



**Te Kaunihera  
o Te Hiku o te Ika**  
Far North District Council

**HE KŌRERO  
ATU ANŌ  
OTHER  
INFORMATION**

## **Disclaimer**

This Long Term Plan (LTP) consultation document and supporting information has been prepared in accordance with the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery Legislation Act 2023 and the Severe Weather Emergency Recovery (Local Government Act 2002—Long-term Plan) Order 2023 issued in October 2023.

The order simplifies the process for preparation of an LTP by certain councils affected by the severe weather events of 2023 and enables the council to prepare an LTP consultation document and supporting information that has not been formally audited. While this consultation document and supporting information is not required to include a formal audit report, all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this consultation document and supporting information, having regard to the information available to the council at that time.

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# Our community outcomes

## What are community outcomes?

Community outcomes link to the aspects of well-being as prescribed in the Local Government Act 2002. They are a high-level set of goals that we aim to achieve. We align our community outcomes to the activities that we deliver to our communities. We use performance measures associated with most of our activities to track progress towards our community outcome goals.

Our community outcomes are below, and how they link strategically to our vision, mission, priorities and aspects of wellbeing is on the following page.

Our community outcomes were reviewed as part of the Long-Term Plan 2024-27 with slight adjustments made to the wording only.

	Proud, vibrant communities	Whakatauki Te pā harakeke. A community of harakeke plants.
	Communities that are healthy, safe, connected, and sustainable	Whakatauki He tina ki runga, he tāmore ki raro. Contentment above, firmly rooted below.
	Resilient communities that are prepared for the unexpected	Whakatauki Te toka tū moana. The boulder standing in the ocean.
	Prosperous communities supported by a sustainable economy	Whakatauki He kūaka marangaranga, kōtahi te manu i tau ki te tāhuna, ka tau, ka tau, tau atu e. Godwits rise and flock together in the air, one bird comes down to land on the sandbank to feed, then another, then another and another.
	A wisely managed environment that recognises the role of tangata whenua as kaitiaki	Whakatauki Whatungarongaro te tangata, toitu te whenua. As man disappears, the land remains.
	We celebrate our unique culture and history	Whakatauki Kia whakatōmuri te haere whakamua. I walk backwards into the future with my eyes fixed on my past.

# Strategic linkages

## NGĀ WĀHANGA E WHĀ O TE HAUORA • THE FOUR ASPECTS OF WELLBEING



Ā iwi  
Social



Ōhanga  
Economic



Taiao  
Environmental



Ahurea  
Cultural

## TIROHANGA • OUR VISION



## ARONGA • OUR MISSION

**HE ARA TĀMATA  
CREATING GREAT PLACES**  
*Supporting our people*

## HE RAUTAKI WHAKAAROTAU • OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Repair our transport network



Address  
affordability



Better asset  
management



Enable  
sustainable  
economic  
development



Adapt to  
climate  
change



Protect our  
water  
supply



Deepen our  
sense of  
place and  
connection

## NGĀ HUA KI TE HAPORI • OUR COMMUNITY OUTCOMES



Proud,  
vibrant  
communities



Communities  
that are  
healthy, safe,  
connected and  
sustainable



Resilient  
communities  
that are  
prepared for  
the unexpected



Prosperous  
communities  
supported by  
a sustainable  
economy



A wisely  
managed  
environment  
that  
recognises the  
role of tangata  
whenua as  
kaitiaki



