

How should Kerikeri, Waipapa grow?

Residents are invited to shape the future of the district's fastest-growing towns – Kerikeri and Waipapa – through Te Pātukurea - the Kerikeri-Waipapa Spatial Plan.

Te Pātukurea will be a long-term, 30-plus years blueprint for the development of these towns ensuring that housing, infrastructure, and services evolve to meet the needs of the community.

The plan will set the direction for everything from housing choices and transport networks to how the natural environment is protected.

Right now, the focus is on identifying the best location for the additional housing and business-zoned land needed as these communities grow over the next 30 years.

Te Pātukurea sets the long-term direction for growth, which, once adopted, will inform future versions of the Far North District Plan. Where possible, Te Pātukurea will be used to inform the proposed district plan hearings currently underway.

"We want the people of Kerikeri and Waipapa to help choose the best growth scenario for their towns," says Roger Ackers, Group Manager - Planning and Policy. "As our population grows, it's important that future growth



Consultation is now open for the Te Pātukurea - the Kerikeri-Waipapa Spatial Plan.

reflects the needs and aspirations of the community."

Six possible growth scenarios have been developed, each presenting a different vision for the future. Options range from maintaining the status quo to more ambitious plans that reshape the towns with increased housing, commercial centres, and upgraded infrastructure.

Each scenario comes with unique benefits, challenges, and trade-offs, such as flood risk management, environmental protection, and stormwater improvements.

Residents are encouraged to explore detailed maps and descriptions of the scenarios on the council's website.

Fee rise for property services

Fees for LIM reports and property files are being adjusted to address rising operational costs that have created a gap between the fees and the true cost of providing the services.

The changes will increase the fee for obtaining LIM reports from \$319 to \$395 and property files from \$26 to \$33.50. The fee increase will shift the portion paid by the user for both property files and LIM reports to 85 per cent.

Elected members approved the amendment to the Fees and Charges Schedule 2024/25 at October's council meeting, taking effect from 11 November 2024. They will remain in place for the remainder of the 2024/2025 rating year.

In making the decision, councillors agreed that the increase is necessary to ensure statutory services remain as close to cost-neutral as possible and do not place additional burdens on ratepayers.

The change brings fees charged by Far North District Council to within a similar range charged by many other councils across the country. Fees and charges will be reviewed again for the 2025/26 Annual Plan.



Vandalism of roads signs costs ratepayers tens of thousands of dollars.

Put the brakes on vandalism

The council is counting the cost of a surge in vandalism targeting recently installed speed limit signs.

New speed limits have been rolled out in stages following extensive public consultation with affected communities. Changes have been made to district roads around Kāeo, Waipapa, Waimate North and Ōkaihau, Kaitāia-Awaroa and Broadwood-Kohukohu.

The most recent changes have occurred in the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa catchment where it is estimated the damage has so far cost more than \$20,000.

Following each change to speed limits, there has been a surge in the destruction of road signs. This not only affects speed limit signs; larger road safety signs are also damaged or removed. This includes signs warning of bends ahead, One Way Bridge warnings, Stop and Give way signs and even road name signs. It costs ratepayers approximately \$2600 to replace or repair larger signs and around \$750 for speed limit signs.

In 2020-21, it cost ratepayers close to \$40,000 to repair signs targeted by vandals in the Bay of Islands Ward and more than \$20,000 to repair signs installed on the Kaitāia-Awaroa Ahipara-Mangamuka route in 2022-23.

Joy for community groups

Hundreds of whānau in need across the district can look forward to some Christmas joy thanks to caring community groups and community board funding.

The Bald Angels Charitable Trust was granted a total of \$9000 with Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board, Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board and Te Hiku Community Board each contributing \$3000 towards the group's project to provide Christmas parcels and support to struggling families.

Other recent board funding decisions were:

Kaikohe Hokianga Community Board

-\$1660 to Kaikohe Yun Jung Do Development Trust

-\$1360 to the Hokianga Bowling Club.

Te Hiku Community Board

-\$5757 to Ahipara Aroha Inc

-\$2487 to Kaitāia College

-\$944 to Kaitāia A&P Association.

For more information on these news stories and more, visit fndc.govt.nz.



Bald Angels Charitable Trust is helping struggling families this Xmas.



Charges for ordering LIM and property files are increasing.

Stay informed about your district with a monthly email summary of news and updates delivered directly to your inbox. **Scan the QR code** to subscribe to our newsletter or **click the link** on our news stories webpage at fndc.govt.nz

