

Ngā pārongo hou

Latest council news

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Kaitiaki agreement for Moringaehe Reserve

A significant milestone has been reached with the signing of a co-management kaitiaki agreement between Far North District Council and Ngā Hapū o Ahiparapara for Moringaehe Reserve.

Moringaehe Reserve is on Whāro Way in Ahipara. Following a long-term occupation and protest, regarding the protection of local wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and a significant pōhutukawa tree, the council purchased the land in 2024 to protect it as a reserve.

The agreement signals a new chapter in how both parties will work together, with a focus on shared decision-making and long-term environmental protection.

The Kaitiaki Agreement was presented to Te Kuaka Committee for Māori Strategic Relationships on Monday 20 April 2026. It outlines a shared governance approach that recognises mana whenua authority, while strengthening collaboration between iwi and council.

Te Kuaka Committee approved the agreement and nominated Councillor Halkyard-Harawira to be appointed as the council's representative on the Moringaehe Reserve Working Group.

The agreement reflects years of commitment by Ngā Hapū o Ahiparapara to uphold its role as kaitiaki, ensuring the voices, values and mātauranga Māori are recognised in decision-making processes.



The signing of the agreement acknowledges the kaitiaki role of Ngā Hapū o Ahiparapara and a commitment from hapū to work with council.

It prioritises the protection of wāhi tapu, mahinga kai and natural resources while creating a pathway for more inclusive and culturally grounded

approaches to environmental management.

For the full story go to fndc.govt.nz

Council improvement options



Discussions included whether governance concerns were warranted.

The council will implement decision-making and process enhancements after holding a workshop to clarify opportunities to improve its operations.

The decision was made at the Extraordinary Council Meeting on 1 May, which was held to consider agenda items remaining from the adjourned 29 April session.

A key agenda item was a report responding to recent public and media discussions about council operations, particularly the role of council committees.

The Minister of Local Government wrote to Mayor Moko Tepania in April, advising he is satisfied that the council is conducting its governance appropriately.

Despite the minister's assurance, the council considered options that would strengthen public confidence. Read the full story online.

Fluoridation in the pipeline



Installation of fluoride dosing equipment is due to begin on 1 June.

Construction is underway on the Far North's water fluoridation programme, with work progressing to meet a Ministry of Health deadline of 31 July 2026.

The project will introduce fluoride dosing systems into the Kerikeri and Kaitiāia town water supplies, with both sites tracking toward installation and commissioning over the coming months.

In July 2023, the Director-General of Health directed the council under section 116E of the Health Act to fluoridate drinking water for Kaitiāia and Kerikeri. FNDC is one of 14 local authorities directed to fluoridate water supplies.

The council is required by law to comply with the ministry's directive. If the council doesn't comply, it faces a fine of up to \$100,000 per non-compliant site and \$10,000 per day per site until compliance is achieved.

Swordfish Club lands new event



The new clubhouse overlooking Ōpua Wharf opened in February.

Just months after opening its Ōpua clubhouse, the Bay of Islands Swordfish Club has secured a major event for the venue – the inaugural CMP Billfish Classic.

The high-profile fishing competition is scheduled for February 2027, and subscriptions have already reached more than half of the 100-boat limit.

Prime Minister Christopher Luxton opened the new clubhouse in February this year. He cut the ribbon alongside key members of the community, including representatives from local iwi Ngāti Manu, former Labour Party Deputy Leader Kelvin Davis, and Judge Greg Davis.

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