We celebrate  
our unique  
culture and  
history

**PROPOSED  
SIGNIFICANT FORECAST  
ASSUMPTIONS**

## Significant forecast assumptions

Assumption	Level of financial risk	Impact for high risk assumptions	Level of uncertainty	Financial impact for assumption with high level of uncertainty
<b>General assumption</b>				
<p><b>District growth</b> Population statistics have been sourced from Statistics New Zealand. The population of the Far North is estimated at 2020 at 71,000 and is projected to increase at a rate of 0.5% per annum between now and 2043 to an estimated population of 78,000.</p> <p>Growth is expected to be isolated to larger urban areas, particularly Kaitiāia, Kaikohe, Kerikeri and Paihia, and the Doubtless Bay area.</p> <p>The population structure of the Far North is likely to change over the next 30 years, with the over 65 age group becoming a dominant demographic. This is likely to be the result of longer life expectancy and the baby boom generation reaching retirement.</p> <p>Demographic changes will occur slowly over time, so we are unlikely to see any great change in expectation from our communities within the next 10 years as a result.</p> <p>Deprivation levels throughout the District are expected to remain unchanged from current levels.</p> <p>Council has used .id as a basis for deprivation mapping across our District. For a description of how deprivation is measured go to <a href="http://www.profile.idnz.co.nz/far-north/deprivation-index">www.profile.idnz.co.nz/far-north/deprivation-index</a>. The map of deprivation in the Far North is at <a href="http://www.atlas.idnz.co.nz/far-north">www.atlas.idnz.co.nz/far-north</a>. From Map Selector choose income and well-being then deprivation index.</p>	Medium	Not applicable	Medium	Not applicable
<p><b>COVID-19</b> Ongoing infections continue in the region and across New Zealand. The government has now lifted all remaining mandatory COVID-19 restrictions.</p>	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<p><b>Security of water supply:</b> Water shortages due to drought conditions over the past two summers will continue to be addressed in collaboration with the Government. Projects to establish secure water storage assets are advanced, and Council assumes ongoing governmental funding assistance.</p>	Medium	Not applicable	Medium	Not applicable
<p><b>Building activity</b></p>	Medium	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable

<b>Assumption</b>	<b>Level of financial risk</b>	<b>Impact for high risk assumptions</b>	<b>Level of uncertainty</b>	<b>Financial impact for assumption with high level of uncertainty</b>
<p>Council estimates building activity will fall due to the reduction in lower house prices, sales and with interest rates predicted to remain high until at least 2025. It is assumed that residential consents will amount to approximately 360 new dwellings being expected to be constructed each year, while non-residential consents values remaining high for the next three years.</p>				
<p><b>Climate change</b>  The severe climate events of 2023 highlight the urgency to build resilience to the effects of ongoing climate change in council and in Tai Tokerau communities. The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) climate change scenarios align with IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) March 2023. Northland assumes the following climate change effects based on the MfE Report "Our atmosphere and climate 2023":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extreme weather events will become increasingly severe and frequent, leaving less time for recovery between events.</li> <li>• Our taonga species, natural and rare ecosystems will be increasingly threatened.</li> <li>• Increased risk of new infectious diseases and pests will spread threatening our biodiversity, food security, health, and overall wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increased frequency, severity and spatial patterns of rainfall and drought with significant impacts on our primary industries.</li> <li>• Vulnerable people will be disproportionately affected through increased flooding, extreme weather events and sea level rise.</li> </ul> <p>Delay in implementing adaptation and emission reductions will impede climate resilient development, resulting in more costly climate impacts and greater scale of adjustments.</p> <p>Council is seeing significant impacts now and planning to build resilience in communities is accelerating and building momentum within Te Tai Tokerau.</p> <p>Council is implementing the Climate Change Roadmap adopted in 2020 and the Te Tai Tokerau Climate Action Strategy (TTCAS) adopted in 2022. Council continues to be an active member of the regional Climate Action Te Tai Tokerau (CATT) technical reference group, the regional Joint Climate Change Adaptation Committee (JCCAC) and national organisations Aotearoa Climate Action Network (ACAN) and Aotearoa Council Climate Network (ACCN).</p>	Medium	Not applicable	Medium	Not applicable



<b>Assumption</b>	<b>Level of financial risk</b>	<b>Impact for high risk assumptions</b>	<b>Level of uncertainty</b>	<b>Financial impact for assumption with high level of uncertainty</b>
<p><b>Subdivisions and Land Use Consents</b>  The assumption has been made that ongoing subdivisions in the Far North District will cause additional pressures on 3 waters infrastructure resulting in Council not being able to provide infrastructure for some developments. It is worth noting that significant developments can be managed through developer agreements but most developments are not of a scale which warrants private funding of infrastructure upgrades.</p> <p>Significant negative effects on environmental wellbeing can result in the form of environmental issues associated with increased development. The Council mitigates these effects through a sustainable development approach to regulation and planning. Council's District Plan and Resource Management Act functions help ensure that new development meets the required environmental standards for sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Emerging Issues and Expected Legislative Changes</b>  The challenges for this Activity are centred on the need to adequately respond to legislative and other changes whilst meeting statutory timeframes for the processing of consents and providing a fair, cost effective and consistent service to the community. As a geographically large territorial authority, the Council is responsible for processing a constantly fluctuating work flow, including a number of applications of a complicated nature, particularly those involving large housing developments.</p> <p>The reform of New Zealand's resource management system will bring significant changes to Council's responsibilities for resource management. The repeal of the Resource Management Act and the replacement of new legislation proposed may require different roles and responsibilities for Council and other agencies involved in the resource management area.</p> <p>The number of applications being processed by the team has risen consistently since 2017. Reaching a peak in 2022 of 1545 RMA applications. For the 2023 financial year the number dropped to 1147. The number of applications spiked in 2022 with notification of the Proposed Far North District Plan on 26 June 2023.</p>	High	Medium	Medium	High

