

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

Pipiri June 2024 | Putanga Issue 47

District scores two new sports centres

Far North sports enthusiasts are the big winners with the opening of two world-class sports complexes within weeks of each other.

The multi-sports complex at Kaikohe's Lindvart Park officially opened in late April, accommodating more than 20 sporting codes including basketball, netball, volleyball, badminton, and table tennis.

Securing funding for the \$15 million complex was the result of a decade-long, community-led process driven by local sports clubs and Kaikohe & Districts Sportsville, which manages sports facilities and events around the Mid-North and Hokianga.

Most of the construction elements, as well as the design and architectural work, were manufactured locally. Far North District Council contributed \$4.4 million toward its completion.

On 5 June, the long-awaited \$12.2 million Te Hiku Sports Hub officially opens in Kaitiāia.

The aquatic wing includes an indoor hydrotherapy pool, toddler splash pool, a learn-to-swim pool, and an eight-lane 25m swimming pool.



The Lindvart Park complex (left) opened in late April and the Te Hiku Sports Hub (right) officially opens on 5 June.



The sports wing has a 12m x 24m gym with a range of fitness equipment including free weights, cardio and resistance weight machines, and will also offer group fitness classes. The sports hub is linked to the nearby fitness track and multi-use sports fields, courts, and cricket nets.

Te Hiku Sports Hub Incorporated has raised more than \$11.8 million from a variety of sources to build

the centre. In February, Far North District Council approved \$500,000 in additional capital funding to get the project across the finishing line.

The extra funding was needed due to the impact of inflation on construction costs following the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent supply chain slowdown as the main cause of delays and increased costs.

Water great bunch of retailers

Retailers across the district played an invaluable role helping to get the message out when water restrictions were applied in the Far North this summer – winning a big thanks from the council.

Water restriction signs displaying the familiar drinking glass imagery began appearing in December outside shops, supermarkets, hardware stores and petrol stations across the district as the council prepared for the hot and dry summer predicted by forecasters.

The council's Water Shortage Management Committee applied restrictions to six of the eight council-operated water supplies this summer. It based its decisions on data collected daily and weekly on the health of rivers and bores used as raw water sources.

To help keep communities informed of the four water restriction levels and what each level means, retailers updated their signs following decisions by the Water Shortage Management Committee.

All water restrictions in the Far North were lifted at the end of April 2024, with all water supplies now back to Level 1, which permits all water use but encourages people to use water sensibly.



Mitre 10 Waiapa was among the retailers displaying our signs.

Submissions hearings begin



Proposed District Plan submission hearings are now under way.

A panel has started hearing submissions and evidence on the Proposed District Plan during a series of 20 hearings scheduled over the next 18 months.

The District Plan affects all landowners and residents in the Far North by providing strategic direction and rules about where you can undertake certain activities, as well as controlling how land can be used, developed and subdivided.

The council is reviewing the current District Plan and has proposed an updated version. The process of adopting the Proposed District Plan (PDP) includes a written submission process which gives people the chance to tell the council what they think of the proposed changes. Council staff and external experts review submissions and make recommendations to the Hearings Panel. Submitters also have the option to speak to the Hearings Panel on their submission.

These hearings are not compulsory for those who made a submission. However, submitters who asked to be heard will be invited to a hearing covering the topics relating to their submission.

The panel is made up of an independent Chair, four independent commissioners, and up to two elected council representatives.

Hearings are scheduled to run to September 2025. Go to the Proposed District Plan page on our website for a full schedule of hearings. Once all points have been heard, the Hearings Panel will make recommendations to the council about changes to the PDP.

Roading contracts extended

Ventia (NZ) Ltd and Fulton Hogan Ltd have had their contracts to manage Far North District Council roads extended by 12 months.

Ventia was awarded the council's Southern Road Maintenance and Renewals Contract for a further year from 1 July 2024. Fulton Hogan was awarded the Northern Road Maintenance and Renewals Contract, also by one year from 1 July 2024.

This contract extension gives council staff time to develop and procure new contract models that reflect the shifting priorities on the Far North's roading network. Both contracts have been factored into the council's Long Term Plan budgets for 2024 and 2025.



Two roading contracts in the Far North are being extended for a year.

AROTAKE
WHAKAAHUATANGA TANGATA
REPRESENTATION REVIEW
2024

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your community most effectively?

To review the initial proposal
and share your thoughts,
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