

Name: Cr. Arohanui Allen

Ward: Māori Ward

Date: July Elected Member Report

Meetings Attended

Date	Meeting Topic	Comment
01/07	Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board Meeting	Attended the Kaikohe-Hokianga Community Board meeting where key discussions included the future of the Te Puna o Kупenuku (Rawene Campus) lease, community adaptation planning for climate resilience, and options for the future use of the current Kaikohe Library building. Community engagement strongly favoured retaining the library building for future community or commercial use. The Board also considered a range of community funding applications supporting rangatahi development, water safety, cultural initiatives, mental health services, and hospice care. Other matters included proposed electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the ward, ongoing climate adaptation work, and updates on community issues including housing, roading, wastewater, coastal erosion and resilience planning.
02/07	Bay of Island-Whangaroa Community Board Meeting	I attended the Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board meeting, where significant discussion focused on community funding, accessibility, community infrastructure and future planning initiatives. The Board considered funding applications supporting youth development, Matariki and Puanga celebrations, public safety initiatives, environmental projects, accessibility improvements on the Kerikeri River Walkway, and upgrades to community facilities. Other matters included amenity lighting projects at Windsor Landing and Landing Road, improvements proposed for Simson Park Domain in Moerewa, and updated community funding guidance prioritising youth-focused and community-led projects. The Board also received information relating to future planning options for Te Puāwaitanga Sports Hub and opportunities to support its long-term development.
03/07	Local Government Reforms Workshop	This workshop was to review community feedback, options analysis and potential conditions for any future Northland governance arrangements. Engagement findings continue to show strong support for local decision-making, meaningful Māori representation, protection of rural communities, affordability and maintaining local identity. Rangatahi feedback reinforced the importance of keeping community-focused decisions close to local communities while supporting regional approaches only where clear efficiencies can be achieved. Workshop discussions focused on identifying the Far North's non-negotiable conditions, including empowered local governance, protection of Māori wards and Tiriti-based relationships, fair access to regional assets and investment, and maintaining strong local advocacy and community voice. Subsequent discussions among elected members further highlighted the importance of retaining democratic Māori

		representation and ensuring any reform model strengthens rather than 77''''''
06/07	Introduction to Development Contribution - THCB & BWCB session	As the elected member to the BWCB I attended Introduction to Development Contributions for Community Boards to be better informed and be able to answer questions from whānau and hapori.
07/07	Long Term Plan Workshop	I participated in the initial workshop for the 2027-37 Long Term Plan, which reviewed proposed activity groups and a draft capital programme containing 177 potential projects across the district. Discussion highlighted the significant long-term funding implications of capital investment, including ongoing depreciation and borrowing costs. I sought clarification on how growth is defined and applied within the Development Contributions framework, and why residents of Kaikohe-Hokianga pay more Development Contribution than residents of Bay of Islands-Whangaroa. I was advised that the underlying principle is that growth pays for growth, meaning existing ratepayers should not fund infrastructure capacity required for new development. Using Kaikohe's wastewater scheme as an example, historic infrastructure has already been paid for by current residents, while future expansion required to accommodate additional growth is recovered through Development Contributions. The reason Kaikohe is paying more is because the scheme debt is more and the number of forecast future connections over which those costs are allocated is less. Which takes me back to my social media post where I discussed that the debt to service capital, though it sits in CAPEX, still impacts the rate payers in the end.
08/07	Te Kūkupa Committee for Strategy, Policy and Regulation meeting	I attended Te Kūkupa Committee meeting where key matters included consideration of amendments to the Development Contributions Policy following public consultation, ongoing climate adaptation planning, strategy implementation monitoring, annual oversight of the bylaw review programme, and the six-monthly regulatory performance update. Discussions focused on ensuring regulatory processes remain effective, supporting long-term growth planning, and strengthening Council's strategic and policy framework. A significant topic of discussion was climate adaptation, with the Committee endorsing the draft scoping report for Stage One Community Adaptation Planning under Te Hōtaka Urutau Hapori Community Adaptation Programme. Members discussed the changing legislative environment, particularly proposed reforms in the Resource Management Act space. However, it was noted that the adaptation programme is supported by a range of legislative and policy frameworks, not solely the RMA, and has been deliberately designed to remain adaptive through the use of decision-making triggers that allow responses to evolve as new information, risks, and legislative changes emerge. The programme aims to support communities to plan for long-term climate risks while maintaining flexibility in an uncertain policy environment.