<b>Assumption</b>	<b>Level of financial risk</b>	<b>Impact for high risk assumptions</b>	<b>Level of uncertainty</b>	<b>Financial impact for assumption with high level of uncertainty</b>						
The last few years have shown that reliance on consultants is tenuous and that the council should expect additional staffing costs as we seek to reduce this load to reliable levels.										
<b>Rating base</b> The number of properties we receive rates from is conservatively expected to increase by approximately 0.5% in year 2 and 3. The total number of units over the 3 years is predicted to increase by 383 units <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>2024/25</th> <th>2034/35</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>District</td> <td>38,128</td> <td>38,511</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Area	2024/25	2034/35	District	38,128	38,511	Medium	Not applicable	Medium	Not applicable
Area	2024/25	2034/35								
District	38,128	38,511								
<b>Levels of service:</b> Levels of service will remain static for the period of the LTP. Council is investing in work that maintains its ability to deliver the level of service to the Community (for example, meeting 3Water standards or creating resilience) and this work is deemed not to be renewal related investment.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable						
<b>Inflation</b> Future cost increases align with BERL forecasts published in October 2023, retrieved from Business and Economic Research Limited (BERL)	Medium	Not applicable	High	If inflation is higher than forecast, the cost of goods and services will rise accordingly						
<b>Expenditure assumptions</b>										
<b>Unfunded depreciation</b> Council does not fund depreciation on transportation assets to the extent that Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency funds renewals. The current subsidy rate is 69%. Council has decided to not fund 24% of strategic asset depreciation for the first three years of the plan and then to scale back to 100% over the next 10 years.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable						
<b>Capital borrowings</b> Borrowings for capital expenditure are assumed to be repaid over 20 years.	Medium	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable						
<b>Capital achievability</b> The capital works programme is considered to be achievable in the timeframe stated. Usual delays, such as consenting and weather, have been factored into timeframes and phasing. Wherever possible, works are based on known asset condition and have been prioritised to ensure critical assets are renewed on time. Where asset condition is uncertain the best information available has been used. Timing of renewals programmes reflects the expected delivery of asset condition assessment (i.e. increased certainty of condition)	Medium	Not applicable	High							

<b>Assumption</b>	<b>Level of financial risk</b>	<b>Impact for high risk assumptions</b>	<b>Level of uncertainty</b>	<b>Financial impact for assumption with high level of uncertainty</b>
information over time). Council expects a minimal amount of projects carried forward due to delays.				
Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency funding: Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency requirements and specifications for the performance of subsidised work will not alter to the extent that they impact adversely on operating costs.	High	The recent change in Government will result in a Government Policy Statement that reduces the amount of subsidy provided.	High	Variations in subsidy rates will increase / decrease Council subsidy revenue. This may necessitate Council to review and amend its roading programme.
<b>Revenue assumptions</b>				
<b>Subsidies</b> Council will apply for and receive Government subsidies for applicable projects. Indicative allocations for the first three years of the plan are \$17m less than the original bid and this has been adjusted against renewal work as Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency is unable to provide work class detail until after the LTP has been adopted. Any further shortfall in funding from what was applied for would see a reduction/ reprioritisation in the capital projects and subsequent reduction in Council's subsidy funding.	High	Council may not receive the funding or receive a lesser amount resulting in Council being unable to deliver the project as planned, including the requirement of additional consultation with affected stakeholders.	High	If external funds are not received, Council will consider rescheduling other projects to allow the original project to proceed without the subsidy, or explore alternative cost-effective and affordable options. Costs to the ratepayer will be subject to consultation as required.
<b>Funding sources</b> Future replacement of significant assets is assumed to be funded in line with the Revenue and Financing Policy.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>User fees</b> Increases are based on expected cost increases (inflation). This is expected to be sufficient for funding purposes.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Far North Holdings Limited (FNHL)</b> It is assumed that Council will receive dividends from FNHL throughout the term of the plan and that the business of FNHL will not significantly change.	Medium	Council may not receive the level of dividend expected due to unforeseen	Medium	If an economic shock, such as COVID-19, occurs then FNHL will amend the dividend payment to council. This could result in reduced income in the year and

