

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Councils present 'Northland vision'

Northland's four councils are working together to present a shared vision to central government on the region's future.

During a meeting with Simon Watts, the Minister of Local Government, earlier this month, CEOs, mayors and chair from Kaipara, Far North and Whangārei district councils and Northland Regional Council shared their preference for a proactive "by Northland, for Northland" approach to the many challenges facing local authorities.

Those challenges include major legislative reforms, the impacts of weather events and delivering affordable infrastructure and services to ratepayers.

Minister Watts heard that Northland councils are eager to engage together early with the government. The aim is to demonstrate that, as local leaders, they can be trusted to deliver solutions that work on the ground, pointing to successful joint responses to recent severe weather events, and the Local Water Done Well reforms. They said that these are examples of Northland councils getting ahead of the 'bow wave' of change by working effectively together



Hon Shane Reti, Hon Shane Jones, Grant McCallum MP, Mayor Ken Couper, Hon Tama Potaka, Chair Pita Tipene, Hon Simon Watts, Mayor Jonathan Larsen, Mayor Moko Tapania, met recently to discuss Northland's future.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Vital link to Waitangi now safer



An early morning ceremony marked the re-opening of 3.2km stretch.

One of two roads leading to Waitangi Treaty Grounds is now safer for locals and visitors thanks to major improvements.

Iwi leaders, Regional Development Minister Shane Jones, Kahika Moko Tapania, Far North councillors, trustees of the Waitangi National Trust, and other dignitaries gathered earlier this month for a ceremony to reopen a 3.2 kilometre stretch of Haruru Falls Road.

At the dawn gathering, Minister Jones declared the newly sealed section of road open. Teams from Ventia were praised for completing the project in just three months, in time for Waitangi Day commemorations, a time when thousands of visitors head to the area.

Central government contributed \$1.57 million to the project, with Far North District Council allocating \$400,000 to seal the stretch from Tui Glen Road to just before Bayly Road. The work included water tabling and culvert replacement, road widening, and laying new aggregate for shape correction and strengthening the roadway.

Kerikeri redwood tree removal



The trees are located on Wendywood Lane and Hawkings Crescent.

Work to remove one of two stands of redwood trees in Kerikeri that pose an 'unacceptable risk' to life and property has begun.

The removal of the mature trees on council-owned land at Hawkings Crescent comes in the wake of a near-miss incident in April last year during Cyclone Tam. A 30m tree crashed into a shed at the nearby Kerikeri Retirement Village, narrowly missing a gardener, who escaped seconds before impact.

The work is being carried out in two phases, with the first stage getting underway during the first week of February and expected to take approximately eight weeks. During this time, the walking track through the redwoods is closed and access to Hawkings Crescent restricted to residents only.

The work is being undertaken by local arborist, O S Safe Tree Ltd, and involves reducing trees by sections rather than felling entire trees. This is due to the proximity of residential properties, pedestrian routes, and the nearby retirement village and ensures the safety of residents and workers. Removal of trees on Wendywood Lane will begin the new financial year.

Far North's lifetime legends



The awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday 7 July.

He karanga tēnei mo ngā taupata Tohu Tutuki o Te Hiku o te Ika - nominations now open to honour the Far North's lifetime legends.

The countdown has begun for the July 2026 Far North District Council Lifetime Achievement Awards — and the search for our next community heroes starts now.

Nominations have opened early, giving everyone across the district the chance to shine a spotlight on the extraordinary locals whose lifelong volunteer efforts have shaped the Far North for the better.

Te Tohu Tutuki – the Far North District Council Lifetime Achievement Award recognises individuals and organisations who have consistently gone above and beyond, dedicating years of service to uplift, protect, and strengthen our communities.

The call is out – if someone in your world is a true Far North star, don't wait! Nomination forms can be downloaded or collected from any council service centre. Completed forms must be submitted by **5pm, Monday 25 May 2026**, either by email to governance@fndc.govt.nz or dropped off in person.

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