

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

Whiringa-ā-nuku October 2023 | Putanga Issue 31

Road funding increase for Far North

Work to repair and maintain Far North District's damaged road network has received a financial boost from the government, with Waka Kotahi increasing its Funding Assistance Rate (FAR) for the area to 71 per cent.

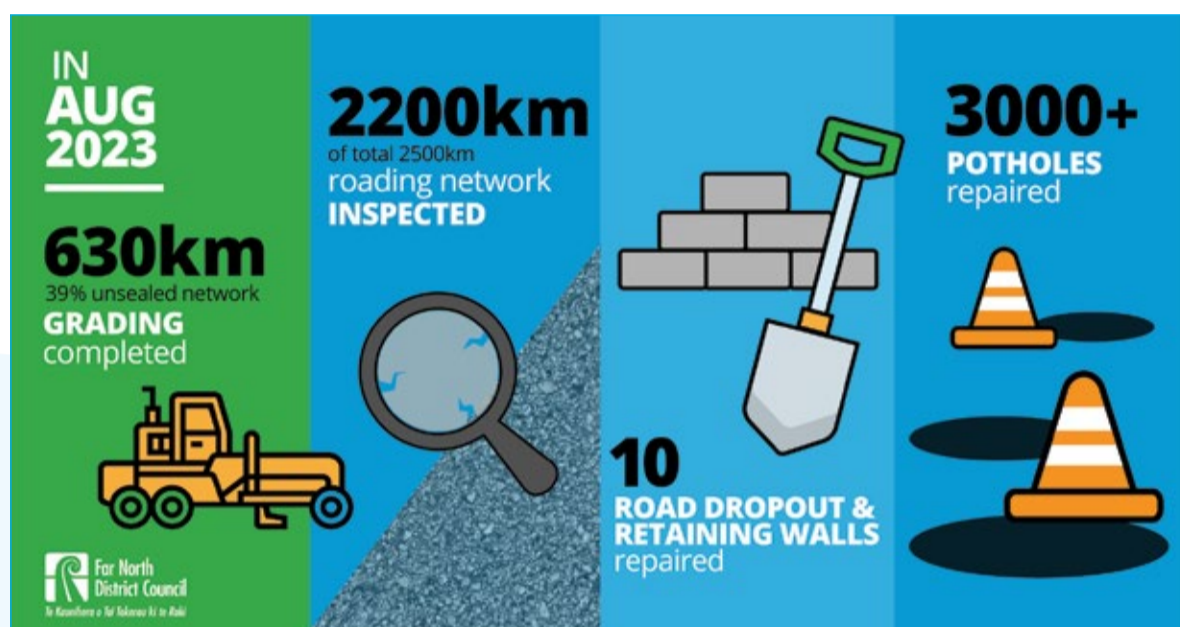
The Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Board agreed in June that the share it pays towards road works in the district over the next three years (2024-27) will be boosted by two per cent, taking its co-funding share from 69 to 71 per cent.

In its Annual Plan for 2023-24, the council had budgeted a total of \$3.56 million for roading and footpath capital works.

Much of this work will be eligible for the additional two per cent funding assistance rate.

Waka Kotahi has confirmed that its decision to increase the FAR for Far North District Council reflected changes to the district's roading network since the rate was last set in 2019.

Criteria considered included an increase in total centre-line length of the district's road network (2508km in 2019 to 2511km in 2022), the increased capital value of the road network (\$19,446 million to \$31,239 million), and an increase in the number of ratepayers in the three years to 2022 (36,929 to 37,901). In all,



Monthly updates showing work completed on our district's roading network will keep Far North residents informed 'at a glance'.

24 councils had FAR rates increased by the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Board.

Meanwhile, 'at a glance' updates showing road works completed in the Far North will now be published monthly on the council's website. Working with the Northland Transportation Alliance, Far North District

Council will publish an easy-to-understand graphic breaking down key road works achieved each month.

The decision to regularly publish updates recognises how important this work is to residents. It will give a clearer picture of the mahi being carried out and achieved by roading contractors.

Speaking our language



The use of te reo Māori and tikanga will be increased at Council.

Far North District Council is aiming to boost the use of te reo Māori within the organisation by 2025.

At its council meeting on Thursday (21 September), elected members agreed to the recommendations from the Te Kuaka – Te Ao Māori committee to introduce a te reo and tikanga policy.

One key aim is to have 100 per cent of council staff achieving the basic level one course in te reo Māori by 2025. The policy allows the council to provide a framework for using te reo internally and externally. It will work on "owning it" meaning everyone has a role to play to help the council achieve its goal.

Publications and resources will be translated to be bilingual where Māori are the primary audience, and all other publications will aim to use bilingual headings for documents such as the Annual Plan and Annual Report. The council will engage with mana whenua partners in providing te reo names for key projects they are involved in.

Read the full story and see what Councillor Tāmati Rākena spoke about in support of adopting the policy on our website.

Volleyball comp scores funding

A world volleyball competition promising to bring more than sport to the Bay of Islands has been granted \$15,000 from the Events Investment Fund. The 2024 Beach Pro Tour next April will bring live music and a festival-like atmosphere to Paihia, with 16 top men's and women's teams from around the world competing over five days. Four sand courts will be 'built' for the event, two of which will be permanent for ongoing use by local schools and communities once the competition is over. The two remaining courts will be used for finals matches, located on the village green, but will only be in operation for the event.

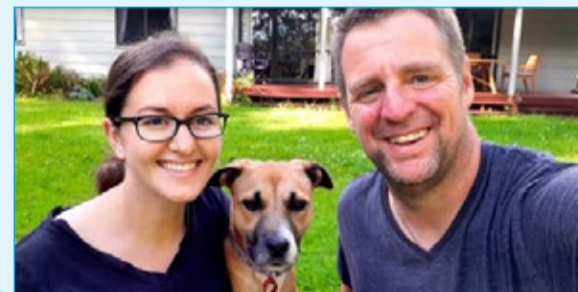
The Events Investment Panel had \$80,000 available to distribute, but with 27 event applications requesting more than \$531,000 in total, the allocation of funding was a tightly-run event. See all successful applicants for the Events Investment Fund on our website.



Teams from around the world will compete in Paihia next April.

For more information go to fndc.govt.nz

Dog registration winners named



Prize winners Robin and Mathias with Lucy, their rescue dog.

Winners of 10 Far North dog registration promotion prizes have been named from across the district. Dog owners who registered their pets while the best rates were available from 1 July to 31 August went into a draw to win a prize of a refund on their dog registration fees for the year plus some dog biscuits (only one dog registration was free per winner).

The whole community has benefited, with an increase in dog registration numbers - 7032 dogs were registered in the two-month promotion period. This is very close to the total number of dogs registered for the whole of last year, which was 8211 dogs. Dog owners are legally required to register their dogs but the fees are higher from 1 September to 30 June 2024.

Dogs must be registered from three months of age or as soon as they come into the owner's possession. The dogs who were treated to a prize of free biscuits, thanks to their owners, can be found on our website.

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 Ngā mihi.