<b>Assumption</b>	<b>Level of financial risk</b>	<b>Impact for high risk assumptions</b>	<b>Level of uncertainty</b>	<b>Financial impact for assumption with high level of uncertainty</b>
		economic impacts		may require an amendment to future year plans
<b>Development contributions</b> In 2015 Council resolved to suspend Development Contribution charges in light of the economic downturn. No decision has been made to re-commence the charging of Development Contributions for the term of this LTP, and therefore no income from source is assumed.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Asset assumptions</b>				
<b>Useful lives</b> Depreciation rates for each asset group have been calculated using rates included in the Accounting Policies. Depreciation rates are based on the expected useful life analysis performed by registered valuers in line with the requirements of Accounting Standards. Renewal of assets is based on a mixture of condition and operational indicators, being maintenance and repair data, and Council has confidence that it will achieve the renewal works in line with the timeframes in this plan.	Medium	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Asset lifecycle</b> Lifecycles of significant assets, including underground assets, are optimised to strike the best balance between maintenance, operations and renewals costs.	Medium	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Asset age</b> Council has previously used asset age as an effective proxy for the condition of an asset. In the current plan, condition information has been used alongside operational information from asset managers to determine a priority for renewal of assets. A programme of work is in place to increase the level of asset condition information to provide a basis for future planning.	Medium	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Infrastructure asset revaluations</b> An assumption has been made that revaluation of infrastructure assets will continue to occur as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• roading and maritime assets - annually</li> <li>• remainder of assets – biannually, with water and wastewater one year and District Facilities the next.</li> </ul>	Medium	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Forestry assets</b> An assumption has been made that forestry assets will be held for the duration of the plan and no harvesting will take place	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Liability assumptions</b>				

<b>Assumption</b>	<b>Level of financial risk</b>	<b>Impact for high risk assumptions</b>	<b>Level of uncertainty</b>	<b>Financial impact for assumption with high level of uncertainty</b>
<b>Borrowings</b> It is assumed that Council will have the facilities to secure funding as required throughout the term of this LTP.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Other assumptions</b>				
<b>Northern Transportation Alliance (NTA)</b> A shared services agreement between all four council's within Northland (Kaipara, Far North, Northland Regional and Whangarei) and works collaboratively with NZTA (Waka Kotahi) which was established in 2016. The NTA is Council's Roading and Transport department covering local roads. Council has made provision for gaining subsidy for the NTA activities for the subsidised projects throughout the term of this LTP.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Strategic assets</b> Council has not planned for the disposal or transfer of ownership of any strategic assets during the term of this LTP, although it is consulting the public on the divestment of its Housing for the Elderly portfolio.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Currency movement</b> Council does not have any significant exposure to currency movements and consequently has not specifically taken them into account.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Emissions trading scheme (ETS)</b> Council covers its liability for carbon emissions through fees and charges. Council has assumed no changes to carbon credit prices during the term of this LTP.	Low	Not applicable	Low	Not applicable
<b>Local government reforms</b> There will be no significant changes to the structure of Local Government in the Northland region, except for the repealing of the three waters reform legislation. Councils in the region continue to work together in a variety of shared services and will continue to explore opportunities in this area.	Medium	The future shape of local government could change, which may have consequences for how services are provided and by whom.	Medium	Not applicable
<b>Repealing of three waters legislation</b> This plan assumes that Council will continue to deliver these services for the foreseeable future.	High	That local authorities maintain exclusive responsibility for	High	Financial ramifications pertaining to these services would encompass various aspects, including but not confined to, operational revenues, direct

<b>Assumption</b>	<b>Level of financial risk</b>	<b>Impact for high risk assumptions</b>	<b>Level of uncertainty</b>	<b>Financial impact for assumption with high level of uncertainty</b>
		delivering these services.		operational expenses, and the accrued debt value utilized for funding these activities. Additionally, secondary impacts are anticipated, which the Council will evaluate as part of the proposal analysis in due course.

**KAUPAPA HERE  
HIRINGA HERE  
TOMOKANGA**

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**SIGNIFICANCE AND  
ENGAGEMENT  
POLICY  
2021**

Adopted 13 May 2021

## Purpose

This Policy explains how Council will determine the significance of decisions and when and how our communities can expect to participate in Council's decision-making processes.

## Context

Genuine engagement is integral to high-quality Council planning, decision-making and operations. To be effective, we must be well acquainted with our community and their preferences, and our plans should have solid community backing.

Engagement is a process of dialogue between decision-makers, partners, communities and stakeholders for the purpose of making decisions, policies and strategies. Effective engagement serves to build trust in Council decision-making and increase Council's awareness of issues in the community.

