

# Ngā pārongo hou

## Latest council news

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# New rule reverses some speed limits

Speed limits will increase on some Far North District roads in response to a government decision to reverse speed changes made by councils.

Under a government rule that came into effect in October 2024, councils must reverse specific speed limits implemented since 2020.

The rule reverses speed limits on roads that are 'urban connectors' and permanent 30kph/h reductions outside schools. Urban connectors are roads that primarily move traffic from one area to another.

The new rule also specifies that 30kph/h speed limits outside school entrances should be replaced by variable speed limits. These slower speeds are applied for 45 minutes during drop-off and pick-up times only. Permanent 30kph/h speed limits are currently applied to 25 roadways outside 15 schools.

These will be reversed by July 2025. The full list of affected schools can be found on our website.

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



Six urban connector roads will see speed limits return to 50km/h in coming weeks:

### Ōpua

- Franklin Street

### Paihia

- Joyces Road
- School Road

### Kerikeri

- Hone Heke Road
- Landing Road
- Waipapa Road (between Edkins Road and Landing Road).

The government's decision to change speed limits is final and there is no opportunity to consult with the community on the new limits.

## Future plans for Hihi Peninsula



Hapū say the site may be the location of an historic battle.

Far North District Council is seeking community feedback on Rangitoto Reserve on Hihi Peninsula in Doubtless Bay.

Rangitoto Reserve was classified as an Historic Reserve in October 2024 to recognise its cultural and historical importance. The site includes an impressive pā with visible features such as terracing and kumara pits.

Over generations, earthworks across the peninsula have shaped the landscape. These features contribute to the heritage of the area and highlight the importance of preserving the site.

The council is developing a Reserve Management Plan for the site with input from local hapū to ensure this special place is protected and appropriately managed. While historic and cultural values are key considerations, the council also wants to understand the natural environment and other values connected to the reserve.

We want to hear from you. What makes this place significant to you? All feedback must be received by Monday 2 June.

## Green light for Matariki funding



Raranga (weaving) classes will be run in libraries during Matariki.

Community board funding decisions in April have supported traditional Māori art, mātauranga knowledge, and practical life skills in the Far North.

A diverse series of workshops, including those that celebrate Matariki Māori New Year, were approved for funding from all three Far North community boards in April.

Matariki is officially recognised with a public holiday, which this year falls on Friday 20 June.

Matariki-themed workshops to run in libraries include printing workshops by Tania Pomana, rongoā traditional healing workshops by Jannine Pikari, papermaking sessions from Kōrari Enterprises, and raranga (weaving) classes by Medina Koni. These activities are designed to showcase and preserve mātauranga Māori during winter.

Other Matariki-themed events that received funding and will also be taking place through-out June were a Matariki glow show and Matariki movies being shown in Moerewa and Rāwene.

A full breakdown of funding for April can be found on our Far North community board decisions webpage.

## Top score for new sports fields



Te Puāwaitanga has been enthusiastically embraced by players.

The Far North's newest multi-sport facility, Te Puāwaitanga – Bay of Islands Sports Hub, officially opened in April on SH10 at Waipapa.

The new grounds were dubbed 'game changing' by local sports enthusiasts within days of the much needed fields opening. The quality of the pitch and well-draining turf have grabbed the attention of players who have been packing out the fields and putting them through their paces.

The two sand-based pitches are designed to withstand a high volume of 'boot' traffic as well as Far North climate conditions. Several heavy downpours since opening day haven't dampened the spirits of the players or adversely affected the fields.

While there is a long-term vision for further development of the site, any future plans will be informed by public feedback and strategic planning. This will ensure the site meets both present and future community needs.

Find out what players, spectators and club officials said soon after the facility opened in a video on our Facebook page or YouTube channel.

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