08/07	District Wide Spatial Strategy meeting	Participated in the District Wide Spatial Strategy workshop, which provided an update on project progress, emerging evidence and early engagement findings. Key themes included housing need, growth management, transport, infrastructure resilience and community wellbeing. I raised questions about how the strategy's finding that housing need is fundamental to addressing deprivation connects with other Council work programmes, including Long Term Plan discussions on Development Contributions and housing development. I emphasised the need for spatial planning outcomes to be integrated with broader infrastructure, financial and growth planning decisions across Council.
09/07	Monthly Governance and Operational Briefing meeting	Attended the monthly Operational Briefings, receiving updates across Council operations, strategic reform initiatives and community services. Key discussions included ongoing Local Government Reform and Head Start work, progress on Housing for the Elderly options, future planning for the old Kaikohe Library and Te Puāwaitanga Sports Hub, and continued delivery of youth employment initiatives through the Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs. Briefings also highlighted strong performance across community services, communications, libraries and customer services, alongside significant ongoing work to prepare for major local government, resource management and water sector reforms.
09/07	Post Local Government Reform Elected Member Steering Group Workshop	Participated in a workshop to discuss the preferred Local Government Reform option ahead of Council deliberations. Discussion focused on the merits of a staged approach to reform, with strong emphasis on protecting local decision-making, community boards, and Māori representation during any transition. Members also discussed the importance of maintaining alignment with other Northland councils to ensure a viable Head Start proposal can be progressed within the Government's timeframe. A key theme was balancing regional efficiencies with retaining a strong local voice for Far North communities.
13/07	John Ropiha Lindvart Park Calisthenics Station	Met with local advocate John Ropiha to discuss his proposal for a calisthenics station at Lindvart Park. The initiative has received significant community support, with more than 400 expressions of support recorded through paper and online petitions. The proposal aims to create a free and accessible recreational space that promotes health, wellbeing and community participation. I will continue to support John in progressing this community-led kaupapa and exploring opportunities to help bring the project to fruition.
14/07	Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships meeting	Attended the Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships meeting, which focused on strengthening Māori participation in Council decision-making, tangata whenua-led climate adaptation, implementation of Te Pae o Uta, iwi and hapū engagement, and the future governance arrangements for Northland Waters. The Committee also endorsed recommending that Council initiate engagement with Ngā Hapū o Te Uri O Hua, Takotoke and Ngāti Kura regarding a potential Mana Whakahono ā Rohe.

		While the phased local government merger proposal was not strongly supported, Te Kuaka reinforced consistent feedback received from hapū, iwi and communities that meaningful Māori representation, genuine hapū participation in decision-making, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, and retaining Māori wards are essential considerations in any future governance arrangements. This was a recurring theme across engagement undertaken as part of the local government reform programme.
15/07	Te Koukou Committee for Transport and Infrastructure meeting	We received updates on infrastructure compliance, three waters operations, transport matters, capital works delivery, solid waste services, and Infrastructure Acceleration Fund projects. Key discussions focused on delivery of major water and wastewater upgrades, support for future housing growth, expansion of EV charging infrastructure, ongoing compliance improvements, and maintaining infrastructure resilience across the district. The meeting reinforced the need to achieve a better, cheaper, faster approach to infrastructure delivery. In particular, I remain focused on improving contract management, understanding the drivers behind cost escalation and contract variations, identifying lessons learned from major projects, and increasing transparency around how additional project costs ultimately impact ratepayers. Equally important is ensuring the right systemic and cultural changes are in place to reduce avoidable cost overruns and improve delivery outcomes. I also continue to advocate for working more closely with our hapori, reducing unnecessary barriers and enabling communities, who often best understand local needs, to help deliver solutions more quickly and cost-effectively.
16/07	Extraordinary Council Meeting	We considered FNDCs preferred model for progressing the Government's Local Government Reform Head Start pathway. Discussions focused on the independent options analysis, community feedback, and recommendations from the Elected Member Steering Group. I voted in support of the staged transition model, which would initially establish two unitary authorities before potentially transitioning to a single Northland-wide unitary authority at a later date. While considerable discussion occurred around efficiencies and potential cost savings, financial modelling has not yet been completed for any of the proposed governance models and therefore no evidence currently exists to demonstrate whether any option will ultimately be more or less efficient than another. In forming my position, I reflected on learnings from previous amalgamations, including Auckland. While Auckland is often referenced as an example of council consolidation, I understand there has been no comprehensive review demonstrating whether amalgamation has produced the savings originally anticipated. Given this uncertainty, I supported a staged approach as it provides greater certainty