This Policy provides guidance for assessing significance and the level of engagement suitable to the significance of the decision, along with guidance on the circumstances in which we would not consult. While our staff interact with community members, Māori partners and key stakeholders daily, some Council decisions require a more structured form of engagement due to the significance a matter has within the wider community, or for groups within the community. Conversely, it would not be appropriate for Council to take every decision to the community.

The goal is to give people a sense of ownership of decisions and ensure Council's work is relevant to the people who live in our district.

## Objective

The objectives of this policy are to:

1. Ensure consistency when determining the significance of proposals, assets and decisions
2. Identify the extent and type of public engagement required before a decision is made
3. Provide clarity about how and when communities can expect to be engaged in decisions
4. Build genuine relationships with Māori, Treaty partners, key stakeholders and the wider community through a better understanding of their preferences, and encouraging co-operation, respect and mutual understanding of other points of view
5. To acknowledge the enduring presence, aspirations, and cultural obligations of mana whenua as kaitiaki of the Far North
6. Comply with section 76AA of the Local Government Act 2002.

## Definitions

**Consultation** is a formal type of engagement, often prescribed by legislation and time bound. It generally involves seeking community feedback on a draft proposal,

plan or document in order to inform Council's decision-making.

**Engagement** describes a broad range of activities, which might include consultation, designed to invite community participation in solving problems or making decisions related to Council's work. This means Council's work can better reflect or respond to the needs, views, preferences or aspirations of the community.

**Hapū** defines a cluster of families linked by the same whakapapa that may share the same land boundaries and same marae.

**Levels of service** refer to the targets Council aims to achieve for the various services and facilities it provides. These are reviewed every three years in the Long-Term Plan. An example of this is the percentage of the roading network we aim to reseal each year.

**Mana whenua** are Māori with authority over the land and kaitiaki status.

**Mātāwaka** are Māori for whom their place of residence is not their traditional home, and therefore are not described as mana whenua.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** in this policy refers to a Crown-Māori Relationship Instrument, which is a documented agreement or arrangement, signed by both parties, that establishes or recognises an ongoing collaborative relationship between Ministers, Government agencies or Crown entities (such as Local Government), and a whānau, hapū, iwi, Māori organisation or Māori communities.

**Significance** is the degree of importance of an issue, proposal, decision, or matter that concerns or is before Council.

Significance relates to the likely impact on:

1. the wellbeing of the district
2. people affected
3. the ability of Council to perform its role, and the financial and other costs of doing so.

A more detailed definition can be found in section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Special consultative procedure** is prescribed by legislation. It requires Council to prepare and adopt a statement of proposal and a summary of the information if needed to reduce or remove confusion, and to make this widely available for public consumption and feedback, within a timeframe of no less than one month. Council must also provide an opportunity for people to present their views orally, if they wish to do so. Further detail is set out in section 83 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Strategic assets** are assets, such as infrastructure or properties, that Council needs in order to achieve outcomes it decides are important to the current or future well-being of the community. A more detailed definition



can be found in section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002.

**Tangata whenua** refers to “people of the land”. It might relate to specific groups, or more broadly to Māori as a people.

### Principles of engagement

1. Our principles for engagement are laid out in the Local Governance Statement and are guided by the Local Government Act 2002 sections 82 Principles of Consultation and section 81 Contributions to Decision Making Processes by Māori.
2. We clearly communicate how and to what extent those we are engaging with can influence outcomes and within these limits we are genuinely open to the feedback and ideas of our community.
3. We think about engagement at the beginning of any project or process so that it is planned and purposeful. This also means, where appropriate, stakeholders or the community can be involved from an early stage.
4. We consider who will be affected by or interested in the project or process, and we try to reach as many people as possible within that group.
5. We provide clear, easy-to-understand background information to those we are engaging with, so they are better equipped to discuss the project or process and provide informed feedback.
6. We consider the timing of our engagement activities so as not to overburden our community.
7. We thank community members for their contributions, provide them with a summary of feedback and explain our decisions.

