

# Water warning for summer season

Creating good water conservation habits is a key message to Far North residents as summer gets underway.

The need for water restrictions depends on whether demand stays within the capacity of treatment plants to supply safe drinking water, says the council's Water Shortage Management Committee.

Simple habits such as collecting rainwater or taking shorter showers can reduce demand and lessen the need to apply restrictions to protect water sources.

The committee, which is made up of council staff and specialist contractors who manage the district's water assets, has begun meeting regularly ahead of the summer season. Committee members discuss the health of water sources, river flows and weather forecasts to gauge the likely demand over the coming months.

Recommendations for restrictions are based on current flow and consumption data, as well as the water-take limits set by Northland Regional Council (NRC). The council contractor is continuing its leak detection programme, with a summer focus on Ōpononi, Paihia and Kawakawa.



There are currently no water restrictions in place in the Far North and customers are encouraged to use water sensibly.

NRC's October Hydrology Climate Report shows a low risk of drought conditions developing over the next three months, with rainfall to January expected to be 'near average' or 'elevated'.

For the full story go to [fndc.govt.nz](https://fndc.govt.nz)

## Repairs underway on Ōpua slip



Repairs will address slip damage caused by multiple weather events.

Motorists and residents in Ōpua are being warned to prepare for some disruption after work to repair a slip along Franklin Street began in mid-November.

Council contractors are prioritising repairs to the slip near the ferry entrance ahead of the busy summer season when visitor numbers and traffic are expected to increase significantly in the Bay of Islands.

Drainage and piling works started on Wednesday 19 November to reduce the risk of further land movement and to provide safe access for ferry and other traffic over the holiday period. This stage of repairs continues until Friday 19 December when the project will pause for the summer. Work is expected to resume in March 2026.

Temporary traffic management, including stop/go controls, will be in place while the work is ongoing, and drivers and pedestrians should take extra care while navigating the work site.

During the holiday period, Franklin Street will be open to traffic in both directions. The ferry lane and a temporary footpath will be open with no restrictions. The work is funded through NZTA Waka Kotahi.

## District Plan reaches milestone



Independent commissioners and councillors from the hearings panel.

In-depth planning for how the Far North grows and develops passed a critical milestone in November with the conclusion of public hearings on the Proposed District Plan.

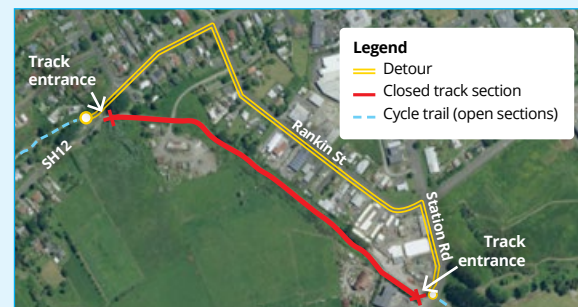
The final of 20 hearings was held in November ending an 18-month public feedback process.

A review of the current District Plan – the document that guides how land can be used, developed and subdivided, and affects all landowners and residents in the Far North – was launched in 2016. That review resulted in a Proposed District Plan (PDP) being formally notified in 2022.

Landowners, the wider community, tangata whenua and stakeholders were then asked to provide feedback on the PDP, resulting in 605 submissions, raising 8725 original submission points. Another 589 'further submissions' were subsequently lodged, resulting in 26,088 submission points. In all, more than 34,000 submission points were raised, each requiring a response.

This will be the final District Plan of its type following reforms to the Resource Management Act.

## Cycle trail detour in Kaikohe



The track reopens over the Christmas and New Year holiday season.

A detour is in place for a short section of Pou Herenga Tai – Twin Coast Cycle Trail in Kaikohe to bypass construction work that will impact 700m of the trail.

Part of the track is unavailable until Friday 19 December. Trail users can reconnect and continue their journey along the trail via a short detour through Kaikohe.

The detour stretches between the State Highway 12 trail entrance in the north and ends at the Station Road entrance in the south.

The detour is required while Kaikohe's wastewater system is being upgraded. That project is funded through the Infrastructure Acceleration Fund (IAF) and will enable future housing growth in the town.

The track will reopen to allow for full access during the Christmas and New Year holiday season, then close again for three months as work continues.

Signs informing track users of the detour route are installed at each end of the closed section – one at the Station Road trail entrance and one at the State Highway 12 trail entrance.



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