		around issues that matter to Far North communities, including retaining local representation, Māori wards, and local decision-making, while allowing more time to work through the design details and bring the community with us on the journey.
17/07	Taupō Bay Working Group	There are ongoing discussions with the Taupō Bay Steps Working Group, Council staff, community representatives and local stakeholders to progress practical solutions for safety and access issues at Taupō Bay. Council confirmed that funding has been approved to reinstate the bench seats and "No Dogs" signage, with work expected to be completed by mid-August. Further quotes are being sought for repairs to the main stairs, reserve improvements, and other identified hazards, including grassing and remediation around exposed pōhutukawa roots. The working group also discussed opportunities for a community-led placemaking project, including local input into erosion protection measures and reserve improvements. Billy Allen highlighted the cultural significance of Pohutukawa Reserve, noting it as a place of importance for local kaumātua and kuia, which will continue to form part of future discussions. Following this work, I raised what I see as a broader organisational culture issue. Through both the Taupō Bay Steps and Pukepoto Bridge projects, I have seen communities willing to contribute their own time, skills and resources to solve local problems. I advocated for a more solution-focused and collaborative approach that reduces barriers, enables genuine partnerships with communities, accelerates project delivery, reduces costs to ratepayers, and delivers better outcomes while maintaining appropriate health and safety standards. I will continue to advocate for a culture that works alongside communities to achieve shared outcomes rather than creating unnecessary obstacles.
17/07	Northland Forward Together meeting	I attended the Northland Forward Together Strategic Planning Workshop, a joint Northland councils workshop focused on regional collaboration, local government reform, infrastructure planning, and resource management reform. The workshop included insights from Wayne Brown on Auckland's unitary authority experience, an update on the Head Start programme, progress on the Northland Infrastructure Plan, and preparations for upcoming Resource Management reforms. Discussions focused on governance, scale, local voice, infrastructure investment, and Northland's readiness for future legislative change. My key takeaway was a message shared by Mayor Wayne Brown: "Better, Cheaper, Faster." As we enter Long Term Plan discussions, I believe this should be the lens through which we assess future investment and service delivery. For me, that means: • Leveraging collective purchasing power to achieve better value for money. • Improving contract management and understanding the drivers of cost escalation and contract variations, as well as their impact on rates.

		- Working more effectively alongside our hapori by reducing barriers and enabling communities to help deliver local solutions. - Focusing on practical efficiencies that improve outcomes for ratepayers while maintaining strong local decision-making and community outcomes. In my view, "Better, Cheaper, Faster" should be more than a slogan. It should guide the decisions we make through the Long Term Plan and wider reform programme.
22/07	Council Meeting	My key takeaways: Agenda 7.3: Unbudgeted Capital Funding – Audio Systems Upgrade Council considered funding for an audio systems upgrade. The upgrade will improve audio-visual quality and transparency, responding to requests from constituents for better access to meetings. The mobile unit will enhance audio-visual capability at both the Te Hiku and Bay of Islands-Whangaroa Community Board meetings. The move to a fully digital agenda format is also expected to deliver savings on printing costs. Agenda 7.4: Decision on the Installation of a Memorial Seat for Stanley Julian at Taipā Beachfront Discussions around potential Treaty Settlement with local hapū required facilitation among all parties to come to an appropriate location for the seat. Cr Foy agreed to engage with local hapū to determine whether an alternative location could be identified for the memorial seat. The matter was also raised at the Te Hiku Community Board meeting, where Elected Member Eddie Belass advised he would follow up with Cr Foy and the hapū representative. The outcome of those discussions is awaited. Remits to Central Government Council reviewed, confirmed and prioritised remits to be submitted to Central Government on behalf of the district. Te Puāwaitanga Further discussion was held on the development and future use of Te Puāwaitanga, including its ongoing role and opportunities for community benefit.
23/07	Mō Āpōpō Future Leaders Programme	I met with the Mō Āpōpō Future Leaders Programme team to explore opportunities to support rangatahi leadership and future-focused thinking. The programme is developing tools to help rangatahi shape their own futures and strengthen community participation. Identified opportunities to align this work with FNDC's rangatahi leadership initiatives, including the emerging Rangatahi Action Council.
28/07	Local Government Reform Head Start Workshop	This workshop on the draft Head Start Outline Proposal provided elected members with a final opportunity to ask questions and discuss the proposal ahead of formal consideration on 4 August. Discussion focused on the staged approach previously supported by the steering group and

		Council, Kaipara District Council's participation in the proposal process, and ensuring FNDC's strengths and position are adequately reflected in supporting documentation. Members also emphasised the importance of continued community engagement and participation in the reorganisation process, noting that many details remain subject to further Government direction and consultation.
31/07	Pre Brief: Northland Waters SRG	Pre-brief with staff to prepare to stand in as alternate for Kahika.