### Engaging with tangata whenua

1. Council acknowledges the unique perspective of Te Ao Māori and recognise that Māori are more than an interest group or stakeholder.
2. We will continue to build and strengthen our relationships with mana whenua representative entities and engage in a range of ways to ensure their views are appropriately represented in the decision-making process.
3. Council acknowledges that different approaches are needed for Māori who live in the Far North but do not have genealogical connections to mana whenua hapū.
4. When engaging with tāngata whenua and Māori, Council will:
  - a. Engage early in the decision-making process
  - b. Establish and maintain processes to provide opportunities for Māori to contribute to Council's decision-making, including partnership approaches where appropriate, and support Māori to fully engage with us
  - c. Ensure existing general and project-specific relationship processes between Council and

tāngata whenua will, where working well, remain as a starting point for engagement

- d. Recognise and empower existing formal relationships (i.e. MOUs) with iwi and hapū
- e. Actively consider the recognition and protection of Māori rights and interests within the Far North and how we can contribute to the needs and aspirations of Māori
- f. Ensure all Council reports identify any impacts on Māori
- g. Build ongoing relationships with Māori through a range of approaches that enables Māori to guide how they want to engage with Council
- h. Fulfil its obligations under any Treaty Settlement legislation.

### Engaging with diverse communities

1. Council will consider those in our community with visual, hearing or literacy impairments, and those who speak English as a second language.
2. When undertaking engagement, Council will consider how to meet the needs of our diverse communities in respect of accessibility, language and cultural expectations to ensure engagement with Council is enabled as much as possible.
3. Council will consider the many demographics and interested parties across the District, including but not limited to youth, business, retirees and ratepayers that do not live in the district.

### Determining significance

1. Significance is determined in the early stages of a proposal, before decision making occurs. If it becomes necessary to do so, the significance of a proposal may be re-assessed at any time.
2. In determining a proposal's degree of significance, Council will be guided by:
  - a. Legislative requirements including the Local Government Act 2002 (LGA), the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA), and Treaty Settlement (TS) legislation including Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)
  - b. Whether the decision is inconsistent with previous Council decisions or current policies, according to section 80 of the LGA
  - c. Commitments made in relationship agreements such as any MOU and/or mana-enhancing agreement
  - d. Historic levels of community impact or interest in the proposal
  - e. The likely impact on iwi/hapū/whanau and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.

## Climate change

1. From 31 December 2021 the RMA requires councils to have regard to emissions plans and adaptation plans under the Climate Response Act 2002.
2. Council routinely considers the implications of its actions on climate change mitigation and adaptation in its decision-making.
3. The criteria in section 10. Matters of Significance are considered sufficient to assess the significance of decisions that have a climate change element, cause or impact.

## Matters of significance

1. A decision is of high significance if one of the following applies:
  - a. It involves the transfer of the ownership or control of a strategic asset (Schedule 1) or other important asset (Schedule 1a) to or from Council; or
  - b. It is inconsistent with Council plans or policies and meets one of the thresholds shown in the table below:

Criteria	Threshold
Transfer of a strategic asset	The proposal involves the transfer of the ownership or control of a strategic asset (Appendix A) to or from Council.
Unbudgeted financial impacts	The proposal will incur unbudgeted net operational expenditure exceeding 2.5% of total rates in the year commenced OR unbudgeted net capital expenditure exceeding 10% of total rates in the year commenced.
Of specific interest to Māori	The proposal has a major and long-term impact on the wellbeing of iwi/hapū/whanau and their culture and traditions with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu, valued flora and fauna, and other taonga.
Level of public interest	The proposal is likely to generate considerable interest or community views render the community deeply divided.
Effect on the community and its demographics	The proposal is likely to have an impact on the social, economic, environmental or cultural wellbeing of the District or an aspect of the District (e.g. a particular ward, a community of interest, a geographic area, or demographic).
Level of service	The proposal is likely to result in a change in the level of service and that the change will be major and long-term.

## Determining engagement

1. Council looks at the level of significance of a proposal when deciding what type of engagement is appropriate.
2. If a proposal is determined to be of high or medium significance, Council will conduct some form of engagement to inform the decision-making process.
3. If a proposal is determined to be of low significance, Council may inform the community once a decision has been made, or it may choose not to engage with the community at all (section 13).
4. Council applies the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum to guide its approach to engagement.
5. Schedule 2 sets out the type of engagement the community can expect for proposals at different levels of significance.

## Special consultative procedure

1. In some cases, the type of consultation required is set out in the legislation, i.e. the LGA. This is called a special consultative procedure and is prescribed in section 83 of the LGA, and is applied in the following situations:
  2. Adoption or amendment of a Long Term Plan
  3. Making, amending or revoking a bylaw that is considered of significant interest to the public or will likely cause significant impact on the public
  4. When Council decides it is prudent to do so.
5. In these circumstances, the Special Consultative Procedure is a minimum requirement – Council may choose to conduct other engagement in addition to this process.

