

# Ngā pārongo hou

## Latest council news

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# Landmark step for waste disposal

Plans to discharge wastewater to land instead of the Hokianga Harbour took a significant step on 26 September with the purchase of a 10-hectare block of land.

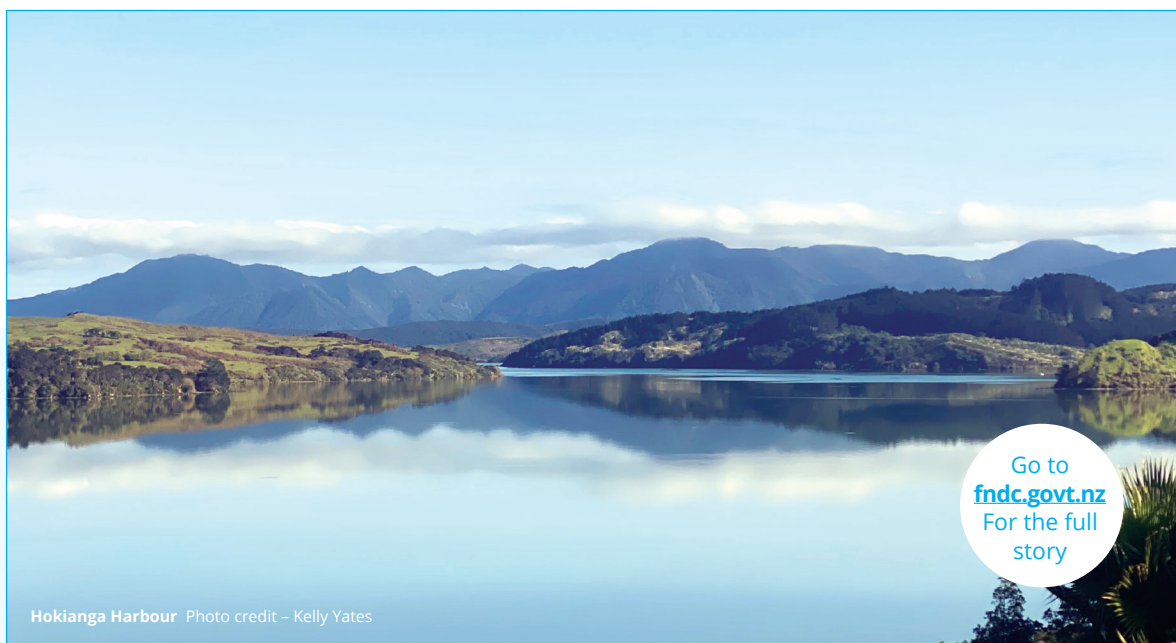
The land purchased includes 7.5 hectares of pine forest and is located on Rāwene Road near the existing wastewater ponds.

A working group for the Rāwene Wastewater Treatment Transformation Project was formed after 2013 when an Environment Court mediation required the council to work with hapū-led community liaison group Te Mauri o Te Wai, to find appropriate wastewater solutions and a different location for the treatment of wastewater.

Te Mauri o Te Wai (TMoTW) has been working for decades on ways to improve the taiao (environment), including an estimated 16 years seeking to move Rāwene wastewater treatment from its Te Raupo site. Te Raupo is a significant place for Hokianga hapū, and as such is not seen as an appropriate site for human waste disposal.

TMoTW includes representatives of Ngāti Hau, Ngāti Kaharau, Te Hikutu, Te Mahurehure, Ngāi Tupoto and the Rāwene community.

In 2022, the council was granted 'Better Off' funding



Hokianga Harbour Photo credit – Kelly Yates

The government's 'Better Off' funding has helped minimise the impact of the transformation project on ratepayers.

from the government to work with TMoTW on finding an alternative location for sewage treatment.

The budget for the land purchase was approved in the Long Term Plan.

## Fresh faces join council as cadets



The cadet programme is a great option for ambitious young people.

Five new, motivated and enthusiastic cadets have joined the council through a 10-month internship placement designed to spark growth, confidence and career skills.

The cadets were selected after participating in an eight-week programme focused on CV writing, interview skills and other preparations designed to make them work-ready for a place in council roles. The programme is run by the Ministry of Social Development, Work Ready and the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs, and aims to help youth between the ages of 18 and 24 across the Far North find a career path.

This year's cadets were selected for their passion to help the community and will be bringing a range of skills to council roles in the digital information management, Te Hono (Māori liaison and relationships), property management, rating services, and transaction service teams.

The cadetship programme was introduced to council in 2006 and has proven to be a successful stepping stone for dozens of rangatahi in the Far North.

## Kaikohe piping upgrades progress



Upgrades include installing manhole chambers as shown above.

Work to improve Kaikohe's water and wastewater network is tracking well with solid progress on Stage 1 installation of new sewer and watermain pipes, and Stage 2 and 3 works set to begin in the coming weeks.

The upgrades will improve the reliability of the town's water supply, reduce wastewater overflows, support firefighting capacity, strengthen the connection to Matawii Dam, and enhance Kaikohe's water resilience.

Stage 1 works have included Bisset Rd, Tawanui Rd, Williams Ave, Ōmāpere Rd, Tuhuna Rd, Rowsell Heights, and the area behind Purdy Street. These works are expected to be completed by November.

Stage 2 and 3 area works include the reticulation line (underground pipes for water and wastewater connections) running from Cumber Road to Wihongi Street, and from Rankin Street to Orrs Road, as well as Recreation Road.

Access to residences and businesses will be maintained. Any changes for specific properties will be communicated well in advance for those impacted.

## Mouth-watering magic to Savour



Savour Northland is promoting the district as a culinary destination.

Jaw-dropping, mouth-watering goodness is on offer at Savour Northland this month – but you'll need a glass of wine and a lie down to decide which events to choose!

The festival runs for the month of October with more than 120 events in six different hubs across the region including Savour The Far North and Savour The Bay of Islands.

Corks are popping as local produce is whipped up with culinary expertise and paired with the best of Northland's wineries and breweries. Epic Far North views are setting the backdrop to events that include sailing cruises, vintage train journeys, ferry trips, intimate long lunches, tasteful opera nights, relaxed sundowners, foraging workshops, celebrity chefs, drag bingo, blues and barbeques ... to name a few.

From Pacific-fusion to Japanese multi-dish dinners, and beer fests to champagne and canapes, Savour Northland returns for its second year thanks in part to funding from the Far North's three community boards.

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