Community Matters

This section should be completed for matters arising within the community, which Council need to be aware of. It could be related to ongoing projects, requests, feedback etc.

Topic	Comment
Two Ponga Park Bollards	This continues to be an area of concern and rising cost of repairs. I have supported residents regarding unauthorised vehicle access at Two Ponga Park, resulting in installation of an additional bollard.
Mana Mokopuna (Childrens Commission)	Mana Mokopuna Partnership Opportunity: Shared a potential partnership between Mana Mokopuna to support rangatahi leadership, youth participation, and development of a Rangatahi Action Council. An initial online hui and follow-up engagement in Kaikohe were planned to explore collaboration and align local and national youth engagement initiatives.
Kaikohe's Memorial Park Reserve Management Plan	Sought updates on behalf of residents of Kaikohe on progress of the Reserve Management Plan. The project remains with the hapū to consider key matters, including reserve classification and draft concepts. A hui with representatives was held, with feedback awaited before timelines can be confirmed and work progresses.
Pukepoto Bridge	I continue to work with Council, neighbouring councils and the Pukepoto Community to find solutions for the unfit bridge. After a discussion with Jo Carr, a Cone Penetration Test (CPT) was indentified as a possible test to better understand ground conditions and inform future engineering decisions and what "fit-for-purpose" might look like and cost. Will continue to follow this up.
RFS Process and Resident Advocacy	Raised concerns on behalf of a resident regarding two related RFSs for a missing bollard, including inconsistent closure processes, communication with requestors, and quality assurance checks. Separate enquiries were lodged with relevant teams to clarify RFS management, closure criteria, customer communication, and opportunities to improve transparency for residents.

LTP and Rates Capping	Raised concerns about Council's ability to work collaboratively with communities willing to contribute time, skills and resources to local projects, drawing on experiences at Pukepoto Bridge and Taupō Bay. Feedback from elected members and staff supported greater lateral thinking to improve project delivery, reduce costs and strengthen community outcomes.
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Portfolio Update: (Name of Portfolio)

Rangatahi Portfolio Report

Work continues on developing FNDC's rangatahi leadership and participation initiatives, with a strong focus on increasing youth voice in local decision-making. Progress was made on the draft Youth Strategy and the development of a Rangatahi Council model, with Community Board involvement identified as a priority. Planning also commenced for a rangatahi hackathon-style engagement event and Youth Week activities, alongside youth mentoring and leadership development opportunities through partnerships with organisations including Ara Taiohi, NZ Youth Mentoring and Mō Āpōpō.

The Mayor's Taskforce for Jobs continued supporting rangatahi into sustainable employment, achieving 19 placements year-to-date and maintaining pastoral support for participants. Planning was also underway to transition the programme into the Mayor's Office to strengthen alignment with broader youth development and civic participation goals.

Opportunities to strengthen rangatahi engagement through Community Boards, leadership pathways, mentoring programmes and co-designed rangatahi initiatives remain a key focus as Council works towards launching its Youth Strategy and establishing long-term structures for meaningful youth participation.

Matters for Discussion

Rangatahi Voice

Local Government Reform - Northland College Rangatahi Feedback – Local Government Reform

Preferred Council Structure

When asked what they would prefer if councils combine in Northland:

- 9 rangatahi – remain as FNDC, noting that Whangārei District Council does not have Māori Wards and Kaipara District Council does not have Community Boards. Maintaining representation and local decision-making was important to them.
- 5 rangatahi – merge FNDC and Kaipara, recognising similarities between the districts and their communities.
- 4 rangatahi – merge all three councils, identifying potential benefits including greater funding, easier problem-solving and regional coordination, while also recognising risks around resource distribution, organisational size and conflict.
- 2 rangatahi – wait for the Government's backstop option, as they felt there was insufficient information to make an informed decision.

What Should Stay Local?