## When Council may choose not to engage

Things Council will generally not engage on include, but are not limited to:

1. Operational matters that do not reduce a level of service
2. Emergency management activities
3. Those decisions made by delegation to Council staff
4. Commercially sensitive decisions (e.g. awarding contracts)
5. Decisions made to manage an urgent issue
6. Decisions where action is necessary to:
  - a. comply with the law
  - b. protect life, health, or amenity and infrastructure
  - c. prevent serious damage to property
  - d. avoid, remedy, or mitigate an adverse effect on the environment.

## Schedule 1: Strategic Assets

The following is a list of assets that Council requires in order to achieve outcomes important to the current or future well-being of the community:

1. Council Headquarters
2. The roading network
3. The stormwater network
4. The wastewater network
5. The water supply network
6. The open space network, including parks, walkways
7. and sports fields under the Reserves Act 1977
8. Council-owned cemeteries
9. Libraries
10. Shares in Far North Holdings Limited
11. Housing for the elderly.

## Schedule 1a: Other Assets of importance to the community

The following are non-strategic assets (i.e. not defined as a "strategic asset" under the Local Government Act Section 5 Interpretation), but are considered by Far North District Council to be important to the well-being of the community:

1. Council land that is subject to claim under Te Tiriti o Waitangi
2. Council land/assets that have been transferred to Council Controlled Organisations.

## Schedule 2: Engagement Assessment

Significance	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH	MAXIMUM	
Expectation	MINIMUM	Local Government Act 2002 s82 and s83			
Level of engagement	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
Engagement Focus	This is what we are doing	Tell us what you think	Help us decide	Let's work together	You make the decision
What does it involve?	One-way communication providing balanced and objective information to assist understanding about something that is going to happen or has happened.	Two-way communications designed to obtain public feedback about ideas on rationale, alternatives and proposals to inform decision-making.	Participatory process designed to help identify issues and views to ensure that concerns and aspirations are understood and considered prior to decision-making.	Working together to develop understanding of all issues and interests to work out alternatives and identify preferred solutions.	The final decision is in the hands of the public. Under the LGA, the Mayor and Councillors are elected to make decisions on behalf of their constituents.
When the community can expect to be involved	Council would generally advise the community once a decision is made.	Council would advise the community once a draft decision is made by Council and would generally provide the community with up to four weeks to participate and respond. Where desirable to meet the needs of affected parties or groups, and possible within timeframes available, Council may consider extending this period.	Council would generally provide the community with a greater lead-in time to allow them time to be involved in the process.	Council would generally involve the community at the start to scope the issue, again after information has been collected, and again when options are being considered.	Council would generally provide the community with a greater lead-in time to allow them time to be involved in the process, e.g. typically a month or more.
Tools Council can use	Website and publications Social media Media release	Surveys Focus groups Submissions	Formal Hearings Public meetings Drop-in Centres	External Working Groups MOUs	Referenda Elections Polls



# TE PAE O UTA



Kokiri Tahī



Creating Enablers



Increased Participation



## Mahitahi - Working with Māori

*He Ara Tāmata - Creating Great Places, Supporting Our People*

*He Whenua Rangatira - A District of Sustainable Prosperity and Well-Being*

Far North District Councils vision and mission illustrates the connection between people and place. This is especially so for tangata whenua who have a long and rich association with the Far North. Council recognises this long settlement and therefore the special position of tāngata whenua within this District and the significant and long-term role Māori have to play in Council's decision-making.

As important are our values by which we operate.

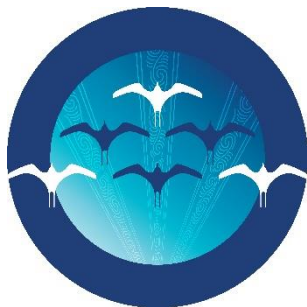
- Manawatōpū: Unity of purpose and working together
- Kaitiakitanga: Environmental stewardship and sustainability
- Mana tangata: Respect and fairness
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi: Partnership
- Tū tangata: Strong cultural identities
- Whanaungatanga: Family, community, connecting and sharing

Council recognises it needs to establish meaningful and enduring relationships with Māori in order to enable effective participation in decision making while at the same time achieving mutually beneficial outcomes. Our values provide a vehicle for this to occur.

Translating our vision, mission and values into tangible outcomes for and with Māori, three key areas of work have been identified to help guide and underpin our work:

- **Increased Participation In council structures and decision-making processes**
- **Create enablers across staff to respond more effectively to Māori**
- **Kōkiri Tahi – Empowered communities, working collaboratively**

Understanding these goals and embedding them across all functions is crucial if Council is to be successful in building relationships with Māori founded on trust and mutual respect.



