

# South Hokianga road reopens early

Widening a section of road undermined by recent slip damage has allowed the Waiotemarama Gorge Road in the South Hokianga to reopen earlier than the forecast date of 1 August.

A major slip closed the road to all traffic on 12 July 2022 when heavy rain undermined the road between Kelly Road near Pākanāe and Smoothy Road. The road was officially reopened and the detour removed on Friday 29 July.

The temporary fix by council contractors included the removal of trees at the top of an embankment next to the road, widening the road with the installation of subsoil pipes, installing a new cross road culvert to cut off water ahead of the slip, and clearing upstream water tables and slip material.

Further deterioration of the slip area is still possible, so monitoring will continue while long term solutions are investigated by the Northland Transportation Alliance with Waka Kotahi.

The repair work was completed while roading teams were also responding to another severe weather event. A storm in the last week of July saw 20 roads throughout the district impacted by slips and fallen trees.

Waiotemarama Gorge Road cuts inland through Waimā Forest from Pākanāe on the Twin Coast Discovery Highway (State Highway 12) just before Ōpononi. It re-joins the highway just west of Waimamaku.

## Māori reps appointed

Five Māori representatives have been appointed to council committees and took up their roles in late July. The council decided to add non-elected representatives with Te Ao Māori expertise to its four committees after establishing Māori wards last year. The committees consider specialist council functions and activities and were established in 2019.

In June, the council sought expressions of interest from people with a Te Ao Māori world view with links to Te Tai Tokerau Māori communities. Ten applications were received with five applicants selected by council resolution on 14 July to join the Infrastructure; Regulatory Compliance; Strategy and Policy; and Assurance, Risk, and Finance committees for the remainder of this council term. The new committee members are: Rāniera Kāio, Sam Napia, Reina Penney, Mane Tahere, and Mike Te Wake.

## Submissions invited

Submissions on the Proposed District Plan are open until 21 October 2022. This follows a review of the current Operative District Plan and sets out how we manage our land and resources for the next 10 years. This review is required by law. You can contribute to the creation of a new District Plan by making a submission. Find the plan and supporting information at [pdp.fndc.govt.nz](http://pdp.fndc.govt.nz).



A temporary retreat away from a slip site has allowed the Waiotemarama Gorge in South Hokianga to reopen ahead of schedule.

## 'Smart Bins' installed around the Far North



The new 'Smart Bin' at Pukenui Wharf in Te Hiku, one of 10 installed around the Far North.

Pukenui Wharf in Te Hiku and Ōpononi in the Hokianga are the latest tourist hotspots to benefit from new Wi-Fi enabled 'Smart Bins' that are appearing around the district. Ten rubbish bins in total are now in place around the Far North, with three in Russell, four in Paihia, and one in Kawakawa as well as the latest two locations.

The tech-savvy bins can compact up to five times more rubbish, monitor rubbish levels and send alerts to contractors when they need emptying. The bins avoid rubbish overflow, which can have a negative impact on our popular areas, especially in peak season summer. The solar-powered smart rubbish bins were paid for by Round Five of the Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) grants.

Funding of \$75,556 has been confirmed for a further 10 smart bins in the latest round of TIF grants. The fund helps communities provide facilities that support tourism. Locations for the next 10 bins are yet to be decided.

## New Kaikohe water source almost complete

A second bore at Tokareireia (Monument Hill) in Kaikohe should be operational in the next few months, and will provide approximately 350 cubic litres a day of drinking water to the Kaikohe community when required.

The Monument Hill Deep Bore Project involved drilling a new 120-metre-deep bore into an aquifer below the existing Monument Hill water supply bores. The new bore will only be used if the town's main water source, the Wairoro Stream runs low.

Northland Regional Council granted consent for the project in March 2022 and construction began in May. Most of the construction work was completed by 30 June, with finishing stages to be completed during August and September.

Physical works have included installing a pump, laying a trenched pipe to connect the bore to the Monument Hill Water Treatment Plant, connecting electricity and fibre, as well as creating an access road. Air valve installation, bore headworks and pipework were completed in July, and water treatment plant upgrades and pressure testing of the water supply pipeline is scheduled for August.

Iwi approval has been gained for the project delivery. This project has an approved budget of \$1.18 million.