

FNDC projects' excellence recognised

A project that sets out a long-term vision for the Kerikeri and Waipapa area has been recognised with two prestigious awards.

Te Pātukurea Kerikeri Waipapa Spatial Plan is a 30-year plan creating a strategy for how the community will grow while protecting the unique environmental, cultural and social qualities of the Far North.

The collaborative vision earned national recognition at the New Zealand Planning Institute (NZPI) awards in March, with Far North District Council receiving the Best Practice Award for Strategic or Non-Statutory Planning, and the NZPI Supreme Award for excellence in planning.

The exceptional work of the council's Growth Planning and Placemaking Team was recognised alongside project consultants Beca and Boffa Miskell.

FNDC formally adopted Te Pātukurea in June 2025 following several years of research and engagement.

Developed in partnership with engineering and planning consultancy Beca, the project combined technical analysis with community engagement to explore how growth could be managed responsibly.

Staff worked closely with a Hapū Rōpū Governance Group representing Ngāpuhi hapū, Far North communities and partner organisations.



Two FNDC projects earned national recognition at the awards, with Te Pātukurea Kerikeri Waipapa Spatial Plan getting the award nod twice.

Members of the rōpū helped to ensure cultural values were reflected. This partnership was a key reason for receiving the awards.

The Ngāpuhi Mana Whakahono ā Rohe and Relationship Protocol project, a partnership between FNDC and

Te Rūnanga Ā Iwi O Ngāpuhi, was also acknowledged in the NZPI Best Practice Award in Statutory Planning category, receiving a Highly Commended distinction.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Northbound detour at Paihia



A short detour on SH11 is in place in Paihia until the end of April.

Northbound traffic travelling from Ōpua to Paihia is being directed to detour along MacMurray Road and Kings Road as drainage and road improvement works continue on a section of State Highway 11.

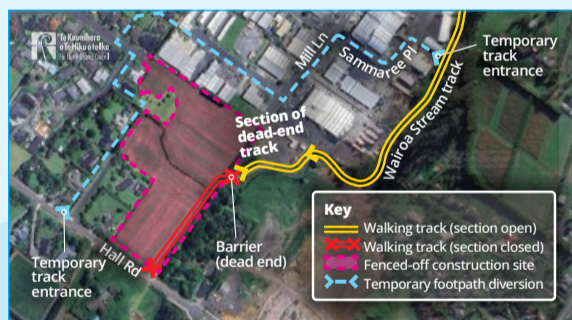
Crews are onsite between 7am and 6pm (weather permitting) until works are expected to end on Thursday 30 April.

Stop/go traffic management is in place at the detour during key stages of the work and a reduced speed limit of 30km/h applies throughout the work area.

Residents and business owners in the affected area will continue to have access and will be contacted directly by contractors if work requires that access to be temporarily restricted. Contractors will always give emergency services full access.

All efforts are being made to minimise disruption to the surrounding community.

Kerikeri walking track diversion



A diversion from Hall Road to Mill Lane is in place during works.

A diversion is in place for part of Te Tahawai Track in Kerikeri as construction of the unformed section of Mill Lane to Hall Road gets underway. The track is expected to reopen in December.

Te Tahawai track is one of a network of popular paths that link rivers and waterfalls in the Kerikeri area that are well used by the Kerikeri community.

A 350-metre section of track between Sammaree Place and Mill Lane will become a dead end when the unformed road between Mill Lane and Hall Road is closed for construction.

The diversion from Hall Road to Mill Lane goes through roads and reserves and includes a safe route through the edge of the development site. Some paths will reopen as construction is completed, but temporary diversions may apply. Go to the news story on our website to view the diversion map in detail.

Final water restrictions removed



The public is encouraged to keep reporting water leaks to the council.

Water restrictions for the Ōpononi-Ōmāpere and Ōmanaia-Rāwene communities were reduced to Level 1 last week, marking the end of all remaining restrictions across the Far North.

A wetter than usual summer, including several storm events, combined with steady rainfall in recent weeks, has improved river flows and replenished storage levels across the district. Lower water use has also helped ease demand on treatment plants, supporting a quicker recovery than in previous years.

At Level 1, residents and visitors are asked to continue to use water wisely.

Elsewhere in the district, Kaitāia, Kaikohe-Ngāwhā, Kawakawa-Moerewa, Kerikeri-Waipapa, Paihia-Ōpua-Waitangi and Ōkaihau are already at Level 1.

A big mihi/thank you to residents and businesses who used water wisely over the summer months.

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