There was full consensus that decisions closest to communities should remain local, including:

- Parks, playgrounds and reserves
- Libraries, pools and community facilities
- Local events, arts and festivals
- Community funding and grants
- Animal control and local rules
- Town centre improvements and local place-making

Where Regional Coordination Makes Sense

There was also full consensus that some services could benefit from a mix of local and regional decision-making, particularly:

- Stormwater and drainage
- Rubbish and recycling
- Local economic development and support for jobs and businesses
- Large-scale projects benefiting multiple communities

Rangatahi recognised the potential for efficiencies, consistency and economies of scale, while still wanting communities to retain meaningful local input.

Local Voice vs Cost

A very clear message emerged around balance.

18 of the 20 rangatahi supported balancing local decision-making with achieving lower costs.

Similarly, when asked whether they would accept less community say in return for greater regional coordination, there was strong support for finding a balance between local input and regional coordination, rather than choosing one over the other.

Key considerations included:

- fairness between different areas;
- good and consistent services;
- cost savings for ratepayers;
- recognition that local communities know their communities best; and
- regional collaboration where it is more efficient for large-scale projects.

Rangatahi Voice in Decision-Making

Rangatahi strongly expressed a desire for greater youth participation in Council decision-making, including opportunities for young people to be represented and genuinely heard.

Nine rangatahi specifically identified improved community awareness and engagement as an area needing change, including ensuring communities understand Council decisions and have meaningful opportunities to contribute.

Overall Message

The feedback was not simply "local versus regional." Rangatahi demonstrated a nuanced understanding of the trade-offs involved.

Their message was clear: keep decisions local where they directly affect communities, work regionally where there are genuine efficiencies and economies of scale, protect representation and local voice, and ensure rangatahi themselves have a meaningful place in the decisions shaping their communities.

FORMAL SUBMISSION

Te Rūnanga ā Iwi o Ngāpuhi (TRAION) Submission on Local Government Reform

TRAION lodged a comprehensive submission on the proposed Northland local government reorganisation, outlining Ngāpuhi's position on a potential Northland Unitary Authority and the future of Māori representation across Te Tai Tokerau. The submission was formally endorsed by the TRAION Board and presented as a constitutional and Treaty-based response to the reform process.

TRAION advised that it supports the establishment of a Northland Unitary Authority in principle, but only if strong, enduring and Treaty-consistent Māori representation is embedded from the outset. The submission emphasises that any new governance structure must improve, not diminish, Māori participation in local government decision-making.

The submission highlighted the current challenges facing Māori representation following the 2025 binding polls, which removed Māori representation from both the Northland Regional Council and Whangārei District Council. TRAION noted that four of the seven Māori seats that existed across Northland councils have already been lost, with the remaining FNDC Māori ward representation potentially vulnerable through future reform processes.

A significant focus of the submission was the findings of the Waitangi Tribunal's Wai 1040 inquiry. TRAION referenced Tribunal conclusions that Te Raki Māori were historically denied an equitable voice in local and national governance, and that local government structures had contributed to the erosion of Māori authority, participation and rangatiratanga. The submission argued that any future governance

model must address these historical shortcomings and be grounded in Treaty partnership principles.

TRAION's preferred model includes:

- Dedicated Māori ward seats within any new unitary authority.
- Māori representation proportionate to the Māori electoral population, at a minimum equivalent to the seven Māori seats previously held across Northland councils.
- Statutory Te Tiriti-based co-governance arrangements with delegated decision-making authority on matters significant to hapū and iwi.
- Retention and strengthening of existing partnership arrangements, including the Te Kuaka Te Ao Māori Committee, during any transition period.
- Protection of Māori representation from removal through future referenda.

The submission also linked local government reform to the future Ngāpuhi Treaty Settlement, arguing that no irreversible decisions regarding Māori representation should be made before settlement negotiations have concluded. TRAION advocated for future settlement legislation to include specific local government representation provisions and safeguards that would secure Māori representation and co-governance arrangements over the long term.

TRAION requested that FNDC:

- Formally record and support TRAION's conditional support for a unitary authority.
- Advocate for guaranteed Māori representation in any reorganisation proposal.
- Support Treaty-based partnership arrangements between councils, hapū and iwi.
- Retain and strengthen existing Māori governance structures through the transition period.
- Establish a joint working group involving Māori representatives to help design future representation arrangements.
- Support a regional approach to Māori representation alongside other Te Tai Tokerau iwi.

The submission concluded that local government reform presents a significant opportunity to reshape governance arrangements in Te Tai Tokerau. TRAION stated that successful reform should see Ngāpuhi hapū and iwi recognised not as stakeholders seeking influence, but as genuine Treaty partners in governance and decision-making for the rohe.