

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Council agrees to 6.78% rates increase

Far North District councillors have agreed to increase the district's total rates take for 2023/24 by 6.78 per cent, less than the 8.63 per cent increase initially proposed in the Annual Plan.

The 6.78 per cent rates increase applies to the total amount of rates the council requires for operational expenditure. It does not mean all ratepayers will see their rates rise by 6.78 per cent.

The increase was confirmed when councillors adopted the Annual Plan for 2023/24 during a meeting on Thursday 29 June. The adoption of the Annual Plan followed a marathon seven-hour council meeting held on 1 June. This included extensive debate among councillors about how to fund key infrastructure and services at a time when residents and the district face significant challenges. These include back-to-back weather events requiring major repairs to the district's roading network, combined with high levels of inflation that have increased budgets across the organisation.

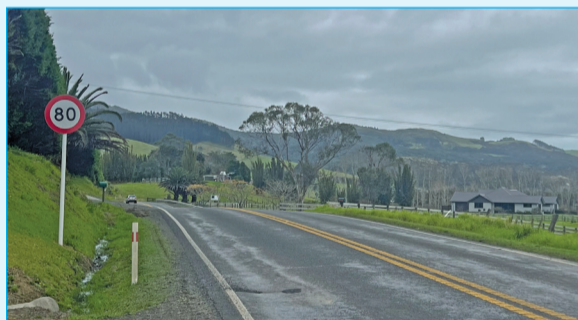
Far North Kahika Moko Tepania says councillors are very aware that many residents are struggling due to high inflation and the cost-of-living crisis.

Property owners can find out what rates will be applied to their properties for the financial year by checking the Rating Information Database on the council's website.



The 6.78 per cent rates increase required for operational expenditure does not mean all ratepayers will see their rates rise by that amount.

Speed limit review continues



Speed limits changes include around schools, marae and urupā.

New speed limits have come into force in the North Hokianga area, including Ahipara, Broadwood, Kohukohu and Herekino.

The speed limit changes are the result of a Far North District Council and Northland Transportation Alliance's (NTA) speed review, triggered by the government's Road to Zero National Strategy.

"There have been 10 fatalities and 23 serious injuries within the North Hokianga speed limit review area since we began reviewing the speed limits in 20 21," says NTA Speed Limits Manager, Shawn Baker. "Our aim is to set safe and appropriate speeds on our roads to reduce serious harm and fatal crashes."

NTA Senior Road Safety and Traffic Engineer, Elizabeth Stacey, says that the new speed limits, combined with other planned infrastructure, will improve road safety in communities and make travelling safer for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists. The changes include lower speed limits around schools, marae and urupā.

The new speed limits were informed by 104 submissions from the community on proposed

changes, along with technical assessments required under the Setting of Speed Limits Rule.

To see all the roads affected, go to the FNDC Speed Limit Review webpage to find the link to the Statement of Proposal document.

Tukutuku workshop makes news

A Matariki workshop held at the Kaitiāia Library on Tuesday 4 July with the aim of reviving the art of tukutuku attracted the attention of national broadcaster Te Karere.

The workshop about the vibrant colours and detailed patterns of the tukutuku panels was the first of many planned around the district to celebrate Matariki and featured that evening on the Māori current affairs show.

Twenty-three children and 24 adults attended the workshop, keen to celebrate the significance of Matariki and to revive traditional Māori art, skills and mātauranga. The event provided a space for learning and the sharing of knowledge, guided by skilled artists and passionate community members, who wove together stories and traditions.



The ornamental lattice work of tukutuku panels made for a popular workshop at Kaitiāia Library as part of the Matariki programme.

Angel wings project takes flight



Visitors to Kerikeri Domain can stand in front of the art installation to take the form on angel with the click of a camera.

'Taking flight' in the image of an angel is now possible for visitors to Kerikeri Domain, thanks to an angel wings art installation – a community project led by Ngā Anahera Pākira Bald Angels charity.

Installation of the wings at the domain, was completed on Friday 30 June with a blessing by Kipa Munro of Ngāti Rēhia and Arana Munro, kaumatua of Ngā Anahera Pākira Bald Angels Charitable Trust.

The 'Nōku Te Ao, Free to Be Me' wings, next to the new children's playground, promote inclusivity and diversity by supporting rangatahi to thrive no matter what their gender, ethnicity, faith, ability, or social status.

The installation promotes values of aroha (love), whanaungatanga (belonging), kotahitanga (oneness), and mauri (the life force we all carry).

The Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board contributed \$2,265 to the project. Similar wing murals have appeared in overseas tourist destinations.