### **Increased participation In council structures and decision-making processes**

The Far North has a rich and diverse history. We have one of the largest Māori populations in New Zealand with over half of the district identifying as Māori. The Far North is also home to the Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Council acknowledges and respects the Crown's responsibility as Treaty partner and the requirement of local government to take into account the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi, specifically the obligations placed on Council

to provide opportunities for Māori to participate in decision-making and other council processes which is meaningful to both parties.

Council also recognises the requirement on local government to contribute to the Crown's broader relationship responsibilities by ensuring engagement with Māori is meaningful.

Council also recognises the Treaty of Waitangi settlement process and outcomes, and is committed to supporting the spirit and implementation of our District's Treaty settlements and assisting negotiations between the Crown and Māori when invited.

Council will:

- strengthening relationships with mātauranga and Te Ao Māori
- enabling Māori participation in council decision-making processes
- shared decision-making opportunities alongside Māori on matters of interest to them

We will do this by ensuring:

- FNDC staff are equipped to provide Te Ao Māori Governance direction and advice to better inform our Elected members
- FNDC are committed to developing robust systems that enable Māori participation in council decision-making
- FNDC are committed to developing systems to engage with hapū at hapū level
  - Formalising the implementation of Iwi Hapū Environmental Management Plans
  - Develop a hapū engagement framework
  - Review FNDC Significant and Engagement Policy to include hapū engagement and resourcing
- Review and Refresh our Memorandums of Understanding with Whanau, Hapu and Iwi



### **Create enablers across staff to respond more effectively to Māori**

Council acknowledges the unique perspective of Māori and recognise that tangata whenua are more than an interest group or stakeholder.

Therefore, we need to ensure we are including the right people, at the right time - across all levels of Council - in order for Māori to make informed decisions about our processes and work. In doing so, we also need to ensure we maintain ongoing open discussions and interactions with Māori in order to provide relevant information to assist them to participate in our decision-making processes.

Council will:

- build organisational capability, capacity, and cultural competency
- Give effective consideration and understanding of Māori needs and issues in policy thinking and development
- improve processes and systems to maintain and enhance capability to give effect to roles in relation to Māori and to promote a responsive culture and working environment.
- FNDC leaders are capable of making informed decisions based on Te Pae o Uta goals, principles and values
- In-house training is developed and available so staff can develop the confidence and basic capability to identify and apply a Te Ao Māori lens across internal workstreams.
- People, policies and strategies are reflective of Te Pae o Uta goals, principles, and values
- Value and recognise staff cultural competency
- Review training competency measures
- Increased use of te reo across our services.
- Undertake a Cultural Audit for Far North District Council



### **Kōkiri Tahī – Empowered communities, working collaboratively**

The Council recognises that having the capability and capacity to engage are issues for both Council and Māori. The Council will continue to provide opportunities for Māori to gain knowledge of Council processes and will actively assist Māori with developing their capacity to input into decision-making processes via hui and targeted training workshops and kanoahi ki te kanoahi learning alongside whanau, hapu and iwi (wānanga)

Council will:

- enable effective communication and engagement with Māori
- enable council's role in contributing to Māori wellbeing
- build Māori capability and capacity within the community in order to work in collaboration with council on mutual obligations and programmes We will do this by ensuring:
- FNDC will work in the following areas to achieve the outcomes noted above:
  - Papakāinga and Māori housing
  - Whānau and tamariki wellbeing
  - Marae development
  - Te reo Māori
  - Māori identity and culture
  - Māori business, tourism and employment
  - Realising rangatahi potential
  - Kaitiakitanga/te taiao



## Looking forward

Council is looking to build a strong foundation from within and move towards long-term mutual relationships and partnering with Māori. We have started our journey by showing our intent for greater surety for Māori in our decision making and by approving Te Pae o Uta and the Te Reo and Tikanga Policy. We aim to grow from these recent decisions and are committed to do so.



Kokiri Tahī

The design shows manu flying in formation, ngā manu representing our hāpori. Coming together to collaborate and empower one another.



Creating Enablers

The two taniwha, Áraiteuru and Niniwa are formed by the takarangi spiral. This ties back to the original artwork Te Pae o Uta. The spiral indicates whakaaro around consideration and understanding. Bringing focus to developing staff to enable the organisation's ability to respond more effectively to Māori.



Increased Participation

The icon and the elements within are to represent the bond and strength of our relationships, the poutama also giving reference to the further pursuit of mātauranga.

The mangōpare in the bottom being the strengthening foundation of of those themes.