

**Name: Kaikaunihera Kelly Stratford**

**Ward: Bay of Islands - Whangaroa**

**Date: 8 December 2025**

**Meetings Attended**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting Topic</b>	<b>Comment</b>
22.10.2025	Council workshop	Whakawhanaungatanga and Annual Report
23.10.2025	Governance Essentials	
24.10.2025	Annual Report	Q & A session
28.10.2025	Check-in with Kahika	Ahead of inauguration
29.10.2025	Inaugural council hui	Swearing in and first council meeting of the term
31.10.2025	Annual Report	Q & A session
	Council hui	Primary business of reviewing and adopting the annual report.
3.11.2025	Hui with resident	Discussion about systemic infrastructure failings
	Kawakawa Domain Board	Discussion about their concerns – road, financing, land divestment.
4.11.2025	Joint Legislative Briefing	
5.11.2025	Meeting with resident	Roading and drainage concerns
6.11.2025	Closing of Proposed District Plan	
7.11.2025	Pou Herenga Tai induction	
10 – 11.11.2025	Strategic offsite with colleagues	
12.11.2025	LGNZ Rural & Provincial networking evening	
13.11.2025	LGNZ Rural & Provincial	Report enclosed
18.11.2025	Te Kūkupa ToR	Discussion with GM on building ToR

	Pou Herenga Tai AGM	Followed by planning workshop, with a view to ensure alignment of priorities and capturing in FNDCs AP/LTP
19.11.2025	Tour of Bay of Islands – Whangaroa ward	Observing issues and solutions, good team building
20.11.2025	Council workshop	Priorities, governance statement, committee ToR, comms, triennial agreement with the other Northland councils, and Housing for the elderly
21.11.2025	Tour of Kaikohe – Hokianga ward	Observing issues and solutions, good to get out to Kohukohu Hall. And see such a great improvement.
24.11.2025	Community Trust, Participation & Engagement portfolio	Discussion on ToR
	Te Kūkupa Committee	Worked through the ToR with Cr Court and GM
	Reducing Alcohol Harm	Discussion on advocacy in the applications space
	Hui with resident	Discussion on dust mitigation, which didn't occur on this residents area last year. After we fought previously to get it on the list.
	The Centre at Kerikeri	Induction with chair, as council appointee – otherwise known as Turner Centre
25.11.2025	Meeting with resident	Kawakawa under verandah lighting
	Educational session	Provided a perspective to local law firm on Māori and local government. The interface between the legal requirements and realities how Māori are touched by local government, the good the bad the ugly and how it has changed over the last 3 years.
26.11.2025	Council hui	
	Turner Centre hui	
1.12.2025	LGNZ Zone One Hui	
2.12.2025	Creative Communities	Funding panel assessing grant applications, followed by workshop.
3.12.2025	Te Huia work programme	Went over the Te Huia employment of CE committee and work programme with Kōhēpu as chair for the new triennium. Current KPIs are due a report, and workshopping of new ones

		may need to begin following discussion of current with new council and CE following strategic planning workshops.
	Te Tiriti & He Whakaputunga workshop	
4.12.2025	Hui with resident	Ness Road concerns
	Healthy Families	Discussion regarding flood mitigation and further potential community outcomes in Kaeo.
5.12.2025	Keteriki	Catch up with GM Keteriki, regarding the proposed route realignment alternative.

### **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.*

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Ness Road	Little or no maintenance of culvert, vegetation management lacking and line of sight for traffic a health & safety concern.
Hihitahi Rise	Need to ensure funding is sought to deliver this resilience work. Health and Safety issue with the road, and our water storage at this location. A report was expected to be on the December agenda.
Ohaeawai stormwater	Following last LTP submission. Was going to be addressed with existing budget. No urban stormwater, they want to have managed stormwater. Due to the extent of flooding impacting their way of life.
Rangiputa Road slip	Issue with the slip into the residential area. Solution staff proposed being met with objection by affected landowner. Affected landowner has changed, so staff need to revisit this.
Rangitane Maritime	A notice to appeal has been lodged as a placeholder, pending a decision of council. Council are not appealing. We were awaiting confirmation on whether FNHL withdrew their appeal, and they did not. Their appeal was heard and a decision is due. Must come back to council for an ultimate decision on whether to continue or not, despite the appeal decision.
Powells Road	Council maintained this bridge up until approximately 8 years ago.  We have a sewer pipe under it. And a stormwater culvert & I have already checked with NZTA and they say its FNDC bridge.  This is the one contractor trucks access also to get to our WW pump station.

### **Te Kukupa Kōmiti: (Strategy, Policy and Regulatory Committee)**

- Cr Court and I have worked with GM on a draft terms of reference for next council hui

### **Portfolio Update: (Climate Action)**

- Case study “Responding to a changing climate in Te Tai Tokerau” conducted by Climate Change Commission released and distributed to you all by link in email.

**Portfolio Update: (Housing)**

- Following the cuts announced in central government there is concern over the lack of social housing now being delivered considering the demand and years of neglect.
- Await next steps for housing strategy, expecting a report on engagement, but note the Whenua Māori strategy adoption has been received well out in the community.

