

# Ngā pārongo hou

## Latest council news

Haratua May 2025 | Putanga Issue 69

# Water restrictions lift in Far North

All remaining water restrictions were lifted across the Far North on Monday 5 May. Paihia-Ōpua-Waitangi, Kawakawa-Moerewa, Ōpononi-Ōmāpere and Ōmanaia-Rāwene returned to Level 1 from Level 2 restrictions that day and large roadside *Tiaki ngā wai - Save water now* signs were also removed.

The Far North's other water supplies that service Kerikeri-Waipapa, Kaitiāia, Kaikohe-Ngāwhā and Ōkaihau returned to Level 1 on Monday 28 April. At Level 1 customers are asked to use water sensibly. Water restrictions were first applied this summer to households in Kawakawa-Moerewa, Ōmanaia-Rāwene and Ōpononi-Ōmāpere on Monday 16 December.

All eight Far North water supplies eventually had restrictions applied during the dry summer. Several weeks of heavy rain in April, including downpours brought by ex-tropical Cyclone Tam, ended



Large roadside signs, like this one in Paihia, were installed across the district this summer. They were removed in early May.

the dry spell. The consistent rainfall boosted flow levels in water supplies across the Far North enabling river levels to stabilise. Normal levels of rain are predicted throughout May by Taihoro Nukurangi National

Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA).

For the full story go to [fndc.govt.nz](https://fndc.govt.nz)

## Moerewa stormwater works



New pipes, cesspits and megapits are the focus of improvements.

A project to improve stormwater infrastructure in Moerewa hit the halfway mark in April.

Almost 300m of new pipework has been installed along Plunket Street, as well as cesspits and three megapits to improve drainage. Contractors have now moved works to Pembroke Street.

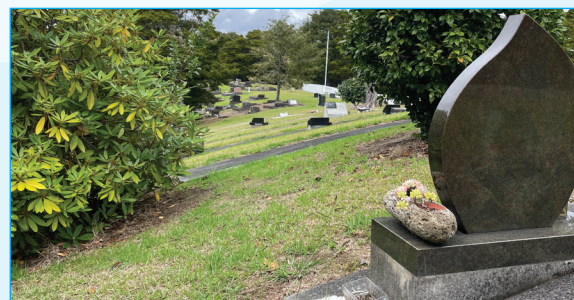
Two severe storm events in July 2015 and July 2020 resulted in widespread flooding across areas of Moerewa and Ōtiria inundating houses, garages, sections and roads for several days.

The severity of this flooding resulted in the need for network improvements to better service landlocked, low-lying areas currently serviced by a soakage network with limited and variable capacity.

As well as the infrastructure improvements, local contractors estimate the economic benefit to the local community from delivering the works currently exceeds \$11,000 for local businesses, cafes and through employment opportunities.

The project is progressing on time and within the budget allocated in the Long Term Plan, with a total expected construction cost of \$1.9 million.

## Easing cemetery plot pressure



New cemetery guidelines will be reviewed by December 2025.

A new cemetery reservation process introduced in December is streamlining the way plots are booked to better manage cemeteries across the district.

To reserve a plot, customers can now visit the council's cemeteries webpage to access new online application forms – one for burials and one for ash interments. The webpage offers information on local cemeteries, crematoriums and burial-related services. It also outlines restrictions that may apply when reserving a plot.

Previously, there were no restrictions on the number of plots that could be reserved in council-run cemeteries and cases of plots being reserved but unused for many years were creating plot shortages in cemeteries across the Far North. This updated process means the council can more effectively plan cemetery expansions as and when they are needed.

Cemetery record-keeping is also being addressed by the improvements. To ensure accuracy, council staff are meeting with applicants and funeral directors face-to-face to double-check plot locations before processing burial requests. Administrative systems have also been improved to enhance efficiency.

## Hundertwasser hazards flagged



A new solution was needed after earlier vinyl lettering peeled away.

The council applied unconventional warning signs to Kawakawa's famous and equally unconventional Hundertwasser toilets in April to protect both the building and its many visitors.

New footpath signs near the building's entrance warn of an uneven cobbled surface underfoot in an effort to help prevent trips and falls. The tiled surface is uneven by design but can also pose a safety hazard to the unwary.

Other sign options were considered, but attaching anything to the building itself would deface the popular tourist attraction. The new signs use road paint applied directly to the footpath and clearly highlight hazards without disrupting the visitor experience.

[Check out our videos at fndc.govt.nz](https://fndc.govt.nz)

First look at new multi-service space for Kerikeri

What's happening on The Strand?

What's on at the Turner Centre in May

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](https://fndc.govt.nz)

