

Council's kaupapa takes centre stage

Business, community, political and Te Ao Māori representatives packed into Kerikeri's Turner Centre on Thursday 26 February for the second State of the Far North address.

Led by Kahika Moko Tepania and supported by elected members, this year's theme *Shifting Gears – The Road Ahead* gave the audience a unique insight into the council's operations and its response to various challenges facing the district.

The fast-paced, information-rich presentation revealed how the council is driving for success by outlining moves to improve dog control, revealing how it's weathering the gathering storm of climate change, and highlighting the significance of ties and agreements with iwi and hapū.

Roading initiatives such as 'Find and Fix' – which transform the way the council maintains the district's roads – were explained. How much is being spent "building stuff" as part of the capital works programme was also outlined.

Success stories were shared, including the Kaitāia Water Project at Sweetwater being switched on, the start of construction of Te Āta Haere – the Kaikohe Library and Civic Hub, and the opening of Te Puāwaitanga, the new sports hub at Waipapa.

The State of the Far North is a perfect platform for



The fast-paced presentation included an appropriate prop to fit the *Shifting Gears – The Road Ahead* theme.

the wider community to engage in what is now one of the district's key conversations, and also an opportunity for the audience to network with other representatives.

This year's event follows the huge success of the inaugural State of the Far North address – *Road to*

Recovery at the end of 2024 which was hailed as "a groundbreaking approach to local government transparency" by the media and audience members.

For a video & info on the address, visit fndc.govt.nz

Community hub taking shape



Roof and exterior cladding are the next steps in the hub's build.

Steel framing dominating the skyline on Kaikohe's main street is the first 'big reveal' of a striking facility starting to take shape – the new Kaikohe Library and Civic Hub.

The outline of the new facility on the corner of Broadway and Raihara Street demonstrates the true size of a project that has taken years of planning and community participation to become a reality.

The multi-purpose hub will be a place of learning, connection and creativity for residents across the Far North, with a range of activities – from library collections, to a creative Maker Space for kids, meeting rooms, a gaming room, a recording booth and a café. The installation of steel framing is an exciting and very visible milestone for residents.

The \$14.6 million project reflects a long-term investment in Kaikohe's future.

Airport work set for take-off



A blessing ahead of airport works acknowledged the site's significance.

The grounds at Kaitāia Airport were blessed last month ahead of the beginning of upgrade work funded by Te Arawhiti and Far North District Council. The ceremony was conducted by Anglican Archdeacon Fran Hokianga on Tuesday 24 February, marking an important milestone before construction gets underway. The blessing acknowledges the significance of the site and signals the start of works.

The upgrade will be delivered in three phases, with further details to be confirmed as contractors are assigned.

Far North Holdings Ltd, the commercial arm of the council, will continue to operate the aerodrome while overseeing the project.

The staged approach is designed to ensure the airport remains open throughout the upgrade project.

Environment plan funding open



Iwi, hapū and marae can now apply for environment plan funding.

The council's Te Hono Team (Māori Development & Māori Relationships) is seeking applications from iwi, hapū and marae requiring funding to develop environmental management plans for their rohe.

An Iwi/Hapū Environmental Management Plan (IHEMP) is a resource management plan developed by a hapū, iwi, or iwi authority. The plans are holistic documents that set out environmental and resource management planning issues, objectives, policies, plans, and/or methods of concern and interest to tāngata whenua in their rohe.

Hapū, iwi or other legal or operational tāngata whenua entities may apply for a grant from this fund if they wish to develop a new IHEMP, or review or update an existing IHEMP.

Applications close 1 April 2026. For an application form please email: tehonosupport@fndc.govt.nz

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