

Proactive focus drives new contracts

New roading contracts that incorporate a more proactive approach to maintenance to provide a more resilient and reliable Far North roading network have been awarded to two companies.

The new roading maintenance and renewals contracts award the northern section of the network to Fulton Hogan, and the southern section to Ventia. Each territory covers approximately 1200km of the district's roading network.

The new contracts follow a competitive tender process that ran from 10 September to 13 November 2025 and attracted interest from several suppliers.

Group Manager – Corporate Services, Charlie Billington, says the winning contractors demonstrated a full understanding of the requirements of the council's new proactive programmes.

"Both Fulton Hogan and Ventia were the highest scoring tenderers in their respective areas, due to their demonstrated knowledge of the local roads and conditions, extensive use of the local subcontractors, good health and safety track records, and an understanding of the requirements of the new contract," he says.

The council's new proactive approach is based on the success of pilot programmes for 'Find and Fix' patrols and a new Maintenance Intervention Strategy ranking system. These were outlined by



Fulton Hogan has been awarded the contract for the northern section of the network, and Ventia has the southern area contract.

Kahika Mayor Tepania at the State of the Far North address in February. The full presentation can be viewed on our website.

The combined value of the contracts is approximately \$250m over the initial term of five years with two rights of renewal (of three and two

years) to a maximum contract term of 10 years, subject to contractors' performance.

Monthly updates from each contractor will continue to be posted on our website.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Risky redwoods get the chop



Redwoods removed from Hawkings Cres were found to be rotten.

One of two groups of mature but unstable redwood trees in Kerikeri has been successfully removed ahead of schedule, with council contractors confirming that 90 per cent were affected by rot.

Group Manager – Delivery and Operations, Hilary Sumpter, says the state the trees were found in after felling showed the right decision had been made.

The first group of exotic trees was removed from council land at Hawkings Crescent. The second stand at Wendywood Lane will be removed later this year.

The removal follows a near-miss last year when a 30m tree crashed into a shed at the nearby Kerikeri Retirement Village, narrowly missing a gardener. A 'near-fatality' notification was accepted by WorkSafe.

Your voice on district's future



Have your say on the strategy that guides how our district develops.

Communities across the Far North are being invited to have their say on a significant district-wide strategy that will guide how the area grows and develops over the coming decades.

This work builds on the development of Te Pātukurea, the Kerikeri-Waipapa Spatial Plan, which focused on the district's fastest-growing towns. Now the focus is widening to include the rest of the district.

Te Rautaki Mokowā ā Rohe – the District-Wide Spatial Strategy will guide how and where growth happens across the Far North over the next 30 years.

Check out our consultation page on our website and fill in an online survey.

Feedback is open until Monday 4 May 2026.

Cruise ship record a shore thing



Great work from IDNZ, FNHL staff, and local tourism operators.

A New Zealand record was set in the Bay of Islands for shore excursions (Shorex) following the visit of the cruise liner *Discovery Princess*.

The 18 February record, achieved by tour company IDNZ, surpassed the previous Lyttleton benchmark held by *Royal Caribbean* in 2017, making it the highest Shorex total recorded nationally.

Shorex is the industry term for the number of ship passengers who book shore-based tours with local providers.

Far North Holdings acts as the Port Authority for cruise ship visits to the area. Chief Executive Officer Andy Nock says the milestone is a strong signal of confidence in the region.

Stay informed about your district with a monthly email summary of news and updates delivered directly to your inbox. **Scan the QR code** to subscribe to our newsletter or **click the link** on our news stories webpage at fndc.govt.nz

