework development. Improvements across contract management, risk, LGOIMA and internal systems are progressing as resourcing allows, with a focus on refining tools, clarifying processes, and lifting organisational maturity over time.

People & Culture

People and Culture activity over the last quarter remained steady, with staff turnover holding at approximately 12.5%. From 1 April 2026, statutory employment changes, including an increase to the adult minimum wage to \$23.95 per hour and an increase in default KiwiSaver employee and employer contribution rates to 3.5%.

Training activity during the quarter focused on Conflict of Interest, with this training made available to all staff. Work also progressed across several organisational priorities, including confirmation of organisational values, and bedding in of the Modern Workspaces project.

Health & Safety

Health and safety performance continues to be consistent, with ongoing incident reporting providing visibility of organisational trends and supporting the continuation of the council's safety culture. A sustained emphasis remains on 'Work as Done' audits with contractors and volunteers, reinforcing alignment between documented processes and the reality of how work is undertaken on site.

Information Service and Technology

Operations

- The mobile phone refresh programme is complete, with the laptop programme remain on track for completion at the end of April 2026. GIS system integration updates are 80% complete. The remainder are dependant on further system upgrades and are scheduled for completion in June. Recruitment is progressing for the vacant Application Support Analyst role.
- There were eight upgrades to technology systems successfully implemented during March 2026.
- Rationalisation of security products continues following the successful transition to new security operations centre complete. We remain in a period of hyper-care, with a strong focus on managing the increased cyber activity and attacks observed over the past month.

- Monthly cyber statistics for March taken from our firewall for malware and network attacks illustrate the importance and effectiveness of our security software.

Malware Attacks



Frequency Daily 73.9K Hourly 3.08K Every Minute 51

Total Scanned 2.29M

Network Attacks



Frequency Daily 107M Hourly 4.46M Every Minute 74.3K

Total Scanned 3.32B

Data and Information

- Increased focus on GIS tickets over the past two months has led to a reduction in outstanding work, with particular progress across maritime and land management areas. Work on the integration design of GIS to the new asset management system continues. An upgrade was completed to modernise IRIS and SharePoint document-integration functionality prior to discontinuation by Microsoft in April.
- Work to clear the backlog of physical record archiving from modern workspaces project is ongoing.
- The procurement plan for the Approach to AI Adoption has been approved, and work is now underway to be completed by June.
- AI Adoption Discovery - The procurement approach has been approved, and an information response pack outlining the project scope has been issued to shortlisted suppliers. Responses are due in late April.

Technology Projects

Project Axis - Implementation of new Asset Management and Human Resource systems

- Assets - Progress is positive with Univerus allocating a solely dedicated consultant to our project team. Configuration of work orders has progressed well. The next steps will focus on the mobile app and demonstration sessions with the three initial internal teams (Maritime, Hydrology, and Information Technology). The priority for April is to finalise the work-order processes for these business units before moving into full system testing in the test environment.
- Human Resource Information System (HRIS) - Progress remains high with timelines on track. Configuration of the performance module is complete and has been deployed to production. Work is progressing at pace on the learning module, and the team is scheduled to begin configuring the onboarding module in April.

IRIS Next Generation

A collaborative initiative involving ten regional councils working with Regional Software Holdings Limited and Datacom to deliver a modern software platform to councils. The software facilitates a wide range of activities, including customer and community engagement, environmental stewardship and regulatory functions and incorporates both an online customer support portal and a mobile application for field staff.

Sector Programme - Otago Regional Council is the first to implement the new Datascape system and is acting as the pilot site, with support from other councils. The pilot is expected to resume in mid-May. The delay will affect Otago's go-live date, which is still to be confirmed. For the remaining

regional councils—Waikato, Bay of Plenty, followed by Taranaki—the programme is aiming to maintain the original late-2027 timeline.

NRC continues to support the pilot, working with Otago teams and contributing expertise to planning and review activities while awaiting the pilot’s restart.

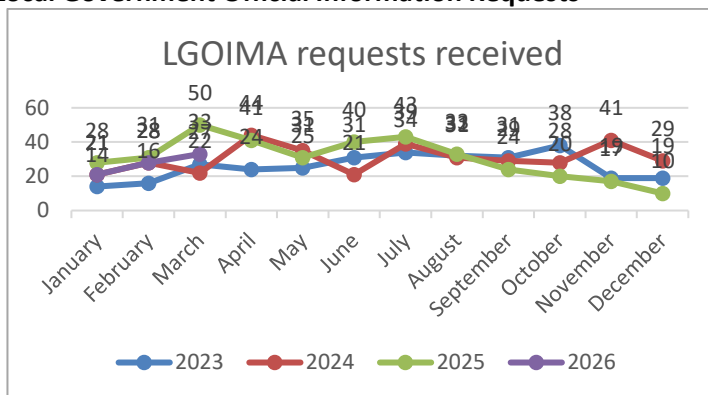
NRC Project - Work continues to build a clear picture of the current operating model—how NRC uses IRIS and other systems to deliver services. Because system use varies across teams, a current-state blueprint is required to inform review and improvement. This will help identify opportunities to standardise IRIS use, apply consistent good-practice models, and strengthen data use.

This work supports the ‘ready early’ strategy by reducing risk, smoothing workload, and enabling early improvements ahead of implementation. Early engagement also gives teams visibility of the future-state solution and supports a no-surprises approach. Progress remains steady.

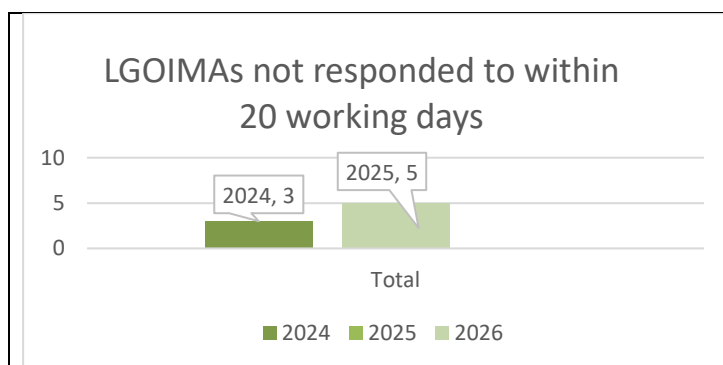
Property

- The Whangarei HQ Office lift replacement project schedule extension has been reduced. Lift commissioning and lift services are expected to resume earlier than the current mid-May 2026 timeframe.
- Procurement documents for the demolition of FENZ buildings to make way for the Multi-Agency Emergency Coordination Centre (MACC) are being prepared. The MACC resource consent application has been submitted, and design work is currently being undertaken to support a building consent application submission later this calendar year.
- The NZ Police are utilising council’s vacant properties at 16 Reyburn Street and Fertilizer Road, Whangārei for personnel and dog training purposes.

Local Government Official Information Requests



In March 2026 we received 33 LGOIMA requests, 17 less than March 2025.



All LGOIMA requests for March 2026 were responded to within the required timeframe.

Attachments/Ngā tapirihanga

Nil