

# Ngā pārongo hou

## Latest council news

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# Toilet upgrade a flush fit for Paihia

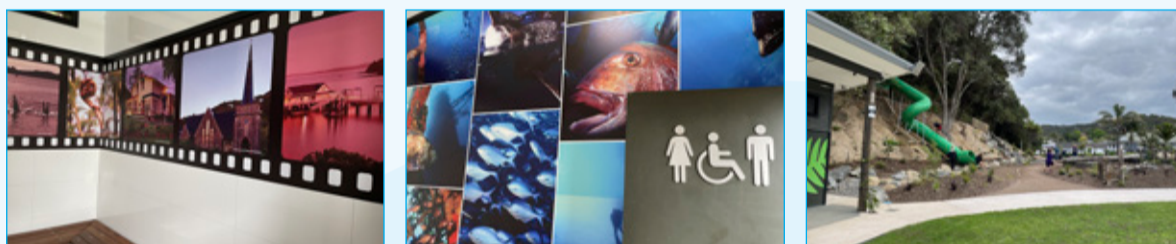
A \$100,000 community-led project in Paihia was officially opened on Friday 13 October with a sausage sizzle to thank volunteers who helped turn a former carpark into a family-friendly space.

The southern end of Paihia's main beach has been turned into an adventure area with a large slide, waterfall feature and rock wall. The council brought forward a planned refurbishment of the existing toilet block to tie in with the community-led revamp of the reserve area.

Focus Paihia led the project after receiving a private donation of \$100,000. As well as play equipment for children, the area has been decked out with new barbeques, a boardwalk, fencing, nature play areas, new landscaping, and a hillside track has been recovered. The project was supported by more than 100 volunteers, with experts brought in for specialist work as required.

The toilet upgrade, which had been planned for next year, became more than a simple renovation when drainage issues were discovered and some timber joinery needed replacing. Volunteers carried out the revamp, with this work and improvements to the toilet pathway funded by the council.

The toilet building has been repainted, all cisterns and basins have been replaced, new tiling and artwork installed, and drainage issues have been addressed.



A former carpark in Paihia has been transformed into a family-friendly space with a toilet upgrade, barbeques, play area and a boardwalk.

## Restrictions for bridge repairs

Weight restrictions and a reduced speed limit are in place as of Tuesday 24 October at the Hihi Road bridge while repairs are carried out.

Work on the bridge, 500 metres south of the Hihi Road/Taemaro Road intersection, is expected to take about six weeks. Vehicle weight will be restricted to 30 tonnes and under, while the speed limit will be 10km/h for all vehicles during the works.

The repairs are necessary as the concrete bridge deck has degraded over time due to environmental factors and general wear and tear. The work, being carried out by the Northland Transportation Alliance on behalf of Far North District Council, will extend the life of the bridge. Local businesses have been advised of the weight restrictions, and a letter drop has gone to about 1900 homes in Mangōnui, Hihi, Taipā, and Karikari Peninsula informing them of the work.



Restrictions at Hihi Road bridge will be in place for six weeks.



The new seawall and beach ramp are now in place at Freese Park.

## Project coasts to completion

A project to halt erosion along a stretch of beach at Ōmāpere is in its final stages, with Freese Park Reserve now open to the public.

Work began in March to build a 120-metre-long seawall along the beachfront. Works included drainage installed in parts of the reserve. Beach access from the playground was also upgraded to a gravel pathway to the wharf with a new ramp leading to the beach.

The remaining works include removing site fencing and completing landscaping. Ngati Korokoro hapū, as tangata whenua, plans to involve the local community and schools with the remaining landscaping but is delaying planting until autumn 2024 due to predictions of a dry summer.

For more information go to [fndc.govt.nz](https://fndc.govt.nz)

## Gauging our water supply

According to weather experts' predictions, there may be a dry summer ahead which could mean water restrictions in the Far North in the coming months. The council applies restrictions to protect our water sources – rivers, streams, and aquifers – to ensure continued water supply during extended periods of dry weather.

The council will ask retailers across the district to display our shopfront signs featuring water glass graphics to keep the public informed about water restriction levels for each town. Water levels in the glass indicate which of the four water restriction levels is in place. A full glass means we're okay. An empty glass means we need to conserve water immediately. In past years, water restrictions have helped communities achieve up to 25 per cent savings in water use and have been key to averting serious water shortages.



Water restrictions are possible in the Far North this summer.

Tell us what you think

## Resident Opinion Survey

Far North District Council is conducting a survey to gather feedback on our services, facilities, and activities. This survey is being conducted by an independent research provider, Key Research. Your responses will remain anonymous. This link will take you to the survey [fndc.govt.nz/residentsurvey](https://fndc.govt.nz/residentsurvey) Ngā mihi.

