

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Upgrades fuelling a brighter future



The latest stage of the multi-million-dollar upgrade to Kaitiāia Airport is hitting new heights, with two new fuel tanks now being installed.

Work began in August to install the Jet A1 and AvGas fuel tanks as part of the airport's Resilience Upgrade Programme. It has been more than 10 years since the airport has had a dedicated aircraft fuel facility, making the tanks an important addition. Construction is expected to be completed in November.

The fuel facility follows another major milestone in May, when the airport's main runway and apron were successfully resurfaced.

Significant drainage improvements have also been completed, including upgraded swales and new sub-soil drainage along both sides of the runway. Together, these works have substantially reduced the risk of flooding in the runway area.

With the runway resurfaced, drainage improvements completed, and new fuel facilities underway, the next exciting stage will be replacing the terminal building. Work expected to begin next year. The terminal project also includes improvements to carparking, road access, and surrounding garden areas.

While the airport provides scheduled passenger connections, it also plays a crucial role in supporting other essential regional services. It is regularly used



The latest stage of the multi-million-dollar improvement programme at Kaitiāia Airport is flying high.

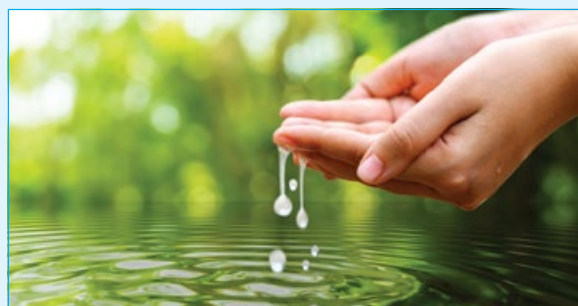
for patient transfers and to fly medical professionals to Kaitiāia Hospital, making the airport's continued reliability vital to the region.

The Resilience Upgrade Programme is being funded with \$5.4 million from Te Puni Kōkiri and \$2.4 million from Far North District Council (FNDC). The current investment is intended to support safe, reliable airport operations for at least the next 10 to 15 years.

Far North Holdings is delivering the programme on behalf of FNDC, working alongside airport owners Ngāi Takoto and representatives from Te Paatu, Patukoraha and Ngāi Tohianga.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

The heat is on — prep for El Niño



Now is the time to prepare for possible water shortages this summer.

Far North District Council staff are preparing early for possible water shortages ahead of what could be one of the strongest El Niño events in recent history.

The weather phenomenon is expected to bring hotter, drier-than-usual conditions to the Far North during spring and summer, affecting communities that often face drought conditions through the warmer months.

The council's Water Shortage Management Committee, which is usually stood up at the start of summer, began meeting last month. The committee includes expertise from the council, such as infrastructure, communications, and water services contractors.

The committee assesses the district's water sources, river flow levels, and weather forecasts from the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA) to gauge likely demand for water over summer.

Wheelie good news for cyclists



New investment puts cycle trail on the right track.

Pou Herenga Tai – Twin Coast Cycle Trail is gearing up for a \$3 million upgrade, with new investment set to put more pedal power behind the popular Northland trail.

The Government is contributing \$1 million through the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy, with Far North District Council contributing a further \$2 million alongside its previous investment.

The funding will support improvements to infrastructure and visitor facilities, better connections to the Bay of Islands, greater accessibility, and new cultural and tourism experiences.

The first stage is the construction of a section between Ōpua and the Whangae Tunnel. The route will provide an alternative cycling connection as the Bay of Islands Vintage Railway is reinstated.

Rāwene gets smart about water



Smart meters will help to protect vulnerable Rāwene water supplies.

A pilot in Rāwene is testing whether smart water meters can help to protect one of the district's most drought-sensitive water supplies and save customers from unexpected bills.

Far North District Council contracted Ventia to install 275 smart meters across the township, replacing traditional mechanical meters before the pilot went live on 1 August. The smart meter network and sensor technology are led by Neura New Zealand and WSP.

While the old mechanical meters provide accurate information, they must be read on-site every six months. By contrast, smart meters send water-flow information continuously. This means unusual water consumption on a property, most often a leak, is identified quickly.

The council's next step is to roll out a customer app to go with the meters.

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