**Council Appointment: (Northland Civil Defence Emergency Management Committee)**

- We have recently had a briefing paper on a desktop emergency management activity, which helped test current local arrangements and highlighted areas for further focus.
- This term we will be going through national emergency management reform, completing the Group Plan and embedding learnings from the Section 17A review.
- On the back of Cyclone Gabrielle response and recovery reporting CDEM is continually working towards strengthening coordination, communications and operational capability across Northland, alongside delivery of the Multi-Agency Emergency Management Facility.

**Council Appointment: (Pou Herenga Tai – Twin Coast Cycle Trail)**

- Attended AGM and first hui of the triennium. Supported Trace at presentation to council on Resource consent obtained for route our contractor has been working towards. An alternative is being explored which may cost less – however, could take time to gain consent or land use permissions from private landowners. The trust has recommended council continue with the route their contractor has secured consent for.

**Council Appointment: (Bay of Islands Recreation Centre)**

- No update.

**Council Appointment: (Turner Centre)**

- Attending first monthly meeting. Note this appointment is an observatory role only.

**Council Appointment: (Creative Communities)**

- Attended first funding panel, allocated funds alongside fabulous community representatives. Not all funding was allocated. Need to promote more.

**Matters for Discussion**

*This section should be completed for matters which the elected member wishes to raise with wider Council, Community Boards and/or in relation to delivery.*

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**Training / Conference Attendance**

*This section is to be completed when an elected member has attended a professional development opportunity or a conference on behalf of Council. It should outline the learnings from attending the event and value to the organisation.*

**Name of Event:** LGNZ Rural and Provincial Sector Meeting

**Date of Event:** 13 November 2025 - Wellington

### **Learnings:**

This gathering brought together rural and provincial councils to explore national reforms, economic outlooks, sector pressure points and opportunities for local leadership. The day was MC'd by Sanchia Jacobs, a strong advocate for local government and Sustainability Officer with BECA.

Christine Maiden Sharp (Aspen Institute NZ) presented on the rising challenges of online radicalisation and economic and national security, and gave a practical framework for better decision-making. Key takeaways included:

- Focus on facts over assumptions, check sources and test assumptions
- Ask “what would change my mind”
- Brush up on statistics and spot cognitive traps early (status quo bias, urgency bias, etc)
- Identify trade-offs clearly as competing values will always exist
- Use a decision-making checklist and avoid escalating when facts are contested
- Councils must slow down and consider evidence, context and consequences
- Communicate clearly starting with empathy, stating what you know, what you don't, and giving reasons for decisions

Minister Mark Patterson highlighted the economic weight of rural New Zealand, noting that 82% of exports come from rural communities. He emphasised the value of wool, cycle trails and placemaking, and the disproportionate contribution of regional tourism. He outlined a more targeted approach via the Regional Infrastructure Fund compared with the PGF, and the Government's focus on flood protection, water storage, irrigation, Māori economic development and energy resilience. He also signalled a “tsunami of bills before Christmas,” including RMA, local government and rates-capping reforms, and noted that emergency management legislation is a priority with a new bill expected next year.

Hon Peter Dunne spoke about the underlying reasons rates have increased and the need for councils to tell the story of long-term infrastructure underinvestment. Polling suggests the current coalition is likely to be re-elected, so he encouraged councils to be pragmatic, visible and clear about their role in delivering outcomes despite central government constraints.

Brad Olsen provided an economic update, noting regional employment strength compared with metro areas, pressures ahead for the dairy sector (with payouts unlikely to reach \$10 again), and the importance of strong procurement decisions to avoid long-term cost impacts. He also reinforced that resilience planning requires better data, as increasing emergency events mean growing financial pressure.

Helmut Modlik spoke on leadership and identity, encouraging us to look below the surface, know our why, and draw on past lessons of adaptation. He noted that regional identity is our superpower: we are closer to communities, can act faster than central government, and can mobilise local opinion. He emphasised ongoing engagement, political capital, the long-term nature of iwi relationships, and the need for robust baselines when making funding decisions.

Minister Chris Penk provided an update on Building Act reforms, confirming a move away from joint and several liability toward proportionate liability so councils will no longer be exposed to 100% responsibility. Consumer protection reforms are also underway.

Sue Heins, Mayor of Northern Beaches Council in Sydney, shared the real impacts of rates capping in their region, offering useful context as New Zealand considers similar approaches.

Further updates included:

- Rich Ward (DIA) on current departmental work
- Nadeine Dommissie (MfE) on RMA reform focused on unlocking potential, environmental protection and climate adaptation
- John Price (NEMA) on upcoming emergency management legislation, strengthened guidelines, iwi and NEMA relationships, national and catastrophic plans, and the reminder that councils must contribute to CDEM Group Plans and ensure all hazards are properly identified. His message was that these plans must ultimately provide communities with hope

**Value for the organisation:**

This meeting provided valuable insight into the policy shifts that will directly affect the Far North, especially emergency management, infrastructure, rural economic development and RMA reform. The strong focus on evidence-based decision-making and communicating trade-offs is directly relevant to our governance work. Hearing ministers and sector leaders outline what is ahead helps refine our advocacy and positions the Far North strongly in national conversations.

It also reinforced the importance of rural councils, our economic contribution, and our leadership role in resilience, tourism, Māori economic partnerships and regional identity. Maintaining strong relationships across the sector, with ministers and agencies, is critical as the legislative landscape shifts quickly. This was a highly worthwhile event with practical insights we can apply immediately.